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***Receives Minister of Defence, Service Chiefs**

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Following the tragic incident at Tudun Biri in Igabi Local Government Area, the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, yesterday, led a delegation of senior government officials, religious leaders, traditional and community leaders to condole the affected families.

A statement signed by the Overseeing Commissioner Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel Aruwan, made available yesterday, said that on behalf of the Government of Kaduna

State, Dr Balarabe once again, expressed heartfelt sympathies to the victims and their families.

The Deputy Governor disclosed that the state government has established a committee comprising senior government officials, religious leaders, and representatives of the Nigerian Army to oversee mechanisms of compensation and other forms of government assistance to the victims.

Dr Balarabe also informed members that the injured victims have been evacuated to Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, where they are receiving necessary medical attention.



Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe speaking during the condolence visit yesterday.

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Alleged Attack On Tribunal Sec: SDP Exposing Own Atrocities —Kogi APC

By: ADEBOYE ADO,
Akure

The Kogi State All Progressives Congress Campaign Council (KSAPCCC) has called on President Bola Ahmed and the Department of State Services (DSS) to apprehend criminals terrorizing the state. Kingsley Femi Fanwo, Spokesperson/Director of Media and Publicity of the council made the call in response to an alleged attack on the Secretary of the Tribunal, Mike David. Fanwo in a statement said, "Our attention has been drawn to desperate moves by the Social Democratic Party in Kogi State and ethnic jingoists to paint the state unsafe by orchestrating supposed attacks on the Secretary of the Tribunal, Mr. Mike David, to cover up their already exposed plans of filing petition against the November 11 election outside the period allowed under the Electoral Act." "Recall that some patriotic lawyers, from across the three senatorial districts of the state, had, in the early hours of Monday, alerted the public to the clandestine plan of the SDP and its Governorship candidate to file their petition through the backdoor and backdate same in order to circumvent the provisions of the Electoral Act." "It is not hard for the discerning to see through the concocted lies and warped strategy of the SDP, as the purported attack on the Tribunal Secretary was said to have occurred on the day their dubious, anti-democratic plan was exposed. Why was he not attacked before the midnight of December 3, 2023, when the 21 days window closed? Why is the SDP the first to know about the purported attack? How did they know that he was working on their so called petition at the time he was allegedly attacked? Why has the SDP turned themselves to the advocate for the Secretary? The public cannot be misled. The people know exactly what is happening." "We have called endlessly on the security agencies in the state to act on series of petitions before them against the criminalities

being perpetrated by the SDP and its thugs all in the name of politics. They commit heinous crimes, kill innocent citizens, heighten tension in the state with hate speeches under a rejected ethnic agenda and turn around to play the victims through senseless propaganda. They even blatantly accuse the security agencies of committing crimes without any arrests being made." "The inaction of the security agencies in the face of glaring atrocities being perpetrated by these desperate politicians and ethnic jingoists has further emboldened their thugs to attack the residence of the Resident Electoral Commissioner in charge of Kogi State, something that has never happened in the history of our dear state. And now, they and their collaborators in crime have conjured a "dead on arrival" script on the attack of the Tribunal Secretary." "As we write, the lawyer, who led others to expose the SDP's backdoor filing plans, in collaboration with some staff of the Tribunal, is being threatened by the SDP camp, even on public platforms, and this complaint is before the security agencies. When SDP threatens, they attack. That was how they threatened the Resident Electoral Commissioner and followed up their threats with a gruesome attack on his residence. Those who act within the precinct of the rule of law must be protected by the law." "We await the reports of the security agencies on the true situation of things and once again call on our President, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to direct the Department of State Services and the Police to leave no stone unturned in apprehending the criminals terrorising the state and waging fruitless war against democracy. The Governor of the state, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, CON, laid a solid foundation in terms of security. Criminals had no hiding place in the state for over seven years. We cannot at this point sacrifice these widely acknowledged wins on the slab of politics."

COP28: Tinubu Must Apologise To Nigerians Over 'Embarrassing Speech', 1,400 Delegation - Frank

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

A political activist and former Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Timi Frank, has said President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, must apologise to Nigerians for his speech described as "one of the most embarrassing speeches ever, filled with inconsistency and totally out of point" at the ongoing COP 28 climate change event in Dubai. Frank also condemned over 1,400 government officials and individuals in the President delegation to the international event. In a statement released yesterday in Abuja, the Bayelsa born political activist said the large number "is not only embarrassing to Nigerians, but a shame to a government who promised to cut down on spending, but rather encouraging Estacode

spending by different agencies and parastatals whose attendance has no significant benefit to the Nigerian people." According to Timi Frank, the speech delivered by the President, which has now become a subject of caricature to many Nigerians worldwide has cost Nigerians over \$20m, as the only African country and the 3rd nation, with a large delegation of over 1,400 persons whose impact cannot be felt and has only succeeded in squandering government funds unnecessarily. Whereas China & Brazil which are world economies had about 1,600 delegates and 1,500 respectively, with Nigeria coming in 3rd. "It is sad to see many at the international event wondering how the President of Nigeria would deliver one of the most embarrassing speeches ever, filled with inconsistency and totally out of point, being

presented by a world leader at this auspicious World event. "Moreso, that this is coming at a time when many Nigerians are languishing in penury because of the untold hardship associated with the coming of this government. "If this speech that was read at the COP 28 was what was given to him by the experts, then they should immediately be fired for leading him astray. Nigerians cannot continue to be a joke internationally, after spending such a huge amount only to embarrass the country in this manner "Other countries were there with very few delegations and achieved so much, but in our case it was partying and shopping without being visible in the event proper. After all, Nigeria has no significant carbon footprints to allow for such a huge delegation to grace the event.

"Therefore, I call on the President to immediately apologize to Nigerians and explain why the embarrassment on Nigerians in an international event. These are the reasons why investors continue to reject the idea of investing in Nigeria, because of our lack of seriousness in leadership. "Other world leaders were very visible, initiating deals on the sidelines whereas the delegation from Nigeria were partying and shopping around Dubai and nowhere to be found. "This is the reason why Nigerians must support the upcoming grand diaspora protest, of Tinubu must go as this is the only way the people can have their say and save the nation. "We are hopeful that some day, Nigerians would witness a true leader who would change the narrative for the better."



Timi Frank

Japa: Resignation Of Lecturers Threatening Nigeria's Public Universities, ASUU Raises Alarm

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) yesterday, alerted that resignation of lecturers in search of greener pastures popularly known as Japa is threatening Nigeria's public universities.

Raising the alarm, the Chairman University of Ibadan Chapter of ASUU, Professor Ayo Akinwale said most departments and units in Nigeria's public universities are now short-staffed

ASUU said poor and delayed salaries, unpaid allowances, poor infrastructure, lack of respect for the academic community, and the seeming dwindling hope are some of the factors responsible for the resignation of lecturers in the past few months.

Prof Akinwale stressed that Nigeria's public universities are in a very pitiable conditions with stress and frustration visible in the faces of poorly-remunerated lecturers.

The ASUU Chairman tasked President Bola Tinubu to arrest the situation by reviewing the conditions of service in terms and salaries, allowances, and infrastructure, many good hands will continue to resign and leave the country.

He pointed out that it is unfortunate that the same government that is not funding education has a

national assembly proposing to establish 32 more universities, and that establishing more universities will not solve the problem.

According to Professor Akinwale rather than establishing more Universities, government should improve the carrying capacity of existing universities to be able to admit more students.

The ASUU Chairman noted that universities around the world are poaching more quality hands, and if not halted by the government, through intentional reviewing upward conditions of service, it will be difficult to "retain the best hands." Speaking further, he stressed that government policy has made it difficult to even retain good hands because to employ and get approval from Abuja may take up to a year and by that time, the good candidate has left for greener pastures.

"Vice Chancellors can not single handedly employ to replace staff as urgent as it is needed again. They have to contact Abuja for approval, which may take six months to a year, if not more, before they get approval. By this time, the best candidate has gone to a more serious country that respects quality. Sadly, people from higher up there from the Ministry of Education to legislators themselves want to dictate who the universities should employ."

Deputy Governor Leads Kaduna Govt Delegation To Scene Of Mistaken Bombing, Assures Victims Of Support

*Receives Minister of Defence, Service Chiefs

In response to the immediate needs of the affected community, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has been directed to deliver relief items to support the victims, while the Government takes responsibility for the medical care of the injured.

The Deputy Governor was

accompanied by the Secretary to the State Government, Abdulkadir Muazu Meyere, senior government officials, the Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command Musa Yusuf Garba, the Director of the Department of State Services (DSS) Abdul Eneche, the Chairman of JNI Kaduna State chapter

Mohammed Shafiu Abdullahi, the Chairman of Fityanul Islam Kaduna State, and the District Head of Rigasa, Alhaji Aminu Idris among others.

Similarly, the Minister of State Defence, Bello Muhammad Matawalle has led a delegation comprising the Chief of Defence Staff, General

CG Musa, Chief of Army Staff Lt. General TA Lagbaja and the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Defence, Dr. Ibrahim Kana on a condolence to the Government and People of Kaduna State.

The delegation was received by the Deputy Governor and senior government officials.



Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe speaking during the condolence visit yesterday.

APC Elders Sue For Calm As Internal Wrangling Rocks Benue Family

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi.

Internal political wrangling has erupted among Benue State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), leading to elders of the party across the three Senatorial Districts under the aegis of Concerned APC Stakeholders describing it as unnecessary distractions to the state and government. The forum which rose from a meeting with Governor Hyacinth

Iormem Alia at the governor's lodge Makurdi with elders like Senator Barnabas Gemade, Senator Joseph Akaagerger, former Senate president, Chief Ameh Ebute, General Lawrence Onoja (rtd) among others.

Addressing journalists after the meeting, former Senate President, Chief Ebute said he is worried by the recent attacks on the governor and government of Benue State on Social Media, especially the content of a communique

it saw on social media under the leadership of APC Local Government Chairmen as well as the resolution of the state working committee in



respect to leadership, meeting and party activities.

The APC elders said they see the internal wrangling as a deliberate attempt to distract Fr Hyacinth Iormem Alia led administration from fulfilling his campaign promises to people of Benue state.

The forum regretted that the unfortunate outing by the APC local

government chairmen describing their actions as an open vista for the opposition to take full advantage which culminated in a recent motion sponsored by an opposition senator (PDP) from the State against the government of Benue state when in actual sense, it was the State Assembly that carried out their constitutional duties.

The elders lamented the inability of the party leadership in the state to explore all necessary

avenues for proper engagements before resorting to unnecessary media outings that have further escalated what would have easily been managed internally.

The stakeholders which acknowledged that at several meetings and fora, elders of the party as well as executives had cause to pass vote of confidence on the governor and applauded his leadership style which has brought about positive development in the state.

Northern Governors' Forum Expresses Grief Over Tudun Biri Tragedy

***Urges Thorough Investigation, Justice**

***Emphasizes professionalism in security operations**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the families of the Maulud celebrants who were tragically affected in the unfortunate accidental bombing by the Nigerian army in Tudun Biri Community of Kaduna State.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, Governor Inuwa Yahaya extended condolences to the government and people of Kaduna State

during this profoundly distressing time, describing the loss of innocent lives as a heartbreaking tragedy.

The governor emphasized that while the fight against banditry and terrorism remains crucial, it must be executed with the highest level of professionalism and care to prevent such heart-wrenching accidents.

He strongly called for a comprehensive and thorough investigation into the unfortunate incident.

"It is imperative for the authorities to take prompt and necessary measures to not only address the immediate concerns of the victims and the affected community, but also to prevent any future occurrences".

In these trying times, Governor Inuwa Yahaya



Northern Governors Forum Chairman

assures the affected families and the community of Tudun Biri as well as the people of Kaduna State of the

support and commitment of the Northern Governors to ensuring justice, healing, and security in the region.

Group To DSS: Investigate Kwankwaso Over Kano Protest, Attack On Judiciary

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

An anti-terrorism group, under the aegis of National Coalition Against Terrorism (NCAT) has asked the Directorate of State Security Service (DSS) to immediately invite former Kano State Governor, Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso for interrogation over recent protests, attack on citizens and attacks on the judiciary.

The group warned that if nothing is done quickly, Kwankwaso's group, Kwankwasiyya Movement may set the country ablaze following the recent court judgement sacking Governor Abba Yusuf as elected governor of Kano State.

