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Uba Sani Welcomes Support Of NASS In Rebuilding Tudun Biri

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, welcomed the support of the National Assembly, especially their call for investigations and the commitment to provide amenities worth N400 million in Tudun Biri.

Senator Uba Sani expressed this when he hosted the Northern Regional Caucus of the House of Representatives, led by Hon. Alhassan Ado Doguwa who came to Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House.

The governor, thanked the leadership of the Northern Regional Caucus of the House of Representatives who came on a visit to

commiserate and sympathised with people of Tudun Biri of Igabi local government.

According to him, "what is most important to me is the issue of investigation on the actual reason why the unfortunate incident happened".

He said, "for me, it is the most important aspect, adding that similar incident happened in Tudun Biri in the last two years, nobody actually bothered to call for justice or investigations on the actual reason why it happened.

"However, a lot of people in this country, from President Bola Tinubu to vice president, national speaker adviser, leadership of National Assembly and the whole



From left, Deputy Gov Hadiza Abubakar, Gov Uba Sani at the Northern Regional Caucus of the House of Representatives, led by Hon. Alhassan Ado Doguwa held at the Council Chambers of Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna

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Respect For Human Rights Foundation For World Peace - Hayab



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Respect for Human Rights is the foundation of Freedom, Justice & Peace in the World

This position was made by the Country Director of Global Peace Foundation Nigeria at a One Day Sensitization Workshop held in commemoration of the International Human Rights Day.

The programme which was held at Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HVCF) Learning Center in Jacaranda, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State on Monday, December 11, 2023, was a collaboration between Global Peace Foundation Nigeria and Hope for the Village Child Foundation Jacaranda, Kaduna.

Rev John Joseph Hayab who was represented by the Documentation Officer of GPFN, Rimpyen Danjuma said "Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

He added that durable peace and attainment of a violence-free society hinges on recognizing and respecting the fundamental human rights of all humans in the society.

Speaking further, Rev. Hayab said Global Peace Foundation Nigeria (GPFN) strongly holds on the vision of One Family under God therefore continues to preach and advocate that irrespective of tribe, religion or ethnicity, all humans have

one ancestral root, hence must accept and treat one another as brothers and sisters.

He said members of a family are known to love, tolerate and protect not violate one another's rights. Adding that Gender Based Violence is considered to be one of the most prevalent and common human violations in the world,

Rev Hayab tasked participants and the society that the actions we take in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities can make a difference and an impact.

In her remarks, Barrera Ruth, the Asst Admin Manager at HVCF enlightened on the focus of the 2023 annual commemoration which is Freedom, Equity and Justice for All. She enlightened participants on the provisions of the law on basic human rights and responsibilities. She also charged all participants to return as change agents to their homes and communities.

The one day Sensitization Workshop brought together women and youth from Cikaji Hausa in Igabi Local government area and Sabon gari, Kufana in Kajuru Local government area of Kaduna state as participants.

Highlights of the day were brief explanations on certain aspects of fundamental human rights and relevant laws governing violence towards women and girls.

It also featured Drama presentation by a Street Theatre Drama Group exposing various areas of human rights violations.

Uba Sani Welcomes Support Of NASS In Rebuilding Tudun Biri

people of Kaduna State are on this issue calling for justice and insisting those culpable should be brought to justice, hence for me, that is the most important area I think we should continue to emphasise on.

"If that is done, I have no doubt in my mind, similar incident will never happen in our country.

"In the last two years a lot of lives were lost because of the careless of our security agencies.

He said, when he met with the leadership of the Senate, the National Assembly have a lot of responsibilities to play because the National Assembly are custodian of law in our country.

Consequently, as a former member of the Senator I

believe the National Assembly must go back to drawing board and look at the laws that have to do with security operates in our country.

Uba Sani said most of this laws are in line with global base practice, they are not updated, and some amended completely, we will not be able to address the problem of insecurities in our own country.

Therefore, I urged the members of national assembly both the Senate and house of reps to put their head together and amend this laws.

"I am happy today because we have a president who have been at the forefront in calling for investigations.

"I am calling on national assemble members to join

the people of Kaduna State in insisting that this investigations should be done within a time frame and those culpable should be made to face some level of sanctions so that similar case will be averted in the near future.

He commend the leadership of Northern Regional Caucus of the House of Representatives to the support they are now giving to the people of Tudun Biri in Igabi local government.

"Your decision to spend close to 450 million to build some very important infrastructure in the community will go a long way in helping the residents in the community that were affected by the unfortunate incident.

He call on members of National Assembly particularly the house of rep to continue to be at the forefront of fighting with the issues of insecurities in the country while he wished them safe journey back to their destinations.

Earlier in his remarks, the House of Representatives led by Honourable Alhassan Ado Doguwa, said they are in Kaduna to extend condolences of the Northern Caucus and that of the House of Representative for the tragic incidental bombing of innocent people at Tudun Biri, Igabi local Government of Kaduna State, which resulted in loss of lives and injuries.