Addressing a press conference yesterday in Abuja, National Coordinator of the group, Terrence Kuanum, also raised an alarm that Kwankwasiyya Movement has perfected plans to lead coordinated attacks on the image and person of the

Nigerian President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and causing a civil unrest in Kano and Abuja.

Kuanum said since the eve of the tribunal judgement of Kano State governorship election petition which sacked Engr Abba Kabir Yusuf as Governor of the state, the judicial workers especially judges have been the target of the Kwankwasiyya foot soldiers for elimination.

According to the group, this action has started already with pockets of protest by few rioters in the guise of protesting the Appeal Court Judgment which confirmed the sacking of Abba Kabir Yusuf as Governor of Kano State.

"Without reservation, we call on the Director General of State Security Service to immediately invite Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso for interrogation before Kwankwasiyya set the country on fire. With his position as a former Governor, former minister

of Defence and Senator, he did has the capacity to cause violence and he is bent on doing so.

"We also recommend the arrest and interrogation of the following violence merchants who are already engaged by Mr Kwankwasiyya to spearhead the civil unrest in Abuja, Mr Ladipo Johnson, Ladipo Olayoku, Alhaji Abba Kawu, Prince Nwaeze Onu, Tunde Oke, Badmus Kilamwaye and Olufemi Oguntoyinbo among others.

"In the next few days, they have planned to lead coordinated attacks on the image and person of the Nigerian President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu while the civil unrest is ongoing.

"We are in the know that the Kwankwasiyya group has also hired some people using Auwal Rafsanjani of CISLAC to coordinate some selected civil society organisations to blackmail the judiciary and bastardise the image and integrity of Mr President.

"The call for

Kwankwaso's interrogation as the leader of Kwankwasiyya Movement is a task that must happen now because, we cannot afford to entertain any act of terrorism at the moment."

While warning that Kwankwasiyya group was becoming a threat to the whole country, the group said: "This is an act of terrorism that must be properly checked by the security agencies in order to forestall anarchy and violent killing by the Kwankwaso foot soldiers. The Kwankwasiyya group has equally commissioned some individuals which we have identified to cause violence in Abuja and other parts of the country in the next few days.

"The job of these individuals is to occupy foreign missions in Nigeria, thereafter, the Supreme Court premises and cause violence ahead of the Supreme Court decision on the Kano State governorship appeal pending before it."

Kogi Guber: APC, SDP Trade Blames Over Attack On Tribunal's Secretary

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State chapter of All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) have again locked horns in a battle of wits this time over an alleged attack on the Secretary of the Kogi State Election Petition Tribunal, Mr. David Mike.

The attack of the two parties this time around was inspired by SDP's allegation that there was an attack on the Election Secretary on Monday by hired political thugs in downtown Lokoja.

A statement issued yesterday by J.S.Okutepa SAN and counsel to SDP, stated that at the time the attack occurred, the Secretary was with copies of the election petition filed on 2/12/2023 by the legal team of Alhaji Murtala Yakubu and the SDP.

He alleged that some very uninformed and political miscreants who can accept to do any dirty jobs just for peanuts went to town in the name of an amorphous NGO that claimed to be non partisan and non political to misinform the public that SDP and its candidate did not file petition within time.

"As a legal practitioner on the legal team that prepared and filed the petition, I did not see any sense in the sponsored press statement issued by these legal gentlemen if indeed they are lawyers. They should have known better", he said.

He expressed fears that the desperation being exhibited by some politicians in Kogi State are afraid of allowing the conduct of the so called election of 11/11/2023 to be judiciously examined.

"These anti democratic forces and agents of darkness have done everything since after that election to stop the examination of the said election", he opined.

"The said petition", he said, "was filed on 2/12/2023 with No: EPT/KG/Gov/03/2023 and

was duly received and stamped on 2/12/2023 and certified by Mr U. D. Mike on the said date".

According to him, "by the provisions of Section 285(5) of 1999, election petitions are to be filed within 21 days after the date of the declaration of the result of the election".

But to APC stalwarts in Kogi, "the alleged attack has "exposed SDP to its own atrocities against democracy"

This was epitomised in a statement issued by the Director, Media and Publicity of the APC campaign council, Kingsley Fanwo who

doubles as the Commissioner for Information and Communication, stressing that the alleged attack was nothing but desperate moves by the SDP in Kogi State and ethnic jingoists to paint the state unsafe by orchestrating supposed attacks on the Secretary of the Tribunal, Mr Mike David.

He alleged that the move was, "to cover up their already exposed plans of filing a petition against the November 11 election outside the period allowed under the Electoral Act".

Fanwo said that the alleged attack was "concocted lies and warped strategy of the SDP, as the purported attack on the Tribunal Secretary was said to have occurred on the day their dubious and anti-democratic plan was exposed".

"Why was he not attacked before the midnight of December 3, 2023 when the 21 days window closed? Why is the SDP the first to know about the purported attack? How did they know that he was working on their so-called petition at the time he was allegedly attacked?"

More surprising to the Commissioner is, "Why has the SDP turned themselves into the advocates for the Secretary?"

"The public", he said, "cannot be misled adding that the people know exactly what is happening in the state".

Judiciary Scandals: Abuja Communities In Solidarity Rally For Kano, Zamfara, Plateau, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The incident of open judiciary's compromise in Court of Appeal judgments in Zamfara, Plateau, Nasarawa and particularly Kano has continued to elicit resistance, as solidarity rally has now reached Abuja in their favour. A statement signed by Convener Concerned Abuja Residents in Support of Kano Gov Abba Kabir Yusuf, and others, Hafsat Shuaibu, said that the Abuja rally on Monday December 4, 2023, was staged and well attended by people across tribes and geopolitical zones in North and South of Nigeria resident in Wasa and Madala communities in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), who said they decided to stand up against the

judiciary's injustice especially as done to Kano State Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf. Participants at Monday's Abuja rally, largely women and community leaders, addressed the gathering in their respective mother tongues of Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo and others to show that #NigeriaTrulyStands with Kano and others in this time. They said if they did not stand up against the injustice now, when it would come to their own time, they would have no one to stand for them. The rally, attended by some notable persons across the communities and the FCT, was also held to solidarise mainly with Governor Yusuf of Kano, who they said was being specifically singled out for

punishment as a sacrificial lamb for 2027 right now in 2023. One of the protesters, who spoke to the press although simply identified as Ekwerre, said, "I am from the South South and believe that since we are all Nigerians, what affects Kano will come to affect my own Akwa Ibom one day. If, like others here, I don't stand up against this injustice today, who will stand in solidarity with us when such unacceptable judicial injustice comes to be our turn in the future?" She asked. Brandishing placards and banners with varied inscriptions, they made their message clear to the world saying: "Judicial Rascality in Kano, Zamfara, Plateau, Nasarawa Unacceptable!", "World Should Warn Political Leaders in Abuja

Against Setting Nigeria on Fire through Judicial Manipulations!", "We Want Justice For Kano, We want Justice for ABBA!" Other placards in other location of the rally had their messages carried in their various mother tongues. They called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to respect the will of the people of Kano and warn Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Major General Aliyu Gusau (Rtd), Senator Hope Uzodimma, who comes all the way for Imo State in South East of Nigeria to mingle with Kano, Northern Nigerian politics, and Mr. Nuhu Ribadu as well as their judiciary agents to steer clear of Kano and let the will of the people stand because, according to them, "The people of Kano do not dilly-dally when it comes to

voting in democracy, once they make their decision it stands, it must stand". The convener and speaker, Hafsat Shuaibu, while welcoming journalists to the event, said: "All these judiciary corruption that is happening in Kano, we are not happy. It's Abba Gida, Gida. It is seat that is being taken away from him and it is the reason we are gathered in Wasa to pray for him and for his success in the whole of the matter." Salamatu Adamu also spoke but in Hausa signaling that the North is not happy with the judicial injustice that is happening in Kano and that the region will do all that it takes to stand against it at any rate and at any level.



Tinubu Commissions 3 TETFUND Projects In Ebonyi

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In a bid to ensure quality education in Nigeria, President Ahmed Bola Tinubu has commissioned three TETFUND sponsored projects in Ebonyi State. Speaking at the formal commissioning of TETFUND sponsored projects cited in Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, the president commended the

management of the institution for exceptional roles in ensuring that students have quality education in the state.

The president who was represented by the works minister, commended the management of Ebonyi State University for making the institution one of the best state owned universities in Nigeria and therefore, charged the management to embark on courses that will make

students self employed after graduation.

He further stated that the Federal Government of Nigeria is ready to support higher institutions in the country in order to produce quality graduates that will add value to the society.

On his part, Governor Francis Nwifuru appreciated the management of the institution for repositioning the school,

saying that his administration will always support them, but however, called on the Federal Government to assist in terms of research facilities and building of library in order to give students the best they can offer.

Among the projects commissioned are: Faculty of Education Building, University Library, and ICT/ Research Centre.



Court Hits Again On Police, Orders N20m Damages To Victim

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The might of the law has again fell on the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Zone 6, Calabar and two others, over unlawful actions against the Village Head of Ikot Oku Ikono in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

The royal father, Eteidung Okon Nnanah Akpan, the court averred, was arrested and kept in detention by the police over an electric transformer in the village. Ruling on the matter, Justice Ntong of a High Court, Uyo, on Thursday, ordered the Police to pay the royal father N20m for arresting him on February 28, 2022 and April 28, 2022 at the

Anti Cultism Unit of the State Police Headquarters, Ikot Akpan Abia and continually harassing him till date.

Justice Ntong said of the amount, the respondents among them, one Jimmy Godwin, who instigated the Police against the Village Head is to cough out N10m, the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone 6, Calabar, who authorised the unlawful action, N6m, while the Investigative Police Officer, one Inspector Wofai Johnson of Anti Vice Unit, Zone 6, Calabar, who obeyed the unlawful order of the AIG, is to pay the Village Head of Ikot Oku Ikono N4m.

The trial judge in his judgment, said the action

of the Police has consistently made the village head to suffer aggravated and psychological harassment, just because he performed his constitutional functions for his community.

Justice Ntong said the Police chose to remain aloof after they were served the originating processes in the matter.

The Court said the Nigeria Police should now be more discreet and civil in their investigations especially where the matter is civil and contractual.

Justice Ntong found the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone 6 and two other respondents liable for breaching the fundamental rights of the

applicant.

Recall recently, a High Court sitting in Uyo ordered the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and five others to pay a housewife in Uyo, and mother of two children, Mrs. Peace Ekom Robert, the sum of N200m as damages for the unlawful arrest and detention.

The court also ordered the Inspector General of Police and five other "respondents to return the N15m collected from the applicant to the Chief Registrar of the Federal High Court, Abuja pending the hearing and final determination of the criminal charge against the applicant before the Federal High Court."

I Will Continue To Promote Youth Devt, Support Women, Quality Leadership - Ambassador Ajadi

*Bags Golden Son Of Yorubaland Award

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Friday, said that he has dedicated his life to youth development, supporting women, quality leadership and peace in the country.

Ambassador Ajadi made this known after receiving an award of 'Golden Son of Yorubaland' bestowed on him by the Oyo State Canteen Workers Union on Thursday, November 30, 2023, held at Recreation ground, Ibadan, the Oyo State Capital.

The NNPP Chieftain pointed out that nothing can make him to deviate from working for youth developments because the youths are the future of the country and well as be a supportive to feminine gender while providing quality leadership and promoting peace and unity of the country.

Ambassador Ajadi who was the governorship candidate of the NNPP in Ogun State during the last governorship election in the country declared that said he believes that there is the need to guide the youths from bad behaviour, put them on good pedestal and ensure that they are not lured into criminality.

Speaking on the award, Ambassador Ajadi disclosed that he is grateful for the award and that he appreciates the Oyo State Canteen Workers Union for their good gesture, saying, he is happy that his dedication and contributions to the growth of Ogun State, Yorubaland and the country as a whole

is being appreciated, saying that will push him to do more.

"I am happy that my little efforts is being appreciated and that will push me to do more. I am dedicated to the youth development because the youth are the leaders of tomorrow. So if we want the future of the country to be bright, we need to take care of the youth. Nothing will stop me from promoting the development of the youth", he said

Ambassador Ajadi added, "I have engaged in training of youths particularly in Ogun State and upon completion of training I have facilitated for them equipment and fund to start their own businesses.

"I am doing this to ensure that our youths are lured out of bad behaviours such as drug trafficking, swindling activities popularly refer to as Yahoo among other bad tendencies. I am also dedicated to promotion of peace in the country because without peace, the nation cannot progress".

Speaking, the Chairperson of the Oyo State Canteen Workers Union, Alhaja Amdalat Iyadunni Lawal said the honour was bestowed on Ajadi for his dedication to peace, youth and women development, and quality leadership.

The award ceremony was graced by the Paramount King of Fuji, Alhaji Abass, who entertained the guests; A.J Otolowo of United Kingdom; Hon. Kilamuwaye Badmus, the Southwest Public Relations Officer NNPP; Comrade Olowu Olayemi Omokehinde, PRO, Ogun State Chapter of the NNPP; Hon. Fatai Adenaya, and Hon. Akingbala Semiu.

Oyo NSCDC Deploys Over 2,500 Personnel For Safe December

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Oyo State Command is to deploy over 2,500 personnel for the month of December, especially the Yuletide period.

Oyo State NSCDC Commandant, Dr Michael Adaralewa made this known while speaking on the command's security preparedness for safe December.

Dr. Adaralewa emphasized that the command is reinforcing its commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment for residents and visitors.

According to a statement by the Oyo State NSCDC command, the State Commandant has directed all Divisional Officers in the state to deploy their personnel to strategic locations, ensuring a visible and effective security presence throughout Oyo State.

"Over 2,500 personnel will be deployed to places such as markets, parks, highways, and other public places, to ensure effective visibility and patrol. The command is taking this proactive to safeguard public spaces, maintain peace and order and attend to emergencies", it said.

Oyo NSCDC added, "In a bid to stay ahead of

potential security threats, the NSCDC, Oyo State Command is intensifying its focus on actionable intelligence gathering. This involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of relevant information to identify and neutralize potential security risks before they materialize".

"The State Command recognizes that timely and accurate intelligence is pivotal in formulating effective security strategies. By staying proactive in intelligence gathering, the Command aims to identify and address potential threats, contributing significantly to the overall safety and security of the state during the festive season".

Oyo NSCDC stressed that the "Command is placing a heightened focus on the protection of vital assets, key infrastructures such as power facilities, transportation networks, communication networks and other public assets will receive increased security measures.

"By securing these infrastructures, the Command seeks to guarantee the continued functionality of essential services, contributing to a stable and secure environment throughout the festive season".

Universities Key To National Growth Through Research, Community Service - Prof Bogoro

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

As Nigerians look up on the current administration under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for national development, the former executive secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, has called on universities and other tertiary institutions in the country to harp on research and community services to develop the country.

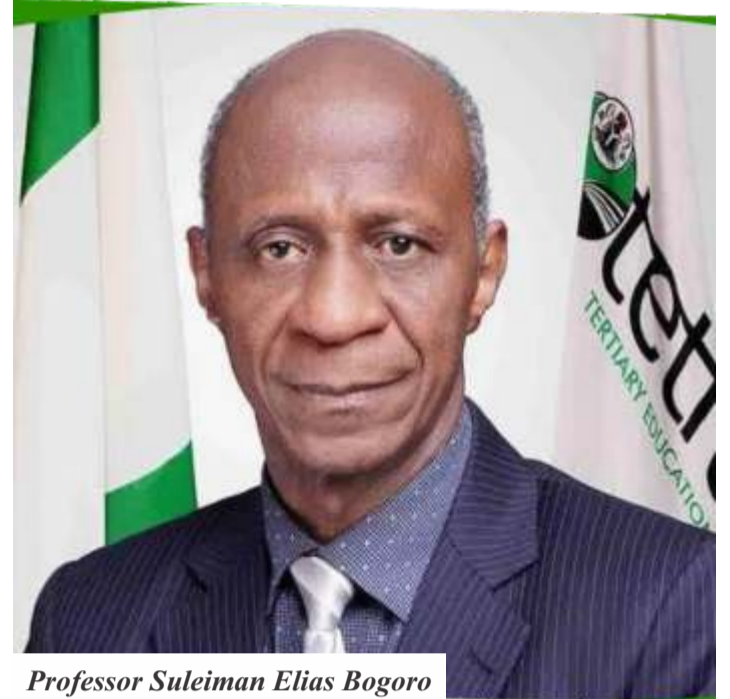
Speaking recently at the 11th Convocation Lecture of the Nile University, Abuja, on the title, 'Reasserting the Pivotal University Roles of Research and Community Service for National Development,' the Professor of Animal Science harped on the need for universities to emerge as think tanks for national development.

On the essence of research for development, Professor Bogoro notes, "It is very important that the ultimate objectives for both Theoretical and Applied Research are carried out to conclusion. This being why the justification for any research enterprise is clearly expressed in all research proposals. There must always be justified anticipated deliverables that must be problem-solving. It took the injection of science and innovation for Malaysia to

have imported our oil palm and has over the years turned its innumerable value chain into goldmine.

"Equally important, therefore, is the need for universities cum industry partnership through Research. The example of the TETFund Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) whereby academic and industry were remarkably blended is a good reference for this partnership. Their recommendation for the establishment of National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF) remains a pace-setter and most desirable bold step to place our country in the right trajectory for Knowledge Economy."

Describing the need for universities to carry out services around their areas in order to for them to be relevant in both local and larger context, the former TETFund executive secretary declares, "For universities to be relevant in both local and larger context, they must be seen to undertake Research and Community Service that address and solve problems and needs of the university community, but more importantly, the needs and demands of the immediate community and Nation. In many cases, some community services also serve as avenues for additional income for the Faculty members, thus



Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro

becoming a win-win situation for both the community and the lecturers. Unfortunately, this is one area that has not been explored enough to the benefits of universities and the Community. There is need to review the current status and relationship between universities and communities for both local and national interests."

Commending President Tinubu for paying four months out of the eight months of withheld salaries owed to lecturers in the public universities due to strikes, Professor Bogoro recalls, "President Bola Tinubu, in his inaugural address, vowed to end the embarrassing cycle of ASUU strike in our universities. He has just paid four months out of the eight months of

withheld salaries of university lecturers in public universities. He has also commendably approved a Student Loan Scheme aimed at relieving students of indigent parents and also making available part of the loan to address the financial squeeze arising from non-payment of tuition fees in Public Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

"With the recently increased annual budgetary allocation for the Education sector, in addition to the increased Education Tax from 2.50 to 3.00 percent through TETFund, more funds are to be deployed to address non-budgetary funding intervention priorities for public tertiary institutions, being the justification for the establishment of TETFund ab-initio."

16 Days Activism: I Will Provide Justice to Victims Of Gender Based Violence -- Ebonyi First Lady

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The wife of Ebonyi State Governor, Mrs Mary-Maudline Nwifuru has called for concerted efforts to address Gender-Based Violence, saying that she will provide justice to victims of gender based violence.

She made the call during an awareness road walk in Abakaliki the state capital to mark the commemoration of the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

with the theme: Unite! Invest to prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.

Mrs Nwifuru through her office and foundation, Better Health for Rural Women Children and Internally Displaced Persons Foundation (BERWO), Collaborated with the state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, World Health Organization and the state GBV task force to hold the sensitization rally in major roads across the state capital.

She assured that her office would

provide justice to victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other harmful practices in the state as her pet project, BERWO would address, challenging harmful gender norms, promoting healthy relationships, constant education, and strengthening laws and policies that protect women rights.

"As we unite to end violence against the vulnerable groups, the theme shows, an urgent need to invest, prevent and combat the deeply rooted issues of the

trend," Nwifuru said.

In her advocacy visit to the state House of Assembly, she explained the need to review the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law (VAPP) to effect positive change in society. On his part, the Speaker of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Moses Odunwa, expressed readiness to amend and implement the law to ensure proper eradication of the practice in the state.

He urged all stakeholders, civil society organisations, among

other groups to team up and unite in ending the practice in the state. Mrs Nwifuru paid an advocacy visit to the Ebonyi State judiciary and traditional leaders council among others for sensitisation and eradication of the trend.

The event featured a sensitisation roadwork with over 100 civil society organisations in the state, and the commissioning of a GBV centre at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

NIHORT Will Support FG In Achieving Food Security, Others - Executive Director

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Dr. Mohammed Lawal Attanda has declared that the institute will support Federal Government in achieving food security, employment generation and economic diversification.

Speaking at the two days 2023 Annual In House Research Review and Planning meeting of the institute held at its headquarters in Ibadan, Dr. Attanda said Federal Government expectation is high for NIHORT to support her drive.

The NIHORT Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer pointed out that the Institute shall work to meet the demand for domestic need of horticultural crops, adding, " the expectation

of the Federal Government is high for NIHORT to support her drive towards achievement of food security, employment generation and economic diversification".

"The Institute shall work to meet the demand for domestic need of horticultural crops e.g Tomato, Citrus and value-added products", he said. Dr Attanda added, " In addition, exports of some horticultural crops like pineapple mango, plantain, banana and avocado pear in international markets shall be promoted. Improved horticultural seeds and seedlings shall be made available to farmers".

"The Institute has the national mandate to conduct research into the genetic improvement, production technologies, processing, storage, utilization and marketing of tropical fruits, vegetables, spices and

ornamental plants of nutritional and economic importance".

According to Dr Attanda, " The Institute is the only Horticultural Research Institute in Sub Saharan Africa saddled with these tasks. Hence, a lot of responsibilities fall on us to develop technologies on horticultural produce and products for local and export market, health, industrial raw materials and employment generation".

Speaking further, he listed some of the institute achievements in Capital Research Projects during the reporting year included as " Varietal release of 3 varieties of tomato- HORTITOM1, HORTITOM2, HORTITOM3 and the production of breeder Seed of three newly Registered Tomato seed from outstation, 45 cultivars of plantain/banana are being evaluated for possible

varietal release

Others Dr Attanda said included 137 gene bank accessions of tomato regenerated, 12 promising pepper breeding lines with 4 checks under evaluation for yield, and yield contributing traits as well as disease/pest response at NIHORT out-station. Production of 200kg of vegetable crop seeds (Amaranthus, Corchorus, Okra), Twenty-two (22) Accessions of pepper established, Eighty (80kg) of Amaranth spp, 70 kg of Telfaria occidentalis, 30kg of Okra, 30kg of Cochorus among others.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary, ARCNI, Prof Garba Hamidu Sharubutu, represented by Dr Oluwafemi Salako said the theme of this year in-house review is apt especially at a time the President had declared a state of emergency in the food security sector



Unilorin Prof Blames Nigeria's Economic Woes On WTO Membership

By; BILQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

A professor with the Department of Jurisprudence and International Law of the University of Ilorin, Joshua Olatoke, SAN, has faulted Nigeria's membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), attributing it to unrestrained imports at expense of local market and domestic production. Olatoke stated this in Ilorin during his paper presentation at the 247th Inaugural Lecture of the University of Ilorin titled, "Africa in the Global Economic Trade Law Conundrum".

He said that the negative trend has led to a weaker Naira that is being witnessed in Nigeria, while local industries barely thrive. "Nigerian manufacturers now operate under extreme odds and can hardly expand or create employment. "The cumulative result had been a fragile economy which is unproductive and lacks energy to face global market competition," he said.

The don who lectures in the Faculty of Law of the university, lamented that the genesis of Nigeria's problem in the politics and policies of the WTO is that, the country signed the agreement without negotiating. "Thus, any country of the

world can easily ferry thier goods and dump same in Nigeria.

"On the contrary, countries like India and China joined only after insisting on and securing concessions that 214 and 130 items would not be exported into thier countries," he said.

The law expert observed that the negative effects of dumping goods is that developed countries dictate the price of Nigeria's manufactured goods.

He stated that consequently, the economy is run to sustain jobs in those countries from where it imports, while the economy is plagued by the problems. Olatoke advised that the only way by which the Nigerian government is presently pursuing dumping is through the ban on importation of selected goods through the Nigerian Custom Service (NCS).

He stated that developing countries must be protected by law and legal institutions with a view to redressing the imbalance in the trade relationship.

According to him, "it will be of great importance for African continent to look within and have its own unified monetary system. He argued that this would reduce Africa's undue dependence on the economy of European world.

University Don To Tinubu: Don't Allow Education Degenerate Further

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A university Don, Dr. Busari Dauda has advised President Bola Tinubu to halt the anti-intellectual education policy under his watch.

The Development Sociologist at the Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, gave the advice on Wednesday while presenting the 27th Faculty Lecture of the Faculty of the Social Sciences, University of Ibadan.