Wheat Farming Subsidy: FG Vows TO Investigate Distribution Of Substandard Dry Season Inputs At Zaria

By: SANI ALIYU, Zaria

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has said that it would address the alleged case of substandard fertilizer and other issues raised by wheat farmers at KADA Store, Kauran Juli, Zaria Kaduna State.

It would be recalled that federal government's, National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS -AP) Wheat Farmers beneficiaries protested over allegations of distributing substandard inputs by one of the approved dealer.

The farmers under the aegis of Galma Wheat Farmers Association, carried placards with inscriptions 'We don't want Iliyasawa Fertilizer'; 'real wheat farmers should be considered' among others.

The Minister of State, Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Aliyu-Sabi Abdullahi while addressing the protesting farmers, said that the situation at Zaria is

entirely different from what was met at Makarfi and Ikara centres earlier visited.

He said government did give the exact brand name of the fertilizer to be distributed as such, the agro-dealer can distribute what is available in the market.

"However, most of the fertilizers in the market were approved by the relevant regulatory bodies before they became available in the market stores.

"We give assurance that 'Iliyasawa fertilizer' was certified to be good and it should be accepted as such,

"That notwithstanding, samples were taken from the fertilizer for further analysis at both the federal and state government laboratories to ascertain the veracity of your (farmers) claims," Abdullahi said.

He therefore, urged them to exercise patience and await the results from the laboratories and assured that if it turns out to be bad, the government would not spare him.

In an interview with newsmen, the minister said he was in Kaduna State on the spot assessment for the distribution of subsidized inputs to dry season wheat farmers at Makarfi, Ikara and Zaria local government areas respectively.

He said at Zaria, there were two issues from the protesting farmers: the quality of fertilizer and number of people who were at redemption to redeem the inputs.

Abdullahi said farmers protested that many of them could not redeem their inputs.

"However, the minister said he has seen the problem and he would go back and get across to other stakeholders to salvage the situation," he said.

He noted that wheat is very sensitive to weather and the time frame within which to plant is fast elapsing, that is why they pushed to see that more farmers were able to redeem the inputs.

The minister said the redemption of the inputs

was absolutely fantastic at Ikara and Makarfi redemption centers.

However, Alhaji Muktar Gyallesu, Farm Leader for Tudun Wada, Gyallesu and Tudun Jukun areas in Zaria Local Government Area, said the specific fertilizer approved for the farmers was Urea (Indorama brand) and NPK 15:15:15 (matrix brand).

According to him, their Agro Dealer (Iliyasawa Fertilizer Ltd) was initially distributing the approved brand to the beneficiaries.

"Suddenly he changed to his own company NPK iliyasawa brand with ratio 15:10:10 and the real beneficiaries who earlier captured were not attended to by the dealer.

"Non members who were not captured and did not have slip of the application forms, were attended by dealers and some agents bought inputs from them at an amount between N15,000 and N20,000, hence their protest," Gyallesu said.



Kwa

Education Development: Media Action-Nigeria To Honour Dawakin Tofa Council Boss

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Media Action-Nigeria is set to honour the executive chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Council, Kano State, Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa over his administration's determination towards educational progress.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja, the chief media officer of the organisation, Malam Usman Nasir, disclosed that Media Action-Nigeria has fully studied all the success stories related to educational development achieved by Ado Tambai Kwa's administration that attracted the organisation's award as "Educational Achiever" of the era.

"We have studied how Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa promotes education in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area and from what we have read in his routine reports in our partner media organisations, we decided to honour him because what he offered to education would continue

to benefit the younger generations across his domain in the near future and for the progress of the sector at both levels". He emphasized.

According to the media officer, education remains an important tool that promotes livelihood, therefore the organisation resolved to bring out leaders that promotes education.

He commended the good efforts of Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa for stationing his local government into a solid education background, which he said, would be a blessing in the near future.

Usman Nasir reassured that Media Action-Nigeria would continue to fish out more competent leaders that recorded utmost success in different areas to be included in the organisation's award, and congratulated Honourable Ado Tambai Kwa for promoting Islamic and Western education in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area in various academies of learning.



Mamu Needs Urgent Medical Attention, Grant Him Bail, Family Appeals To Tinubu, Shettima, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following a health challenge which needed urgent attention for which he flew to Cairo before he was arrested and brought back to Nigeria, family members of Publisher of Desert Herald Newspaper, Tukur Mamu have appealed for granting of administrative bail, so he can get required medical attention.

This was expressed in a statement signed by his children, Faisal Tukur Mamu, Dr. Zainab Tukur Mamu, Usama Tukur Mamu, Nazir Tukur Mamu, Kashim Tukur Mamu, Marwan Tukur Mamu (two years old), on behalf of the family, made available to our correspondent in Kaduna on Tuesday December 12, 2023.