Dr.Dauda emphasized that Nigeria's development cannot be more than the level of its educational development, adding that President Tinubu should not allow education to degenerate further under his watch if he cannot improve what he met on ground.

Speaking on the topic, "How much is enough? A Random Walk in the Marketplace of Social

Research", he said it was surprising that a government who has not increased funding of public universities will ever thought of getting 40 percent from whatever these underfunded universities generate before withdrawing the directive.

"If this government cannot improve on the standard it met on ground and it should at least strive to maintain the status quo. We have imagined that this government will tackle the inherent challenges confronting the public universities head-on but the signals we are getting is indicative of a measured attempt to further put the university education in jeopardy", he said.

Dr Dauda added, " Today, there is the habit of anti-intellectualism that permeates the policies of the Government and directed at the Public Universities has assumed a pitiable reality".

"One of the most distinct marks of this descent into philistinism is the deliberate pauperization of the universities to the detriment of quality education .The infrastructural decays in Nigeria public universities is appalling".

Dr Dauda stressed, "The staff are not motivated, the public and even the students whom the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) have often protected from draconian policies are now the major antagonistic party against our union".

He maintained that "if President Tinubu is interested in developing Nigeria, he must invest and fund public education noting that the deliberate attack and pauperisation of lecturers by government will not augur well for the country".

Speaking further, Dr Busari called for system thinking as the Deficit of systems thinking has

caused repeated failure and frustration of Nigerians, saying, " the primary problem with Nigeria is the deficit in systems thinking.

"Systems thinking is a way of making sense of the world's complexity by looking at it in terms of wholes and relationships rather than by splitting it into parts. It has been used to explore and develop effective action in complex contexts, enabling systems change.

He noted, "Our approach to leadership and issues in Nigeria lacks the capacity to think in systems. What we have is a highly sub-optimised system. Until people acquire systems literacy in leadership, their greatest efforts will not achieve sustainable ends. The absence of systems thinking leads to strategic fixation, blind optimism, repeated failure, and frustration."

Retired Kaduna Police Officers Plan Protest To NASS Over Tinubu's Refusal To Sign Bills

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

The Association of Retired Police Officers Kaduna State Chapter has planned a peaceful protest at the National Assembly in respect of their two bills which are yet to be signed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

They are protesting the non assent to the Bill to Exit the Nigeria Police from the Contributory Pension Scheme and also the bill For The Establishment of the Nigeria Police Pension Board.

Following their resolutions after their meeting held in Kaduna on December 2, 2023, the Association of Retired Police Officers Kaduna State Chapter, resolved to participate in a peaceful protest at the National Assembly to show their grievances to the government, particularly Mr. President for not signing the two important bills.

According to them, those two bills if signed into law, would positively change the lives of their members who served the country with passion, commitment and dedication.

The Chairman of the association, CSP Mannir Mohammed Lawal Zaria (rtd), said already letters for protest have been despatched since on November 19, 2023 by Ret. W/DSP Esther Markus to the Inspector General of Police, Minister of FCT, Senate President, Speaker House of Representatives and Chairman Police Service Commission in respect of their plan to embark on a peaceful protest.

He explained that the association gave Mr. President up to November 25, 2023 to sign the two bills, yet the bills were not signed, hence they have no option than to embark on a peaceful protest.

"Therefore, if by 25/11/2023 the President doesn't sign the bills, the tendency of our members coming out immediately begins as we are approaching Christmas and New Year breaks.

"In view of the above, every member should be fully prepared because the only reason to suspend the protest is if the president signs those bills".

"As the dateline of 25/11/23 had passed without the President signing the two Police bills into law, coupled with the hardship experience by the retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme, the association decided to go on a peaceful protest'. He said.



President MAAUN Group Of Universities Donates Ambulance To Katsina Varsity

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

President of MAAUN Group of Universities, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo has donated an ambulance to the Federal University Dutsin-ma, Katsina State.

This is the second time Prof. Gwarzo is donating an ambulance to the university after donating a 60-seater luxurious bus to the institution.

Prof. Gwarzo announced the donation when he was speaking at the 7th and 8th convocation ceremony of FUDMA which was held on Saturday 2nd December, 2023 on the university campus.

Prof. Gwarzo who doubles as the President of the Association of African Private Universities (AAPU), lauded the Vice Chancellor of FUDMA, Prof. Armaya'u Bichi for his efforts to bring development to the university.

"I commend the Vice Chancellor of FUDMA, Prof. Armaya'u Bichi for his efforts to bring immeasurable developments to the university, I wish him, staff and students unparalleled success," he said.

He also used the occasion to congratulate former Governor

Ibrahim Shema, Emirs of Daura and Bichi, Alhaji Umar Faruk-Umar and Alhaji Nasiru Ado-Bayero, respectively for being conferred with honorary degrees by the university.

He also elucidated that Barrister Shema as a person who was passionate about education when he held sway as the governor of Katsina State; "he did many things that brought the development of education. One of them was to bring FUDMA University to the state, and he was one of the governors that sponsored some indigenes of the state further their studies.

"In recognition of Barrister Ibrahim Shehu shema's tremendous contributions in advancing the cause of education, I wish to donate an ambulance to FUDMA," Prof. Gwarzo said.

The convocation ceremony was attended by the Governor of Katsina state, Dr. Dikko Radda, Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir Usman and many officials from other universities.

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Among the Management staff of MAAUN that attended the occasion include the President of MAAUN, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, Vice Chancellor of Franco-British

International University (FBIU), Kaduna, Prof. Muhammad Abdullahi Sabo and Vice Chancellor of Northwest University, Sokoto, Prof. Ahmad Ibrahim Maigari among others. A total of 4,365 students graduated during the period, out of which, 11 have Ph.D, 168, Masters Degrees, 73 have Professional Diploma, while 149 have Postgraduate Diplomas (PGD).

Alleged Certificate Forgery: You're Chasing Shadow On Kano Guber, NNPP Tells APC

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) on Monday, said the filing of cross appeal at the Supreme Court by the All Progressives Congress (APC) alleging Governor Abba Yusuf of submitting forged certificate disqualifying him from holding the Kano State governorship position would amount to effort in futility and chasing of shadow. NNPP speaking through its Chieftain, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo asked the APC to provide proof that the certificate submitted by the Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf to the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) is forged.

The party maintained that "APC is shamefully pursuing another dead end in its desperate move to step down the choice of Kano

people, adding that this was coming after the Court of Appeal debacle shows that the "APC is desperately chasing shadow and can hold to anything to upturn the victory the NNPP secured at

the poll".

"APC should realise that Nigeria is not a banana republic. There is no how much the party tried, it cannot succeed in upturning the

victory of our great party in Kano", it said.

The party added, "Our members should leave APC to continue chasing shadow. Abba Yusuf will serve eight years in Kano. To us, Abba Yusuf is 4+4".

"Our members should remain calm despite this provocation. We must maintain peace. We are sure of getting justice at the Supreme Court"

New Nigerian recalled that APC and the NNPP and the APC as well as their candidates, Governor Abba Yusuf and Yusuf Guwana respectively are now at the Supreme Court following a contradictory

judgement given by the Court of Appeal in Abuja.

Gov Yusuf filed an appeal against the judgment of the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal which declared the APC flagbearer, Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, as the winner of the state's governorship poll held on March 18.

However, a discrepancy arose between the judgment read in court and the certified true copy (CTC) of the judgment with the NNPP appealing to the Supreme Court, claiming that the CTC upheld Yusuf's election but the Court of Appeal acknowledged a clerical error in the CTC and promised correction.

In March 2023, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared Abba Yusuf of the NNPP the winner of the Kano governorship election, with a margin of over 100,000 votes.



JT Moore Foundation Advances Mental Health Awareness Campaign In Secondary Schools

By; BASHIR BELLO
DOLLARS, Abuja

The Jeffrey Tyrone Moore Foundation, a non-governmental organization dedicated to mental health advocacy, has extended its outreach to secondary schools under the theme "Let Your Whisper Be Heard."

The foundation, based in Abuja, organized its latest edition of the Mental Health Awareness Campaign on November 29, 2023, targeting students from Government Junior Secondary School Garki (GJSS), Area 10 Garki, Abuja, and their teachers.

Mary Moore, the Executive Director of the foundation, conveyed a crucial message to the students during the campaign. "We are here to let the students know that mental health is a universal human right, and they should speak out and not keep their challenges to themselves," she emphasized. Moore underscored the significance of self-belief and the transformative power of positive affirmations.

Dr. Imaobong Edemaise, the resource person at the event, highlighted the World Health



Organization's definition of mental health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of diseases or infirmity." She educated the students on various mental health conditions such as

depression, anxiety, substance disorder, developmental disorder, and eating disorder. Dr. Edemaise also outlined factors affecting mental health, including biological elements, hormonal imbalances, environmental influences,

inadequate healthcare, social factors, and financial stress. She urged students to be vigilant about early warning signs, such as anxiety, unhappiness, sleep difficulties, appetite changes, and feelings of isolation. Importantly, she

encouraged students to seek help when needed.

The event featured Mental Health Ambassadorial nominations, with Miss Miracle Isaac of JSS2A and Master Dickson Kromlep of JSS3A emerging as "Young Mental Health Ambassadors." These students demonstrated intelligence and knowledge about mental health during the event, earning them the title and the responsibility to serve as role models and advocates within the school.

Maxwel Omar Gabari, a board director, adorned the newly appointed ambassadors with their official attire. These ambassadors will play a crucial role in raising awareness and fostering a supportive environment for mental health within Government Junior Secondary School Garki.

The event also included the distribution of sanitary towels to girls, T-shirts to boys, writing materials, and a fun day with refreshments. Most importantly, counseling sessions were provided as part of the holistic approach to addressing mental health concerns among students.

The Jeffrey Tyrone Moore Foundation continues to make strides in promoting mental health awareness, emphasizing the universal right to mental well-being and encouraging proactive measures for a healthier future.



37-Year Old Man Sentenced To Life Imprisonment For Raping Teenagers

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A High Court sitting in Eket, Akwa Ibom State on Wednesday, sentenced a 37-year old man, Uduak Moses Idimudo to life imprisonment for raping two girls, aged 14 and 15, both students of a secondary school in Eket. Idimudo, a native of Efoi in Eket Local Government Area, was sentenced by Justice Efiang Efiang, having found him guilty of 19 out of the 20 counts charge of rape.

One of the victims (name withheld) told the court that she and her 14 year-old friend were hawking fried cow skin meat otherwise known as "canda" on the road in Efoi in July, 2020, when the convict bought the meat worth N700 and asked them to accompany him to his room to get the money or they go and sell the meat and come back.

She said on their way home, they went back to the convict's house as he directed to get back their money, but he insisted that they must follow him inside his room, which they obliged.

The first prosecution witness said the convict pushed her and her friend on his bed and forcefully removed their pants and inserted his penis inside their vagina and took turn to rape them and after, gave them N350 instead of the N700 balance he owed them.

The JSS 3 student also narrated how the convict told her and friend to come back to his house for the balance but warned them not to tell their parents or anyone else about the rape, else he will kill them.

She told the court that they went home without telling their parents and one month after in August, 2020, they went back to the convict's house for the

balance of their money and the convict again adopted the same method and took turn to rape each of them again, but this time around, he did not pay the debt, asking them to come back again.

The minors said the convict adopted the same procedure of raping them from July 2020 and April, 2021, until one woman, a neighbour of the convict, who noticed the children on monthly basis inside the house of the convict, reported to their parents.

In a one-hour judgment, the trial judge, Hon. Justice Efiang Efiang said he "believed the testimonies of PW 1 and PW 5 (the victims) as corroborated by the confessional statement of the defendant and the medical reports of evidence of forceful penetration of vagina of PW 1 and PW 5."

He described the defendant as "a despicable

character who is worse than an untrained animal and does not deserve to be left free in the community of decent people."

Justice Efiang held: "that the defendant could keep ripping two minors naked on his bed and raping them in their open view, shows that he is a dirty, wicked and satanic person, who has no regards for the law and morals."

The Court also noted that "the offence of rape is now assuming an alarming frequency in the society and in Eket Judicial Division in particular."

The State Prosecutor from the Ministry of Justice, Barrister Ime Ifon hailed the judgement, which she described as erudite that will serve as deterrent to other rapists, who are yet to be caught by the long arm of the law.

The Defence Counsel, Barrister Victor Udeh also commended the Court for the judgement.

Gombe Governor Constitutes Committees On Open Governance Partnership, Civil Society Organizations



Governor Inuwa Yahaya

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has approved the constitution of 2 committees.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval, said the development is in line with Governor Inuwa's commitment to furthering collaborative efforts towards open governance and targeted developmental programmes in Gombe State.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that the committees are as follows: 1. The Open Governance Partnership (OGP) State Steering Committee (SSC), with the Secretary to the State Government as Co-Chairman.

The OGP State Steering Committee is constituted to promote transparent governance and foster synergy among government departments, etc.

Members of the SSC include Head of Civil Service, Commissioners of Finance and Economic Development, Information, Culture and Ethical Orientation, Education, Women Affairs & Social Development,

Budget & Economic Planning, and Justice as well as a representative of the State House of Assembly, the Permanent Secretary Bureau for Public Procurement and the Senior Special Assistant (Budget Planning and Development Partners Coordination) who will serve as Secretary.

2. Civil Society Organizations Committee. The Civil Society Organizations committee is set up to foster community engagement and ensure the implementation of inclusive policies.

Members include the Chairmen of the Association of Non-Governmental Associations Gombe State, Foundation for Youth Awakening and Empowerment, Jewel Health Initiative, Wilden Care Foundation, People Empowerment Initiative, Advocacy Centre for Development (AC4D), Voice of Hopes, Jewel Care Foundation, Newage Initiative for Youth, and Dandalin Matasa.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya expects members of the committees to serve as catalysts for progressive change, leverage their diverse expertise and collective experience to enhance the effectiveness of service delivery in Gombe State.

All the appointments are with immediate effect.

Kogi Guber: Election Tribunal Adjourns Indefinitely

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Kogi State has adjourned pending the completion of inspection of election materials by the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

At the resumed hearing in Lokoja midweek, the SDP told the tribunal that INEC was cooperating with the inspection of materials as granted by the order of the Tribunal but sought for more time.

Recall that the Tribunal had ordered INEC to issue certified copies of electoral materials on the November 11 off-cycle election in the state to the SDP within 48 hours.

It also ordered INEC to allow SDP's forensic experts to examine some electoral materials.

The materials include Bimodal Voter Accreditation System and result sheets for Adavi, Okene, Okehi, Ogori-Magongo, Ajaokuta,



Gov Yahaya Bello

Lokoja, Kogi and Bassa Local Government Areas.

The tribunal ruled on Saturday in Lokoja that the SDP requested the materials to prove its case in the petition it filed against the victory of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at the election.

Chairman of the tribunal, Justice Ado Birnin-Kudu gave the order following two ex-parte motions filed on Nov. 19 by the SDP and by its governorship

candidate, Alhaji Muritala Yakubu-Ajaka.

Justice Birnin-Kudu at the resumed hearing adjourned pending when the inspection of materials would have been completed.

Lead counsel to the petitioners, Mr John Adele (SAN), had earlier told the court that efforts to obtain certified copies of materials used in the six local government areas from INEC had been

fruitful except for some hitches leading to the delay in meeting with the 48 hours deadline.

The SDP and Muritala Yakubu Ajaka are challenging the victory of APC and its candidate, Alhaji Usman Ododo at the election petition tribunal.

Usman Ododo won the election with 446,237 votes, while his closest rival, Yakubu-Ajaka polled 259,052 votes.

JIFORM Summit Demands Affirmative Action On Climate Change, Support For Migrants

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The 4th Journalists International Forum For Migration-JIFORM Global Migration Summit in Toronto on Tuesday called for affirmative actions to tackle effects of climate change and more support for migrants.

The hybrid annual conference hosted by Abedorc Productions Inc, Canada with Yinka Farinde as the CEO had submissions from various speakers and participants that addressed Climate Change: Human Mobility and Sustainable Investment as themes.

In his opening remark, Dr Ajibola Abayomi, the President of the JIFORM posited that "Journalists and the entire media must be sensitive toward the amplification of the World Bank report that alarmed climate change could drive 216 million people to migrate within their own countries by 2030. while more than 200 million would also face similar faith by 2050.

The report highlighted that "in 2050, 86 million people are to be affected in Sub-Saharan Africa, 19 million from North Africa, 49 million from South Asia, 17 million in Latin America and 49 million within East Asia and Pacific".

Ajibola revealed that the 10% nations in the Global North were responsible for 49% of the total lifestyle consumption emissions while the poorest 50% nations in the Global South accounted for just 10% and wanted actions taken to forestall damages to the countries in the Global South.

Delivering a keynote address, the former Secretary of State and ex-Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Refugees said nations policies on migration

should be tailored towards management of diversity of migrants with better planning and implementation to promote integration and assimilation as being done in Canada to the benefits of all.

He called for tolerance from the governments of all nations by having more migrant oriented plans that would encourage safe, orderly and regular migration across all borders.

Urging the media use her strategic toll to change the migration narrative while delivering a presentation on Media Roles In Changing The Narrative On Migration: Best Practices, Social Inclusion, And Concerns, Nermin A. Ahmad, the Convener Subcommittee On Xenophobia And Social Inclusion of the NGO on migration representing Civil Society at the United Nations, demanded for better actions plans for climate migrants.

"If we do not prepare for this new and very different type of migrant while absorbing others. We will indeed face a bleak future. There's time to act. That time is now. If we do not prepare for this new and very different type of migrant while absorbing others. We will indeed face a bleak future. There's time to act. That time is now."

This is a new form of climate injustice. climate change. Migrants are an interesting group. because there's no status. They don't appear in any definitions. Migrants represent close to 4%. Of our world population. If this were to be put into a single country, it would be the fourth most populous country after the United States, India, and China, and come just before Indonesia" Nermin said.

According to her "women



represent 42% or 70 million of the legal migrants. The number you see here is for officially recorded remittance. That's US dollars, 719 billion dollars and represents important investments in the home country's or origin country's national education, health and infrastructure. Collectively, this is larger than the foreign direct investment and official development assistance received by low- and middle-income

countries in any year.

Mr Gerhard Bayer, Managing Director Of CSRSPACE, LLC, US while speaking on Impact Investment: A Mitigation Strategy in The Face of Climate Change called for positive impacts on both investment and development plans in Africa and other parts of the world.

He said Africa should devise a means to make the continent more resilient by ensuring that huge parts of her resources are

kept within her nations for economic growth to tackle climate change and other economic problems.

Philomena Gnanapragasam, Director of The Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), Malaysia represented by Mr Nabeel Tiimazi, a senior AIBD official, was concerned about the consequence of inadequate narrative from the media on migration matters.

Many Africans Disconnected From State With Uneven Distribution Of Scarce Resources - Prof Ebijuwa

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Pioneer Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Ladok Akintola University of Technology, Professor Temisan Ebijuwa on Thursday, disclosed that many people in Africa are disconnected from the state. Professor Ebijuwa said this while delivering the first faculty lecture of his faculty entitled "Sartrean Existentialism And Yoruba Philosophy: Interrogating Diverse Paths To Freedom And Human Destiny"

According to the Professor of Philosophy, this is because the distribution of scarce resources are not done evenly in the

continent adding, the only way to make meaningful living possible is for Africans in general and Nigerians in particular to create the type of life they desire for themselves.

He stressed "Freedom and choice are essential to the pursuit of self-discovery and the determination of life's meaning and social fulfillments."

The University Don lamented the "near collapse of the spirit of intellectual inquiry in our universities" which he said has "shifted the conversation into what some of us have called the growing need for stomach infrastructure occasioned by the despair and frustration our political

leaders have brought to bear on our collective realities".

He maintained that there is confusion and frustration in the country as people only think about surviving "in a country flowing with milk and honey" due to inability to make ends meet.

Speaking further, he pointed out that there is wide gap between the rich and the poor, putting many into the state of anomie with consequences such as kidnapping, banditry, herdsmen and farmers clashes and ethnic conflicts, poverty and diseases. Attributing all these to debilitating conditions orchestrated by the misrule of the people by the elite, Prof Ebijuwa said

"our political elites can generate some sorts of despair...this is not sufficient for people to result to fatalistic attitude"

The Professor of Philosophy stressed that there is hope in re-writing individual destiny based on the choices made, because "one right choice can affect the future of man and his neighbor".

Acting Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor R. O. Rom Kalilu represented by Professor Ogunleye Olaosebikan stated that the faculty is breaking significant records in the institution and setting the ball rolling for more academic excellence.

NUC Approves 25 Courses For Kogi Varsity, Kabba

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

The National Universities Commission (NUC), has approved 25 courses presented to it by the new Kogi State University (KSU) Kabba for its take-off.

The universities regulatory body approved the courses as submitted to it for the preliminary take off of the ivory tower to enhance quick commencement of admissions into the fledging University as precursor to full commencement of academic programmes.

The Obaro of Kabba and Chairman, Okun Area Traditional Council, His Royal Majesty, Oba Solomon Dele Owoniyi made this known at a special thanksgiving service held at ECWA Church, Kabba.

The monarch said that the state governor, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello informed him that contractors were at work at the university campus to prepare it for the commencement of academic activities.

The governor, according to the traditional ruler, also gave assurance of his administration's commitment towards ensuring the smooth take off of the institution before the new government assumes office next month.

In addition, he said a special allocation of N200 million per month has been approved for the university and that disbursement has taken off with immediate effect.

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the institution even after the end of his tenure.

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Oba Owoniyi appealed to stakeholders to support the institution to enable it raise its head among its peers.

He also thanked the Okun people for ensuring that peace reigned in Okunland before, during, and after the recent governorship election in the state.

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Banking & Finance

Local Government

Studies

Mass Communication

Political Science

Faculty of Art & Humanities (FAH)

English and Literary

Studies

Languages & Linguistics

Creative & Performing

History & International

Studies

Faculty of Science & Computing (FSC)

Chemistry / Industrial

Chemistry

Physics / industrial

Physics

Biochemistry

Microbiology

Computer Science

Mathematics / Industrial

Mathematics

Biotechnology.

AYCF Wades Into Zamfara Guber Controversy, Backs Matawalle

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has waded into controversy surrounding the governorship election in Zamfara State over the non-counting of about 90,000 ballots by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Reacting to the development, AYCF President General Yerima Shettima called on the Supreme Court of Nigeria to resolve this issue in favour of former Governor Bello Mohammed Matawalle in deciding the appeal before it.

The AYCF insists that the use of the Biometric Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) introduced by INEC does not carry the same weight as the Electoral Act, and its mandatory use is questionable.

According to Shettima, Section 60 of the Electoral Act clearly states that the presiding officer must record each candidate's votes in a form prescribed by INEC. Additionally, section 60(5) mandates the presiding officer to transfer results, including total accredited voters and ballot results in a manner prescribed by INEC.

However, AYCF argued that BVAS does not hold the same legal weight as the Electoral Act



Yerima Shettima

itself. Shettima further explained that while BVAS was introduced by INEC to enhance electoral credibility, it is not explicitly mandated by the Electoral Act.

"Therefore, its use cannot be made mandatory without proper legal backing. The appeal to Nigeria's Supreme Court is based on this argument that BVAS should not supersede provisions of the Electoral Act - which governs elections in Nigeria.

"AYCF believes that it is crucial for Nigeria's highest judicial authority

to address this appeal and provide a resolution that upholds democratic principles such as fairness, justice, and rule of law.

"Not counting 90,000 ballots raises concerns about electoral integrity and disenfranchisement of many voters. By resolving this appeal, Nigeria's Supreme Court can send a strong message that it is committed to ensuring free and fair elections while restoring public confidence in the electoral process," the group said.

Finally, AYCF urged Nigeria's Supreme Court to intervene and resolve

Zamfara State's election controversy following INEC's non-counting of approximately 90,000 ballots in favor of former Governor Bello Mohammed Matawalle.

They argued that BVAS does not carry equal weight with provisions stipulated by Nigeria's Electoral Act governing elections in Nigeria. Resolving this matter will uphold democratic principles such as fairness, justice and rule of law while restoring public confidence in Nigeria's electoral process.

Bikers Association Inaugurates New Executive In Kaduna

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Superbike Club Association of Nigeria (SCAN) on Monday, inaugurated its newly elected executives to lead the association.

The newly inaugurated executives are Mr Hussaini Misari president; Mr David Julius vice president, while Mr Abdullahi Daku as secretary general.

Others are: Mr Nengar Terfa-assistant secretary general; Mr Geoffrey

Ojeabulu -treasurer; Mr Raymond Yakshut, financial secretary and Mr Salisu Abubakar welfare officer.