According to the statement titled, "A PASSIONATE APPEAL FOR MERCY" made available to newsmen on Friday December 8, 2023, the family said the appeal became necessary in view of their father's deteriorating state of health

"On behalf of the family of Tukur Mamu, we the children of the above mentioned person call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima and the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu and the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio to please in the name of God Almighty and in the name of

humanity to wade in on the continuous detention of our father and help ensue his bail.

"We are not seeking for the discontinuation of our father's trial but we are passionately pleading for your good office and for you as a loving and responsible father to please grant our father administrative bail so that he will urgently do the much needed surgery," the statement said.

According to the family, their father, Tukur Mamu has a well documented history of respiratory ailments which forced him to travel to Egypt for medical treatment several times before his arrest and incarceration.

"As a result of this medical condition, his Indian doctor had recommended that the use of a medical device in the night during his sleep to avoid sudden heart failure or heart attack.

"Furthermore, the implanting of the device was a temporary measure as it was recommended that he goes for a major surgery that would correct this respiratory imbalance.

"According to his doctor, significant part of his respiratory system has been blocked and so a surgery is urgently required.

"This recommendation and conclusion was about three years ago. It was eventually arranged for him to travel and have the surgery in Cairo it was in that process and on transit to do the

surgery that he was arrested on 6th September, 2022.

While Under DSS detention and because of the same medical crisis he collapsed three times and he was admitted at DSS hospital two times but because they don't have an ENT specialist and facility in their medical center they graciously took him another medical centre," the family said.

They explained that the complete medical report of their father's ailment was handed over to officers of the Department of State Security (DSS) with request that he be allowed to go for treatment but the appeal was rejected.

"Furthermore, our father's two years in the custody of the DSS has complicated his health challenges as he developed High Blood Pressure.

"It is in light of this that we make the following passionate appeal," the statement said.

They submitted that even if the passport of their father will not be released, they will be willing to take the risk and do the surgery for him here in Nigeria even if it is under the supervision of the government as he needs to be mentally and psychologically stable in order to undergo the surgery

It is in view of all the health challenges that the family is appealing to the President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima,



Tukur Mamu

Senate President, Godswill Akpabio and National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu to wade in and help arrange for an administrative bail for their father.

"Finally, we the children of Tukur Mamu wish to tender our unreserved apologies to any one whom our father may have

offended in the discharge of his duties as a media practitioner.

We also apologize for any article considered offensive and for any psychological trauma that our father's newspaper may have caused anyone. We are using this Media to appeal for forgiveness," they appealed.

Zamfara Philanthropist Secures Scholarship For 13 Students At Tertiary Level

By; ADAM MUHAMMAD, Gusau

A Zamfara-based philanthropist, Alhaji Sanusi Bala Turaki last Wednesday, offered scholarship to 13 students of various tertiary institutions in the state.

The gesture is coming two weeks to the commencement of first semester examination, while a large number of students of the Federal University Gusau (FUG) are yet to pay school fees for the 2022/2023 academic session. This is as a result of the

current prevailing socio-economic hardship and increase of school fees by the management of the institution.

Turaki, through his foundation, "Maituta Support Organisation (MSO)", presented registration fees to the 13 beneficiaries in Gusau.

Turaki who was represented by the Chairman of the foundation, Zaharadeen Sarki revealed that the gesture is aimed at supporting students from less-privileged families.

"The registration fees of the beneficiaries were bankrolled

by the philanthropist and we will continue to sustain these gestures until they finish their studies". He said.

According to him, hundreds of students have also been sponsored under his foundation into various tertiary institutions across the country.

He further pointed out that all the 13 benefiting students were drawn from less privileged families, who could not afford to pay their school fees due to the economic situation.

"All the beneficiaries are

undergoing studies in various courses in the Federal University and Federal College of Education, (Technical), all in Gusau," Turaki said.

According to him, others are currently studying at the College of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe and Abdu Gusau Polytechnic, Talata-Mafara respectively.

Also speaking at the event, the former Chairman, Zamfara Radio and Television Services, Alhaji Sa'idu Maishanu, commended Bala

Turaki and officials of the foundation for their support to the beneficiaries.

Maishanu urged political office holders in the state to emulate the philanthropist in supporting the needy.

Abubakar Ibrahim, a 100 level student in Chemistry Department, FUG, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, described the gesture as a welcome development.

"We appreciate this gesture and we promise to concentrate on our studies," he said.