Also inaugurated into the new exco include Mr Umar Abubakar, internal auditor; Mr Olu Abel, provost; Mr Muktar Makarfi; media and publicity and Mr Dakwai Lengas as national road captain.

Speaking at the ceremony, Pindigi, chairman, board of trustees of the association, urged the new

executives to be committed to service while using two wheels to unite the nation.

He called on the aggrieved members of the association to join hands with the new executives and work together.

Responding, Hussaini Misari, president of the association, said the new leadership would maintain a responsible, inclusive biking community while encouraging participation by all.

He said the association would focus more on the

safety of its members, build partnership with governments to gain support while trying to unite the nation.

"We would have to change the narrative of the public towards bikers by demonstrating the positive impact the association has on community development and tourism."

Dike Ifanyi, who administered the oath of office advised them to carry all the members along while discharging their responsibilities.

APC Calls On Security Agencies To Curb Anarchy, Arrests SDP Candidate

By: ADEBAYO ADO, Akure

The Kogi State All Progressives Congress (APC) Governorship Campaign Council has called on the Police, Department of State Services and other security agencies to immediately curb what it described as the slide to anarchy in the state.

The Council called for the arrest of the Governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Muritala Yakubu Ajaka, and his supporters who allegedly masterminded the attack on the residence of the Resident Electoral Commissioner in the state in the early hours of Friday.

The APC Campaign Council said the attack was perpetrated days after it alerted the nation of the plans of SDP thugs to attack INEC, adding that "they have finally done their worst by attacking the residence of the Kogi State INEC Commissioner, engaging security agents in a fierce gun battle and eventually burning down some vehicles in the residence and in the area."

The Director of Media and Publicity/Spokesperson for the Campaign Council, Kingsley Fanwo, who spoke at an emergency press briefing on Friday, said, "The same arsonists also had an attempt to burn down the Kogi State Government House foiled by our eagle-eye security agents. The same attempt was foiled at the State APC Secretariat in Lokoja."

According to the APC, the SDP in the state and their collaborators are desperate to destroy some documents in INEC to cover the heist they committed in Kogi East where

they allegedly killed APC supporters "and drove them out of collation centres to forge the results that were eventually trumped by the massive votes of Kogites for the Governor-Elect."

The Campaign Council alleged that the SDP candidate and his collaborators were attempting to corrupt certain documents in INEC before handing them to their legal team.

"We have no problem allowing legal teams to access documents and materials. It is the norm. But we won't allow any desperate blood thirsty politician tamper with the true verdict of the Kogi people," Fanwo declared.

He noted that "the bold-face criminality being perpetrated by the defeated SDP candidate and his violent gang of criminals was as a result of the lack of consequences over the gruesome killing of an APC supporter, Khadijat, at Kotonkarfe by agents of the SDP," adding that they had imported thugs from neighbouring states into Kogi.

"They shamelessly came out to say Khadijat was bearing an arm. Till date, Muritala Yakubu Ajaka and his gun welding killers have been moving freely on the streets. If they had been arrested for killing an innocent woman, they wouldn't have had the gut to attempt to attack the Kogi Resident Electoral Commissioner," he stressed.

The Campaign Spokesperson stated, "We also told the world of plans by the SDP to burn down the INEC Office in Lokoja. We thank the Police and other security agencies for protecting the INEC Office. Frustrated by the watertight security around



INEC, the gun throttling SDP criminals went to the residence of the Kogi State INEC Commissioner in an attempt to kill him. They were engaged in a fierce gun battle and they resorted to burning vehicles and other valuables around the area.

"The reason they are desperate to destroy some documents in INEC is to cover the heist they committed in Kogi East where they killed APC supporters and drove them out of collation centres to forge the results that were eventually trumped by the massive votes of Kogites for the Governor-Elect. They are attempting to corrupt certain documents in INEC before handing them to their legal team. We have no problem allowing legal teams to access documents and materials. It is the norm. But we won't allow any desperate blood thirsty politician tamper with the true verdict of the Kogi people.

"After their violent protests a few days ago, our people have also moved to Lokoja to ensure their mandate is protected. Resorting to assassination and arson will never help the Social Democratic Party and their confused candidate.

"Now is the time to arrest Muritala Yakubu Ajaka before he throws Kogi into a state of anomie. Democracy is the expression of the wishes of the people. Those wishes have been expressed and no amount of bullets can silence the voice of the ballot. We are calling on the Police, DSS and other security agencies to immediately arrest the slide to anarchy by arresting Muritala Yakubu Ajaka and his co-swimmers in the pool of violence. We have cautioned our supporters to remain calm and the call will be more effective if the anarchists are immediately apprehended and prosecuted.

"The violence witnessed in Kogi East because of the desperation of Muritala Yakubu Ajaka was not witnessed in the West and Central. He turned himself to an outlaw, attacking the opposition, killing opposition members and boasting to go free because of his mouthed connection with certain powerful people. Kogi must not be allowed to become a lawless place and the only solution now is to use Muritala Yakubu Ajaka as a Scape goat. He was not the only one who contested the election. But he is the only one who feels he must kill everything and everyone standing on his path to his irredeemable dream of grabbing power by force. Totalitarianism has no place in a democratic setting.

"Gentlemen of the press, we will continue to preach peace and harmony. Kogi is our project and we will keep the flag flying."

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History & International Studies

Faculty of Science & Computing (FSC)

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Physics / industrial Physics

Biochemistry

Microbiology

Computer Science

Mathematics / Industrial Mathematics

Biotechnology.

Deraspeaks' New Spoken Word Single Illuminates Minds



Deraspeaks

By; MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Lagos

Deraspeaks, a minister and song writer has continued to illuminate the minds of people with her latest work, "I need help, I messed up" spoken word single currently making waves on all global streaming platforms.

Born Favour Ogbonnaya with the stage name Deraspeaks, the spoken word artiste has continued to use her voice to draw the attention of listeners to be real and true to the worship of God irrespective of circumstances and situation.

In her latest work titled, "I need help, I messed up," she emphasized importance of being grateful and constantly giving gratitude to God at all times.

In some of her own lamentations in the spoken word, she said, she is hopeless, all alone. Everything she seems to place her hands on is crumbling down. Please help her, she is about to drown. "I thought I was doing all the right thing by praying yet complaining. I am filled with so much ingratitude and I can wash the world away with it. I am making it look I am the victim, yet I am the one terrorizing myself."

According to Deraspeaks, she is out to restore and elevate people's imagination spiritually, creating an atmosphere of calm, comfort and belief in all circumstances and situations for believers. She explained, "I am sometimes like a rolling thunder, perhaps another time like a wispy rush of worded air aimed at captivating listeners and worshippers to focus more on the many positives rather than the few negatives – this is the embedded message in my latest work, "I need help, I messed up."

A budding talent, Deraspeaks spoken word is available on all streaming global platforms including Spotify, Audiomack, Apple Music and more. Haven break into the scene since 2018, Deraspeaks has ministered in many quarters including Winners Canaanland, Salvation Ministry Headquarters, Mountain of fire Headquarters and Redeemed Christian Church of God Headquarters. She also wowed the audience at the recent 17th edition of The Future Awards Africa in Lagos, preceded by an international Performance in Kenya.

New House Committee, A Response to innovation gap - Hon Aguye

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education Institutions in Nigeria, Hon. Danladi Suleiman Aguye has commended the leadership of the House for what he described as sense of timely innovation in the formation of a Committee to specifically oversee technical education in Nigeria.

Hon. Aguye made the remarks as part of his goodwill message as the Special Guest of Honour at a One-Day Research Products' Exhibition and Award Ceremony organised by the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB) in Abuja.

The lawmaker, who was represented by his Aide, Ahmed Balarabe Sa'id, noted that, the consideration by the House leadership to give the required attention to technical education through proactive legislation informed the necessity for his Committee in the current dispensation.

He acknowledged that funding and policy enablers are crucial to research and innovation, adding that, the role of the National Assembly is critical to the realization of this goal, in the realization of the overall objective of building a sustainable synergy between 'town and gown'.

"Our interface with

stakeholders under the dynamic leadership of my Committee Chairman, from our inception, has indicated great prospects for harnessing vast potentials for mainstreaming innovation and enterprise development within the technical education sub sector", he affirmed.

While acknowledging the many challenges identified with realising this, he expressed optimism that, closer collaboration between the legislature and crucial stakeholders like the NSBMB will activate the needed incubators to position Nigeria in the emerging knowledge and innovation economy.

"The realities of the new knowledge economy may challenge the capacity of our educational, technical institutions including our enabling laws. In the era of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and the new thinking of mainstreaming digital technologies in nearly all endeavours, I want to assure you that, the National Assembly shall remain innovative in complimenting sustainable initiatives that will create more opportunities for our people, particularly at the grassroots, such that, we shall gradually begin to have innovation hubs and technology parks in our communities", Hon. Aguye said.

The lawmaker, who represents Lokoja-Kogi/Koton Karfe Constituency, commended the NSBMB for the theme of the event, "Research,



Hon Aguye

Innovation and Development in Nigeria", describing it as a relevant call to action in the country's current peculiarity.

Earlier, the host of the event and President of the NSBMB, Prof. Mathew Ow'honda Wegwu, in his welcome address, informed that, the objective of the event is the exhibition of breakthroughs in research endeavours by the Society, noting that, all of the innovations have local relevance and global acceptance.

Chairman of the occasion, Acting Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Mr. Chris J. Maiyaki, acknowledged the significance of the event and the benefit identified

with the opportunities as it relates to Nigeria's journey to greatness. He specifically commended the Guest Lecturer, Former Vice Chancellor of University of Portharcourt, Prof. Joseph Ajenka for his wealth of insight on the subject matter.

Highlight of the event was the recognition of a number of notable persons in various categories of awards.

They include Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Barr. Nyesom Wike, Former Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Muhammad Kaoje Abubakar, the Vice Chancellor of University of Maiduguri, Prof. Aliyu Shugaba and numerous others.

Kwara Govt Seeks Public Memoranda On Proposed State University Of Education

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Government has called on stakeholders in the education sector to submit memoranda for the establishment of Kwara State University of Education.

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq had on November 17, 2023, inaugurated Prof. Shuaibu Oba Abdulaheem-led committee to midwife the processes leading to the establishment of the institution.

"As part of the process, the government invites the general public, stakeholders, educational institutions, and interested groups to contribute their insights and recommendations through the submission of memoranda," the committee said in a statement issued in Ilorin.

"This visionary initiative aims to enhance the quality of education and contribute to the development of human resources in the state."

It stated that the memoranda should address relevant issues related to the

establishment of the University of Education, including but not limited to:

Preferred strategic location within the State that will ensure inclusivity

Proposed academic programmes and faculties.

Infrastructure and facilities requirements

Collaboration opportunities with existing institutions.

Strategies for community engagement and development.

The committee advised that all memoranda should be submitted in writing and sent to Council

Chamber, K WASU Business School along Ajasse-Ipo Road, Ilorin or Room 33, Ministry of Tertiary Education, State Secretariat, Ilorin.

"Electronic submissions can also be sent to: pic4kwsued@gmail.com and the deadline for the submission of memoranda is 15th December 2023," the statement noted.

The committee encouraged active participation and engagement from all stakeholders to ensure that the university is established in a manner that best serves the educational needs of the communities.

Cuba: Where Dedication To Humanity Is Like Religion

By Owei Lakemfa

THE ISRAELI bombs that rained down on Gaza has killed over 200 health workers with 215 injured. In Havana, Cuba, 10,953 kilometres away, Palestinian youths being trained as medical doctors, gathered to mourn the human carnage in their country and vowed to take the next available flight back once they complete their studies to replace the murdered doctors.

In a show of the famous Cuban sense of humanism, President Miguel Diaz-Canel on November 17, 2023 met with the Palestinian students to express the solidarity of the Cuban people. Then on November 23, draped in the black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh, he led the Palestinian students and a huge mass of Cubans in a solidarity march across Havana passing in front of the United States (US) Embassy, demanding a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian War. Also participating in the march were the Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero, Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodriguez and the President's wife, Lis Cuesta.

The Cuba-US fight is like that between the Biblical David and Goliath. The US has a total area of 3,119,885 kilometres compared to Cuba's 109,884 kilometres. In other words, the US is over 28 times the size of Cuba. In terms of population, while the US is 331.9 million, Cuba is 11.26 million. So, the US population is over 29 times that of Cuba. Yet in over six decades of skirmishes, sabotage and sanctions, the US has been unable to subdue Cuba.

The solidarity the Cubans are engaged in on the Palestinian issue is no fluke. They showed Africans a thousand times more solidarity when we were in our most vulnerable state. That was in the 1980s when Apartheid South Africa, supported by the US, Britain, Israel and their allies, held us in the jugular. Apartheid held down Namibia and enslaved the Blacks in South Africa with liberation icons like Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and Nelson Mandela held in prison as terrorists. Additionally, the Apartheid regime with a mighty military equipped by its Western allies, invaded African countries like Zambia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola at will.

Africa seemed helpless. Most countries merely made declarations. So, with the



President Diaz-Canel

support of the Apartheid regime by some world leaders like President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the situation appeared hopeless. However, Cuba took action. It sent a total 55,000 troops over 9,000 kilometres from Havana to Africa to fight Apartheid and liberate the African continent.

Thousands of heroic Cuban youths lost their lives fighting for Africa. In the historic Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, the Cubans roundly defeated the Apartheid forces, chasing them into colonised Namibia where the enemies of humanity begged for a ceasefire. Cuba's basic demands on the Apartheid regime were independence for Namibia leading to independence for South Africa. Two years later, Namibia became independent on March 21, 1990 and South Africa, on April 16, 1994.

Cuba, which has been under US sanctions for six decades, went before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on November 2, 2023 asking it to vote against the US economic and trade embargo against it. A total of 187 countries voted against the US embargo with only the US and Israel voting for the embargo and Ukraine abstaining. It was the 31st time the UNGA was voting against America on the issue, but the Americans have never shown any respect for the UN resolutions.

Cuba, a small island nation, had,

as at 2021, lost over \$1,098,008,000,000 to the unilateral American restrictions which includes embargo on spare parts, medicine, transportation and food.

It has also survived attacks by some 300 terrorist groups which bombed private and commercial places. Cuban aircraft have also been hijacked, taken to the US and destroyed. The most serious of these terrorist attacks was the October 1976 hijack of a Cuban Airline with 76 persons on board. It was flown over the sea and blown up.

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The man who symbolised Cuba's resistance and unparalleled sense of dedication to humanity is Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz. Fidel, as he was affectionately called, flew away on November 25, 2016. Exactly on the seventh year of his passing, I joined guests at the Cuban Embassy in Abuja to plant a royal palm tree commemorating his passing.

Cuban Ambassador Miriam Morales Palmero, who personally worked with Fidel,

explained the choice of tree: "The royal palm was chosen as the national tree in Cuba for being the most numerous of its trees, for being the most notable species in its landscapes, resistant and durable, for its beauty, for its usefulness and for being represented in the national coat of arms."

She recalled that Fidel told Cubans that they have the 'duty of compensation' to "Africa by virtue of the crucial role played by Africans and their descendants in the independence and revolutionary wars (In South America and the Caribbean) in their contribution to the construction of the Cuban nation and in the creation of wealth that successive generations of all races have enjoyed."

Aremu said that although Fidel was produced by Cuba, he was a gift to humanity. Therefore: "When we solidarize with Cuba, we solidarize with ourselves." He wondered why Cuba cannot open a bank account in Nigeria, indicating that Nigeria might, vicariously, be carrying out part of the American sanctions against Cuba.

The Ambassador said, Fidel's speech in Havana on March 21, 1962 on war, remains relevant today as it was 61 years ago. In it, he had said: "In no other minute of human history is peace so necessary, because in no other minute of human history does war mean so much destruction and so much death. At no other minute in human history is the idea of war as terrible as at this moment."

Dr. Onuche Audu, an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist who studied in Cuba, graduated 48 hours before Fidel passed. He told the audience that Fidel had not died, but had merely "multiplied". Audu, seeing himself as a representative of Cuba said: "A Cuban doctor prides himself in saving a life even when no money is paid."

Comrade Abiodun Aremu, the Secretary of the Nigeria Movement for Solidarity with Cuba recalled that there were over 600 assassination attempts on Fidel, especially by the US, but that they all failed because he was what Yorubas call 'Akanda', a specially created human being. He also noted that Cuba has survived over 60 years of blockade by its powerful neighbour, US, but that the country remains standing and viable.

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The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), in a solidarity message delivered by Mr. Ini Akpan Morgan, the Head of its International Department, praised Fidel for the redistribution of the national wealth to the Cuban populace.

Culled from National Record.

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FULL PAGE	395,176.32	29,638.22	424,814.54	323,433.00	24,257.48	347,690.48
HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
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

6 COLUMNS			
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

Police Reacts To Alleged Pursuing EBSU Student To Death

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Police Command has reacted to a recent viral report trending online, which alleged that police pursued an accident victim to death, stating that the actions of the driver raised the suspicion of the police operatives, which made them pursue the vehicle, even when the driver did not stop till he was involved in an accident along Oriuzor Road.

According to the statement issued by the command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Onome Onovewakpoyeya, the incident occurred on December 2, 2023 at about 12pm, when police operatives on stop and search duty around Nkaliki Road sighted a vehicle that was approaching their checkpoint but suddenly reversed and sped off which made the police officers to raise suspicion over his movement and therefore, pursued the vehicle, the driver did not stop till he was involved in an accident along Oriuzor Road which later claimed his life.

They stated that the

traffic officers were alerted and with the efforts of good citizens, the victim Ayogu Evans, a student of Ebonyi State University was conveyed to the hospital where he unfortunately gave up the ghost.

It was these circumstances surrounding his death which is still shrouded with controversies, that made some students of Ebonyi State University conceive the idea of a protest against police actions.

The Commissioner of Police, Ebonyi State Command, CP Augustina Ogbodo, immediately addressed the student leaders and assured them that their concerns would be thoroughly investigated and anyone found culpable will be sanctioned accordingly.

The Commissioner of Police also used the medium to encourage the citizens to support the police while they carry out their mandate and to report any unprofessional conduct of police officers on duty to the police authority while assuring the public that disciplinary actions will be taken against any erring police officer.

Senate: I Am Most Qualified To Represent Ebonyi South, Says Egwu

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Action Alliance (AA) candidate for Ebonyi South Senatorial District, Evangelist Reuben Uche Egwu on Thursday, said that of all those jostling for the senatorial position, he is the most qualified.

Evangelist Egwu made the remark when OHANIVO Patriots Forum paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

He revealed that what brought him to the political theatre was chiefly to right wrongs in society, a thing he regretted, leaders of the district had failed to achieve over the years.

The AA Senatorial candidate claimed he has the wherewithal to turn things for the good of the people only if they close ranks and vote him as their Senator.

"I thank you for coming to identify and support our rescue mission effort.

"The name of my campaign organisation is Rescue Mission and it is not by accident that name was coined, but by divine design.

"The Ebonyi South Senatorial District has been unfortunate to have a Senator who is on a mission to salvage the people from the socioeconomic mire. You cannot mention one person. "Not even one one. What we have had all these years are egocentric and leaders with opaqueness as motives.



Egwu

"It is all in your hands, if you have all agreed that the time to end this malady is now, then vote me as your Senator.

"I am the most qualified to lead. I have, for the past 3 decades, by God's grace, devoted time to social work.

"I have in-depth knowledge of what the people need and as a Senator, if elected, make case for the interest of our people".

Earlier, the Acting President of OHANIVO

Patriots Forum, Elder Samuel Ngene said the group aligns with Egwu's vision for the people of Ebonyi South.

"We have seen your vision for our people and we will support you.

"First, let me commend you for welcoming us to your office.

"We are here to congratulate you first on clinching the party's ticket.

"Two to tell you that our mission to is support credibility, not party. Party has dealt with us all these

years. This rerun has provided us with another opportunity to elect credibility and competence. We will not miss it. We have checked, and you are the most qualified.

"You have been in the humanitarian theatre for years. You understand the wishes of the people. Do your part as we do our own, let God bless our efforts. But for this mandate, you are our trusted Senator, and nothing stops it".

NACHPN Felicitates Gov Uba Sani Over NITMA Merit Award

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria (NACHPN) has felicitated Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State on National Information and Technology Merit Award (NITMA) conferred on him. The chairman of the association, Comrade Aliyu Abdurraheed Umar expressed this in Kaduna, while speaking with journalists on the award.

He said the governor deserved the award, going by his commitment to the development of digital, technological and other educational fields in the state.

Comrade Aliyu Umar said the National Association of Community Health Practitioners in the state would remain committed to supporting Governor Uba Sani in all spheres of health, education and other sectors of the economy.

The chairman noted that, the association

has carefully studied and monitored the contributions of governor Uba Sani to societal development and support to the educational pursuit of indigent youths.

Speaking on his recent success at the Court of Appeal, Comrade Abdurraheed Umar Aliyu described the victory as for all citizens of Kaduna State.

He appealed to the people of the state to continue with prayers for peace, unity and

progress of the state.

The association chairman reaffirmed their commitment towards enhanced health care delivery in the twenty three local government areas of Kaduna State.

He urged members of the community health Practitioners to live above board and strictly adhere to the ethics and rules governing the profession for positive results.

Kaduna Reps Member Offers Free Medical Services To 1,000 Citizens

By AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

No fewer than 1,000 persons have so far benefitted from a five-day free medical outreach sponsored by a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Daniel Amos.

Mr. Amos who represents the Jama'a/Sanga Federal Constituency at the National Assembly, pledged to continue with the free medical outreach for the vulnerable members of the society till eternity.

While flagging off the outreach at the Sir Patrick Yakowa General Hospital, Kafanchan, in Jema'a Local Government Area, the lawmaker, who sits as Chairman, of the House of Representatives Committee on House Services, said the free medical outreach is aimed at improving the well-being of people, especially the vulnerable members of the society.

According to him, "Investments in health care, education, and social protection are not just good for the individuals who directly benefit from it, but also good for the society's growth and political stability."

He said the exercise was part of the burning desire to put smiles on the faces of his people, especially the less privileged who find it difficult to meet the daily demands of life.

He explained, "The free medical health care being offered today was born out of my passion and commitment to put smiles on the faces of many people who are daily suffering in silence with their health condition.

"The major objective for the outreach is to bring healthcare services closer to the people at the community level at no cost. A lot of people with one underlying ailment or the other are dying in silence because they can't afford the exorbitant hospital bill," he added.

The lawmaker assured of his commitment to continue with the free medical outreach



"as long as I am alive.

"This free medical outreach which is its second edition in less than one year, is going to continue as long as I am alive. It would even continue even after I am gone. It will be transformed into a foundation. It means that this free medical outreach will continue until we cannot find someone to reach out to."

According to the lawmaker, the gesture was the beginning of the fulfillment of his campaign promises.

"During the campaigns, I pledged to provide free medical health care service every year to vulnerable members of our constituency and beyond," he said.

The five-day free medical program, which was organized in collaboration with Graceland Health Care Development Foundation, paid particular attention to free medical surgeries, issuance of eyeglasses, and eye surgeries, aside from general medical services.

The lawmaker, who thanked Graceland Health Care Foundation for the collaboration, appealed to the people to continue to keep the peace to pave the way for meaningful development.

In his remarks, the Senator representing Kaduna South Senatorial District, Sunday Marshall Katung, who was represented by Mr. Yohanna Allahmagani, congratulated

Mr. Amos for achieving the feat and urged all to maximally support him to attend more.

Earlier, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman, of Jema'a Local Government Area, Mr. Nathaniel Bawa, hailed Mr. Amos for investing in the health of the people and described it as heartwarming.

Giving royal blessings to the exercise on behalf of other traditional rulers, the Chief of Godogodo, Reverend Habila Sa'idu, described the gesture as "uncommon".

The Medical exercise has 5 centers, comprising Kagoma, Kafanchan, Gidan Waya, Fadan Karshi, and Gwantu.

SEMA To Commence Implementing Fire Safety Certification In Kaduna

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Emergency Management Authority (KADSEMA), has said that as part of measures to ensure safety of citizens in public places, the agency is set to embark on certification and recertification of business premises on fire safety.

Executive Secretary, of the agency, Dr. Usman Hayatu, who disclosed this on Monday at a press briefing, noted that safety and security of community are paramount to SEMA inline with Governor Uba Sani's "sustain agenda".

According to him, over 10,000 business premises have already been identified through a unique digital identification across the

state.