L-R: Guest Speaker, Ayodele Omotoso; Chairman, Guild of Photojournalists Nigeria, Abiodun Ajala; Keynote Speaker/Chief Executive Officer, Naturescape Ltd, Dr. Jumoke Kassim; Founder, Technology Times, Shina Badaru; a recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award, (Photography), Dr. Boye Ola; and Director, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, Pastor Olaniyan Tomilola, at the 3rd Annual Conference/Exhibition & Award Night in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Conference Calls For End To Poverty, Protecting Earth, Ensuring Prosperity

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Africa Development Journalism, has made a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all through the use of development communication in achieving the objectives set by the United Nations through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A communique issued by Sekyen Dadik, Maryam Mukhtar and Muzha Azariah Kucha, Executive Director, AMDF, Reporter, Katsina State Radio and Editor/Reporter, New Media Directorate, Radio Nigeria, Headquarters, Abuja at the end of its 2-day annual conference

organised by the Africa Media Development Foundation (AMDF) in Kaduna, stressed the need to collaborate and promote inclusive behavior that enhances sustainability to create a more promising future.

It noted that while development communication does not only cultivate a shared understanding among diverse stakeholders, it acts as a beacon that guides individuals, communities, and nations together toward a common vision and sustainable future.

While calling for forging partnerships between researchers, institutions, and communities, the conference advocated the integration of scientific evidence into policy formulation, having

communicated the research output to policymakers and the public.

The communique said, "This would contribute to the creation of policies that are not only well-informed but also aligned with the aspirations of the SDGs."

The conference suggested that collaborative efforts should be geared by the media, CSOs, and educational institutions towards promoting civic education, public awareness, and participatory process in nurturing the culture of good governance.

It advised that African media practitioners should play the role of drawing attention to the issues of hunger, malnutrition, and complex agricultural phenomena, like price

volatility, post-harvest losses, and food safety among others on the continent.

It is strongly believes that a state can only claim food security and sustainable development when it has enough available food and agricultural products to provide nutrition for its inhabitants.

The conference also identified limited research on climate change in the media that has affected their crucial role in awareness creation to mitigate climate change.

While identifying some causes of climate change, such as livestock ranching and illegal logging, the conference advocated banning clearing/ cutting down of trees as well as amplifying policies that influence the need to protect the environment.

Beef Up Security On Our Waterways, Mbo Fishermen Beg Government

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Fishermen, business women and other operators in the coastal communities in Akwa Ibom State have called on the state and federal governments to deploy more security operatives so as to avoid further attack on them by hoodlums.

Lamenting on their ordeals, the Youth Leader, Marine Transport in Mbo Local Government Area, Mr Bassey Sunday Edet said their fishing business has collapsed because of attack by sea pirates, fishing equipment and other valuables were lost in the course of the attack.

He also appealed to Governor Umo Eno to provide them with fishing boats and equipment to enhance their business, which fishing is the only source of livelihood.

Bassey also called on government to deploy more security operatives to the waterways in order to help checkmate the activities of the criminals. The youth leader who is also a businessman said, "We want government to supply us with more boats and adequate security so that we can do our business well."

"This is what we use to feed our family and send our children to school and again, government is also getting revenue from here" He further commended the quick intervention of the Officers of the Marine Police, Oron headed by Mr Bashir Hashim who

mobilised his men to combat the pirates during their last operation.

"Everything has returned to normal since we invited the officers of the Marine Police, they came and chased the armed robbers away. They have also provided us with gun boots with their men on standby in case of any emergency or attack". He said.

Also speaking, a community leader who is businessman in Mbo beach, Prince Honestly Effanga recounted his experience as the result of the insecurity in coastal communities in the state.

He expressed kudos to the men of the Marine Police Oron for providing them security and pleaded with government to beef up security for them.

According to him, "I thank the Commander of the Marine Police Oron, for standing by us at this time, he is a good man, he should be recommended for higher appointment because he knows his work".

A business woman in Mbo beach who gave her name as Mrs Ekaette Asuquo said their businesses are not flowing well as it used to be because of the fear of activities of militants.

A security officer who does not want his name in print, assured that they will continue to provide security in the coastal communities in the state and requested government at the state and federal levels to provide more security operatives in the affected communities.

Katsina Pilgrims Board Boss Assures Staff Of Cordial Relationship

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Executive Director of Katsina State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Yunusa Abdullahi Dankama has assured staff of the board that he will work hand in hand with the management and staff of the board to achieve success.

Alhaji Abdullahi Dankama was speaking during an interface meeting with the staff of the board on the preparation of the year twenty twenty four (2024) hajj exercise at Hajj Camp in Katsina.

Alhaji Dankama called on the staff to be committed to their assigned responsibilities, reiterating the need for the

management and staff of the board to cooperate with him in the discharge of his assignment.

"I'm on the board to positively work with each staff and not to witch hunt anybody," he said, urging them to avoid laxity during their respective duties.

Alhaji Yunusa Abdullahi Dankama thanked

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda for appointing him as the executive director of the board promising to do his best in moving the board forward.

During the meeting, the management of the board briefed the Executive Director on their readiness and preparations in respect of their departmental activities on Hajj 2024.



A fisherman

Hon Mamman Lagos Bags Arewa Publishers Forum's Award Of Excellence

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The Kaduna State Honorable Commissioner of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has been conferred with an Award of Excellence by the Arewa Publishers Forum (APF) and The Dome Assembly Magazine.