He explained that, "recent data highlights the pressing need for proactive measures. In Kaduna State alone, incidents of fire-related accidents have seen an alarming increase, impacting businesses and communities. Analysis indicates that a significant percentage of these tragedies could have been prevented with stringent adherence to fire safety protocols and renewed certifications.

"The safety and security of our community are paramount. As we embark on this endeavor, we aim to fortify our state against fire hazards by ensuring strict adherence to safety protocols and regulations. Our primary objectives are to mitigate fire

risks, enhance emergency preparedness, and promote a culture of safety and compliance within commercial establishments.

"KADSEMA remains committed to safeguarding the lives and properties of our populace. In line with this commitment, we unveil a comprehensive initiative focused on Fire Prevention Inspection and Renewal of Fire Safety Certificates across business premises in Kaduna State.

"The Fire Safety Department is advancing towards a digitized process to streamline operations and ensure efficiency. Going forward, business premises will exclusively receive digitized demand notices printed on the

official colored letterhead of the Fire Safety Department. It is imperative that businesses only acknowledge and respond to notices in this format."

The ES, added that, "in adherence to transparency and safety protocols, no business premise should entertain or make payments in cash to any safety officer during the renewal process. Payment channels facilitated by the department will be clearly stipulated in the digitized notices for convenience and compliance.

"The entire process, from enumerating business premises to generating unique business IDs for identification purposes across the state, has been digitized. This digitization ensures accuracy, traceability,

and a more efficient means of managing fire safety compliance within Kaduna State.

"The Fire Safety Department urges all businesses to cooperate by strictly adhering to these digitized procedures. This technological advancement aims to enhance safety measures and facilitate a seamless and secure renewal process for all stakeholders involved."

Dr. Hayatu, charged every business entity in Kaduna State to prioritize fire safety, saying "together, we can avert disasters and create a resilient and secure environment for all. Your cooperation and adherence to these directives will significantly contribute to a safer and more prosperous Kaduna State."

Firing NANS From The Barrel Of The Gun

By Owei Lakemfa

THE GUNS boomed on Saturday, November 1, 2023. Not in the forests where terrorists, bandits or 'Unknown Gunmen' operate. They boomed right in the heart of Abuja, and, of all places, at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS).

Painfully, the NANS is the creation of conscientious students who after the 1978 military clamp down on the National Union of Nigerian Students (NUNS) and the killing of 20 students in Zaria, Lagos and Ife, refused to back down. They built the organisation with their sweat, blood and future. Some actually lost their lives in the process.

What was at stake was the presidency of NANS. Not surprisingly, three factional presidents have announced their emergence. One of them, Lucky Emonefe, stands out like a sore thumb. First, he is aged between 42 and 48 years old in an association with an average age of 22. So, he is old enough to be the father of the students. Secondly, his July 16, 2013 marriage makes it curious how he is taking care of his family as a professional student activist. Thirdly, he claims to have studied at the University of Benin (UNIBEN). So, what is he doing today as a 'student' of the College of Education, Warri? Pursuing a Ph.D?

Fourthly, he sells himself as an ally of the Tinubu administration. Where Tinubu's programme is 'Renewed Hope Agenda', his own is 'Rebirth Agenda'. When Mr Sunday Dayo Asefon was appointed Senior Special Assistant to President Tinubu on Students Engagement, Emonefe screamed on his Facebook page in capital letters: "IT IS OFFICIAL. CONGRATULATION ASFON SUNDAY! SSA TO THE PRESIDENT". Emonefe's NANS 'Lucky Media Directorate' followed with a statement: "We have no doubt that he (Asefon) will derive (sic) and deliver the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr President to a Conclusive end". His lack of ideas is evident in some of the key programmes he proposes for NANS, including "Tree planting campaign" and contracting a media consultant.

The state of NANS is tragic for the country because right from its establishment as the Nigeria Union of Students (NUS) in 1939, the student movement had been independent, vibrant, reliable and pro-people. This was so through the colonial period, through neo-colonialism, including the cumulative 29-year military dictatorship.

It was not until the return to civil rule that the NANS, compromised by the political class, infiltrated by the corrupt and state agents, began to degenerate. First, the

guiding principles of students which included pursuit of knowledge, fierce patriotism, right to education, defence of campus autonomy, Pan-Africanism, independence from the state and marriage to social justice, began to collapse. In its place, arose all sorts of weird traditions such as a student leader appointing his fellow students as aides of all sorts of nonsense. The unions emphasising that they are now 'Government' rather than being a student union, flaunting government car number plates and replacing the traditional slogan of 'Aluta Continua!' (The Struggle Continues!) with shouts of: 'Gbosa! Gbosa!! Gbosa!!!', mimicking the sound of gunfire. Obviously, military misrule has crept into their subconsciousness.

The NANS needs to be fiercely patriotic and align with the interests of mass organisations like those of workers, farmers and market people who are mainly their parents. Internationally, it has to be Pan-Africanist and an unrepentant campaigner for social justice no matter who is involved.

Painfully, the NANS is the creation of conscientious students who after the 1978 military clamp down on the National Union of Nigerian Students (NUNS) and the killing of 20 students in Zaria, Lagos and Ife, refused to back down. They built the organisation with their sweat, blood and future. Some actually lost their lives in the process.

The founding NANS President, Tanimu Yakubu Kurfi, was elected at 19 and expelled from the Bayero University at 20 for championing the students cause. He had won that 1980 NANS elections with a single vote over one of the best student leaders in our history, Abdulrahman Black, who was similarly expelled in 1981, this time by the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) for leading the students movement.

The next NANS President, Chris Mammah, from the University of Calabar, was elected in 1981 at 20, while Chris Abashi of the University of Jos was elected in 1982 also aged 20. Lanre Arogundade was elected in 1983 at 21 and nearly lost his life when he was abducted by the secret services under the Buhari military dictatorship. The attempt was to crush the NANS which had rejected the introduction of school fees, abolition of the cafeteria system and rejection of



military rule.

NANS needs to return to its old culture of collective leadership, financial self-sufficiency and a programmatic path. This will require the updating and implementation of the 1982 Nigeria Students Charter of Demands. They would need to be involved in clear-headed struggles such as working for the release of all abducted students and youth corps members and the protection of schools against bandits and kidnappers.

ABU holds the record for the most brutalised tertiary institution in the vain attempt to quash the student movement. In 1981, it expelled 30 students and rusticated 165 others over student protests. The Student Union President, Secretary General and Speaker were expelled, and the Public Relations Officer, Assistant Secretary General, the Treasurer and Financial Secretary were suspended in 1985 for carrying out the NANS directive that students should show solidarity with striking medical doctors in the country.

The following year, 1986, "only four" were officially killed in ABU, while NANS put the number of dead at 25 and the Voice of America put those killed at 32. In 1981, six students were killed following protests by the students of the University of Ife; now Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU).

Next to ABU in terms of the mass suppression of students and attempts to smash NANS were the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and UNIBEN.

It is sad to witness that same NANS today, reduced to a mere toy in the hands of political actors who are too myopic to see that just as NANS was instrumental in the resistance against military dictatorship in the 1980s and 1990s, so might it also be useful in defending the future of democracy in the country.

It is in our collective interests and those of our children that we should rebuild the NANS. First, the students, while being politically conscious and active, should wean themselves from partisan politics and politicians. Rather than forage in the increasing political desert, they need to be engaged in the reforestation of tomorrow. Students need to imbibe the past principles of NANS by embracing knowledge, political education, defending student and democratic rights, including the right to education and unionisation which is today denied to students in private universities and some public tertiary institutions.

NANS, for about two decades, has been fired from the barrel of guns, it is time for it to be fired from the barrel of ideas.

NANS needs to return to its old culture of collective leadership, financial self-sufficiency and a programmatic path. This will require the updating and implementation of the 1982 Nigeria Students Charter of Demands. They would need to be involved in clear-headed struggles such as working for the release of all abducted students and youth corps members and the protection of schools against bandits and kidnappers.

The NANS needs to be fiercely patriotic and align with the interests of mass organisations like those of workers, farmers and market people who are mainly their parents. Internationally, it has to be Pan-Africanist and an unrepentant campaigner for social justice no matter who is involved.

On their part, we appeal to politicians, the Police, State Security and governments at all levels to allow the students run their unions freely without interference.

NANS, for about two decades, has been fired from the barrel of guns, it is time for it to be fired from the barrel of ideas.

Kaduna Reps Member Offers Free Medical Services To 1,000 Citizens

Story on Page 20

Kaduna Govt Seals Medical Facility As Patient Dies From CS Operation

By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Government yesterday, sealed off a medical facility for carrying out a major operation of Cesarean Section (CS), without an operation theatre, leading to the death of the woman (name not disclosed). The health facility; "Lafiya Bestcare Specialist Hospital, located on Kinshasha Road, Ungwan Rimi in Kaduna North Local Government Area, at the weekend, did a CS operation without a theatre, which led to the death of the woman, but saved the baby.

Speaking during the exercise, Dr Mark Anthony, Chairman Kaduna State Private Health Establishment Committee, noted that the hospital was not certified to carry out any major operation by the State Ministry of Health, because they lack the basic requirements to do that,

especially an operation theatre.

He said the committee got a tip off from an anonymous that a woman that gone through a major operation at the hospital died within 12 hours.

"After carrying out our preliminary investigation, we realized that though the facility was accredited by the ministry of health, but based on their structure and minimum standard they have, they do not have a theatre but they can carry out minimal surgeries that they can meet up with.

"But unfortunately, they had a major surgery and a cesarean section was done and after delivery the mother died but the baby is alive and was taken to another hospital where they manage pediatric patients.

"So in view of what has happened we have to seal off the hospital in order to allow for further investigation to actually confirm why they did that



because Kaduna State can not condone a situation where facilities will be going beyond approvals of what services they should provide." He said.

Dr. Mark, hinted that if the

doctor who carried out the operation is found wanting after further investigation, he would be reported to all the regulatory bodies for sanctioning.

As at the time of this report, the

doctor in charge of the hospital was yet to return his call. Though he picked up earlier, but promised to call back to submit his reaction to government's action.

Top Politicians, Technocrats, Others To Receive TGNews Award Jan 6 2024

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna



The management of Adamawa based online news portal also known as The General News (TGNews) has concluded finishing touches to reward a number of individuals for their immense contributions towards nation building.

A statement by the chairman of information and strategy sub-committee, Mohammed Ismail, said the award is meant to recognize and reward, merit, excellence, talent dedication and exceptional service

delivery.

Ismail noted that the award which is classified into four distinct categories, will serve as a morale booster for individuals to strive for excellence knowing that such landmark strides are being noted and recorded.

The four categories for the award include; award for excellence in leadership, meritorious service award, award for dedication and quality service and unsung heroes award.

Those who will be conferred with the 2024 edition of award of excellence in leadership include Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State, immediate past Secretary to the Government of Federation (SGF) Boss Mustapha, former Governor Muhammadu Umaru Jibrilla Bindow and the member representing Fufore/Song Federal Constituency in the

house of Representatives, Hon. Aliyu Wakili Boya.

Those to be conferred with meritorious service award include; Arch Bishop Panti Philibus, Sheikh Nuruddeen Khalid, HRH Kurhaye Hassan Dishon Dansanda II, Kwandi Nunguraya, HRM Daniel Shaga Ismaila, Hama Bachama, HRH Umar Sanda, Gangwari Ganye, HRH Abubakar Isa Ahmadu Emir of Mubi and Alhaji Abubakar Murtala, Dan Lawan Mubi and district head of Belel. Personalities who will be conferred with award for dedication and quality service include; Rear Admiral Jamila Malafa (Rtd.), Prof. Umar Pate, Dr. Abdullahi Dauda Belel, Barr. Chafari Kanya Shadrack and Mal. Hamisu Idris Medugu.

Those to be conferred with TGNews unsung heroes award include; Ado Mohammed, a shoe

cobbler and a groundnut seller, Mohamad Rabi.

According to Ismail, TGNews which started operations eight years ago has blazed the trail in the areas of providing factual and investigative news reportage, making it one of the most viable source of news and report not only in Adamawa State, but the North East and Nigeria in general.

He noted that the news portal is currently repositioning itself to be a formidable force in multimedia operations that will compete favourably with other multimedia outlets across the globe.

He further said that the award ceremony on January 6, 2024 will be held at the Hall of Lelewal Hotel, Jimeta-Yola North Local Government Adamawa State opposite State Polytechnic Yola (SPY).