The award was presented to the Commissioner by the National President and the executive of the forum in a colorful ceremony in his office.

Presenting the award, National President of APF, Dr. Sani Mohammed Garba said, "This award is in recognition of your meritorious service to the people of Kaduna State and as a current

Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs".

Dr. Sani Mohammed Garba, explained that an in-dept investigation carried out by a team of journalists, revealed that Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has contributed immensely to the development of Kaduna State over the years, as a grassroots politician.

Receiving the award, the commissioner thanked the forum for finding him worthy of the recognition and said it would spur him to continue his good work in the state.

He therefore, called on the people of Kaduna State to support and cooperate with the administration of Malam Uba Sani on his transformation agenda across the state.



Nigeria Has 4,000 Women Enterprises In Export - NEPC

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Nigeria currently has 4,000 enterprises led by women that export different goods and services to many parts of the world under the She Trade Initiative, the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), has disclosed.

Nonye Ayeni, the executive director/chief executive officer of the NEPC, disclosed this at

the weekend in Abuja, at the Export Readiness Workshop, on the theme, "Positioning Women-Led Businesses for AfCFTA Success", organised by the council, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), under the framework of the She Trades Commonwealth project.

She Trades, according to her, is an initiative launched by the International Trade Centre

(ITC) in 2015 to build the business capacities of women and create a fairer, more sustainable global eco-system remove barriers to women's participation in trade by working with governments and private sector organisations. She explained, "Nigeria currently has over 4,000 women-led businesses currently connected to this initiative and they have participated in webinars, market access

programmes and in-person training programmes designed to meet specific sectoral needs."

The representative of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Aisha Musa, noted that the organisation was partnering with the IFC and NEPC in ensuring that women access credit through financial institutions, as well as fastrack B2B meetings with private investors.

Arewa Youth Vanguard Cautions ACF Over Yahaya Bello's Plot For Chief Aduku's Removal

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Arewa Youth Vanguard (AYV) has cautioned the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) to be wary of the antics of Yahaya Bello, the outgoing Governor of Kogi State.

AYV made this call in a statement on Monday, signed by Alh. Abdulsamad Babayo, Kazayat Aminu, National Leader and General Secretary respectively

"Our attention has been drawn to overt and covert measures orchestrated by Alhaji Yahaya Bello, the outgoing Governor of Kogi State to mortally injure the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) through the unwarranted attempt to remove Chief Gabriel Aduku, its Chairman who assumed the office only recently," the statement said.

According to AYV, "The Governor's grouse with Chief Gabriel Aduku who we understand also doubles as the Acting Chairman, Kogi East Elders' Council (KEEC) was the visit to the Nigerian Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa before the November 11, 2023 election in Kogi State to request among others the stepping up of security in the North and particularly Kogi State which was sliding into a situation of anarchy.

"The heightened political insecurity in Kogi State, north central Nigeria weeks before the election, is a fact well known to every Nigerian and should be of concern particularly to the Arewa Consultative Forum. During the said visit, Chief Aduku also expressed concern about the security situation in Zamfara State and other and parts of Northern Nigeria.

"His visit therefore cannot be termed as partisan by any fair minded person. As Chairman of Arewa Consultative Forum, the entire 19 northern states are his constituency and it is his duty to consult anybody anywhere in Nigeria to buttress the interest of the constituent parts of Arewa. Or, is Kogi State not covered by the ACF operations?"

Credit must in fact, be given to the Aduku-led ACF for the relative security success enjoyed in Kogi State during the November 11, 2023 election in Kogi State" AYV maintained that "Were it not for that visit and the subsequent intervention of the military, only God knows how many persons would have been killed and maimed in Kogi State by thugs sponsored and unleashed on

opponents and citizens by Yahaya Bello and his goons.

"His grouse therefore, is that the Chief Gabriel Aduku-led ACF's appealed for the deployment of enough security personnel which foiled his plans of causing anarchy in Kogi State during the last off circle election in the state.

"In the events after the election, we have also seen how INEC in the state and their official as well as the Election Tribunal Secretary has been subjected to several attacks and threats.

The group also lamented how the last governorship was a sham however wish to maintain status quo, "Since the matter is already before the election tribunal, we shall not delve much into it to avoid contempt of the court but, we urge the Arewa Consultative Forum made up of eminent elders who are also witnessing the situation in Kogi State and others states of the north, not to play the ostrich at this critical comment before things completely go out of hand.

"In view of the foregoing, we call on all members of Arewa Consultative Forum to rise above the divisive manipulations of one man to tear down this house that has taken several distinguished personalities of all ethnicities in Northern Nigeria and different faiths in the region to build over the years."

The youth group warned that "Arewa Consultative Forum will be sounding its own death knell if it plays into the hands of unscrupulous politicians.

"Removing or attempting to remove Chief Gabriel Aduku because one governor's untamed ego had been ruffled will create a crack in the very fabric of Arewa Consultative Forum, a crack that it may never recover from.

"We urge you as elders who we young people are looking up for leadership wisdom to be temperate, logical and dispassionate in handling this matter. Politicians come and go.

"This house must not be made to fall due to indiscretion orchestrated by an irrational megalomaniac. Do not embarrass the Forum and indeed the entire north by playing into the hands of an inexperienced youth, sadly one of us who has squandered a golden opportunity to make his mark in life. That would be a blight on the integrity of an august body like the Arewa Consultative Forum. Please thread carefully" The group reiterated.



Katsina Assembly Assures Support For Yar'Adua Varsity Agriculture Faculty

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State House of Assembly has assured of commitment towards the successful take off of the Faculty of Agriculture of Umar Musa Yar'adua University Katsina.

Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, Alhaji Shu'aibu Zayyana Bujawa gave the assurance when he led other members to inspect the faculty at Layin Minista in Malumfashi Local Government Area.

Alhaji Zayyana Bujawa said the House would do everything possible to intimate the executive arm for urgent attention to the faculty.

He explained that, the faculty is potential of providing the required agricultural education and provide sources of revenue for the socio-economic development of the state.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Shehu Salihu Muhammad who conducted the committee round the

faculty said it is expected to take off at the end of this month, December, 2023.

Professor Shehu Salihu Muhammad said there is urgent need to completing external works such as access roads, clearing of premises and completion of the main entrance as well as deployment of security personnel in strategic places among others. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Education Hajiya Ummul-Khairi Ahmed Bawa commended the University for its Commitment towards the takeoff of the faculty.

The Vice Chancellor of the university conducted the committee round the faculty alongside the officials of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Areas inspected include, the main faculty building, departments, library, laboratory, offices, lecture halls and some structures proposed to convert into students hostels among others.

Kaduna Bomb Tragedy: Calling For Resignation Of Service Chiefs Unnecessary, Says Northern Group

By; IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

A group known as Northern Coalition of Socio-Political Organization has chided those calling for resignation of Service Chiefs over tragic drone attack on civilians in Tudun Biri settlement of Igabi Local Government, Kaduna State.

Deputy National President of the group, Balarabe Lawal Zaria described the call as unnecessary, uncalled for and capable of derailing gains made in fighting insurgency and banditry since appointment of the current service chiefs, particularly the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a native of Kaduna State.

"We are deeply saddened over the tragic incident that occurred at Tudun-Biri village in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, during a Maulud celebration, as was reported.

"However, from the information gathered the Nigerian Army was on a routine mission against

terrorists, but inadvertently affected members of the community leaving several citizens dead and many others injured.

"As at today, the death toll from the incident as at Wednesday had increased to 127 as officials of Amnesty International who visited the affected communities confirmed the increase in the death toll with scores of injured persons were taken to the Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital in Kaduna.

"We members of the N O R T H E R N COALITION OF SOCIO-POLITICAL GROUP, therefore, wish to commiserate with the Muslim Ummah as many of the affected who were said to be celebrating the Maulud. We also commiserate with Kaduna state government and families of victims, praying that God grants the dead peace.

"The devastating impact on lives and emotional effects are better imagined, therefore, we are urging the government and international communities

to assist members of the community, especially victims' families to cushion the effect of the bomb attack.

"It is natural for such incident to attract condemnation, little wonder, the pan-Northern political and cultural association, the Arewa Consultative Forum, and the Jama'atu Nasril Islam have added their voices with calls for those found culpable to be punished.

"However, it is too early and out of place for anyone to give the incident an ethnic or religious colouration when investigations about the circumstances surrounding the bombing are still ongoing.

"For us, the religious and political leaders demanding for the sack the Chief of Defense Staff; the Chief of Army Staff, other service chiefs and the GOC are unnecessarily steering up tension. We want peace and tranquility to despite the ugly incident.

"As mark of concern, we have seen both the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

General Christopher Musa and the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja, visited deceased victims' families and injured ones in hospitals in Kaduna.

"The group and few other people who have embarked on campaign of calumny should please stop pointing accusations at the chief of Defence, we therefore calling the good people of Kaduna and Nigeria in general to avoid bringing up the issue of religious, ethnicity and sentiment. It is worthy on note to say, the chief of Defence staff is not for the Southern Kaduna or Kaduna Christian or Muslim rather for the whole nation.

"We are therefore, calling on our brothers from AREWA GROUP to avoid bringing the issue of religion and ethnicity in what happened," the statement urged.

Lawal Zaria called for full investigations to unravel immediate and remote causes of the tragic incident to avoid future reoccurrence.



Governor Eno Constitutes LGAs Transition Committees

**Sets up monitoring team*



By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has inaugurated Local Government Council Transition Chairmen for a six-month tenure with a charge on them to execute at least one developmental project that has direct bearing on the lives of their people during their tenure.

Eno gave the charge during the inauguration of the newly appointed local government council transition chairmen, vice chairmen and secretaries at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Uyo on Thursday.

He said that a Monitoring and Evaluation Team has been put in place to ensure

that the projects were carried out across the 31 local government areas of the state.

Eno who charged them to maintain peaceful coexistence among all manner of people, also charged them to reside in their local government council, adding that it is an indictable offence for any one who contravenes the law.

"You must, in the course of your stay in office, execute at least one laudable project that will touch and impact the lives of the people of your respective council areas.

"My Monitoring and Evaluation Team will be on ground to ensure that, this is done. We are determined and dedicated to ensuring that we bring

development to our people, especially in the rural areas, in line with the Arise Agenda.

"You are the Chief Security Officer in your respective Councils, you must ensure that you maintain peace and create harmonious relationship with your people.

"Let me state very clearly that you must reside in your respective Local Government Areas. You cannot administer your councils from another location.

"According to Section 78 of Akwa Local Government (Administration) Law 2017; "The Principal Officers of the Local Government shall reside in their respective Local Government Councils.

"A contravention of this section shall be deemed to be a misconduct and as such an indictable offence. The definition of the Principal Officers is further explained in Section 83 of the same law. I encourage you all to get familiar with these sections," Eno said.

The Governor, who said that adequate provisions has been made in the 2024 Budget for the conduct of local government election, after the expiration of the current Transition period, warned that anyone not favoured by the zoning arrangements should not bother to context.

He emphasized that zoning would be maintained to ensure fairness, equity and even development of the rural communities.



Court Orders Gov Bello To Pay N500m To Ajaka

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja Division and presided over by Hon. Justice I. E. Ekwo has ordered Governor Yahaya Bello to pay Alhaji Murtala Yakubu Ajaka the Sum of N500,000,000.00 (five hundred million Naira) only for the violation of his fundamental rights. The judgment was delivered on Thursday in the Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/952/2923 instituted against Governor Yahaya Bello by Alhaji Murtala Yakubu Ajaka.

Furthermore, the Court

ordered Governor Yahaya Bello to tender a public apology to Alhaji Murtala Yakubu Ajaka saying that same must be published and aired in print and electronic media respectively.

It would be recalled that fully armed thugs attacked the SDP Governorship candidate, Murtala Ajaka while he was on his way from a campaign rally from Koton Karfe to Lokoja.

Ajaka escaped unhurt as the armoured bullet proof mercedes Benz saved his life, but some vehicles on his entourage were burnt and vandalised by hoodlums.

BIRS Chairman Cautions Staff Against Corruption

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Acting Executive Chairman Benue Internal Revenue Service (BIRS), Emmanuel Agema, has cautioned staff against all forms of corrupt practices that will hinder development of the state. The chairman who stated this while interacting with journalists in Makurdi, said tax payers have more confidence in the system when revenue generated are properly channelled to developmental projects.

He insisted that tax administration under the current government has zero tolerance for corruption and strongly advised staff to do things rightly.

According to him, when people pay taxes to government officials, they expect to see improvements and commitment to infrastructural development such building of hospitals, renovation of schools and provision of water and electricity.

The people get to be discouraged to pay taxes when they see nothing positively happening,

adding that his administration in the tax office will not hesitate to go after staff of the board with the intent to sabotage government efforts in bringing about dividends of democracy to Benue people through corrupt self enrichment.

He pointed out that what the government of Reverend Father Alia has done within six months in the areas of payment of salaries, pensions and construction of roads across the state despite challenges has no doubt made Benue people to believe that his administration has meant well for the State.

The BIRS boss assured that his leadership will continue to contribute its quota to develop the State by ensuring that revenue sources were properly harnessed to support the present administration to bring about the needed development of the state.

He commended Governor Hyacinth Alia for giving him the opportunity to contribute his quota to the development of the new Benue, soliciting for maximum cooperation from the staff.

Out-of-School Children: Kaduna Govt Inaugurates Eight-member Committee

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Government, led Governor Uba Sani last Thursday, set up a committee to provide a workable plan to address the out-of-school children syndrome in the state. Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza

Sabuwa Balarabe inaugurated the eight-member inter-ministerial committee, entrusted with the task of addressing the pressing issue of out-of-school children.

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa said huge investments and sincere efforts have been made over the years, yet the state still grapples with

the persistent problem of out-of-school children, adding that, "It is evident that we need a renewed approach and a comprehensive strategy that leaves no child behind".

She further said that the committee set up by Governor Uba Sani is expected to provide the state with a workable plan to

end this nagging problem.

Membership of the committee comprises of the following:

- i. Her Excellency the Deputy Governor Chairman
- ii. Commissioner of Finance
- iii. Commissioner of Education
- iv. Commissioner Planning and Budget Commission
- v. Permanent Secretary Ministry

of Education

vi. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Environment

vii. Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and

viii. Executive Secretary of Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA)



Blueprint's Bode Olagoke Receives 2021, 2022 AUTHENTIC Reporter Awards

**Says it will spur him*

An Abuja based journalist, Olabode Sunday Olagoke yesterday, was presented with the AUTHENTIC Reporter of the Year Awards which he won back-to-back for the years 2021 and 2022 editions. The plaques for the awards were presented to him yesterday in Abuja, by the

Consulting Editor of Authentic News Daily, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson. Presenting the plaques to him at a brief ceremony witnessed by several top Abuja based journalists, Bode Olagoke was described as a focused journalist, who has positively contributed to the development of the nation and journalism.

"This is the first time in the history of the awards which is in its 8th edition that a journalist is winning this award not just back-to-back, but twice. "We are optimistic that this recognition will spur you on to doing more for the profession, your community and Nigeria," Okpani Onjewu Dickson said. In his response, the recipient thanked the

management of Authentic News Daily, a publication of Jatuski Communications for the recognition. He assured that the awards will always remind him that hard work pays. "I am excited by this award. This is a motivator that will keep me on my toes to improving on who I am today," he said.

Katsina Governor Reshuffles Cabinet

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has effected a minor cabinet reshuffle with the swapping of positions of two commissioners and appointed a Veteran Broadcaster, Alhaji Lawal Attahiru Bakori as new General Manager of the state Radio Service.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed said the Commissioner of Youth and Sports Development, Yusuf Rabi'u Jirdede exchanged positions with his counterpart in the Ministry of Rural and Social Development, Aliyu Lawal Zakari.

Governor Radda also approved the appointment of Lawal Attahiru Bakori as the General Manager of Katsina State Radio Service.

Lawal Attahiru Bakori replaced Abba Dayyabu Safana the erstwhile General Manager who has

been appointed as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Public Engagement.

Lawal Bakori was born in Bakori Local Government Area of Katsina State and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Hausa and the Diploma in Journalism.

Bakori began his working career in the State Radio Service in 1988 and rose to the position of Manager programmes before his appointment as Press Secretary to late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua while a Governor of Katsina State in 2003.

Alhaji Lawal Attahiru Bakori later appointed Special Assistant on Media to the President in 2007.

Bakori later became Director of Programmes of the State Radio in 2021 and retired as Director on GL 16.

In another development Governor Dikko Umaru Radda has ordered the reconstitution of the Management of Katsina United Football Club with immediate effect.

Kogi Kick-starts Process Of Sourcing New Ohinoyi Of Ebiraland

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Barr. S.M Ozigi Deedat has commenced the due process of sourcing a new Ohinoyi of Ebiraland barely two months after the demise of Dr. Ado Ibrahim.

This is informed by the inauguration of a committee of king makers to commence the immediate reception and scrutinising of applications from eligible and interested sons of Ebiraland as prescribed by the law.

This drive was contained in a statement signed by SA (Media) to the Commissioner Eneo Rufai Sule and made available to journalists in Lokoja Monday.

He said, "The Honourable Commissioner, after reading out the edict that guides the stool, constituted and inaugurated the committee

of King Makers to commence an immediate work of receiving and scrutinising applications from interested and eligible sons of Ebiraland, as prescribed by the law.

The committee's work is expected to span through the week terminating on the 15th of December, 2023, whereby their recommendations shall be received by the Ministry for onward treatment.

According to the commissioner's information manager, his boss has already interfaced with the Ebiraland Area Traditional Council at the Palace of the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland to initiate succession procedure aimed at enthroning the next Ohinoyi of Ebiraland.

The late Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Dr. Abdulrahman Ado Ibrahim died on October 29 this year and has been accorded 40 day Islamic prayer on December 9, at his palace in Okene.



2024 Budget: Gov.Nwifuru to Furnish Doctors Quarters, Upgrade Salary

**Pledges to procure brand new jeeps for doctors*

By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In a bid to ensure quality health care delivery in Ebonyi State, Governor Francis Ogonna Nwifuru has disclosed his preparedness to revive and reposition general hospitals in all parts of the state by furnishing doctors quarters, upgrading their salary to be equivalent to their counterparts in the Federal Civil Service, as well as procuring brand new jeeps to ease their mobility. Governor Francis Nwifuru announced this during a citizens' engagement organized to elicit the thoughts of Ebonyians for inclusion in the 2024 Budget Estimate of the state.

The governor pledged to provide all the necessary incentives needed to make their stay comfortable as resident doctors, so that they will discharge their duties effectively. Governor Nwifuru said that the purpose of doing this is to draw healthcare delivery closer to the grassroots and reduce the burden of patients who migrate from rural areas to the town to seek proper medical treatment. In order to alleviate the plight of medical students in Ebonyi State University, he also announced that a new teaching hospital has been provided for the students to facilitate their academic activities. Governor Nwifuru while noting that health would

get the second highest attention under the 2024 budget, said that becomes necessary in order to create access to healthcare services to the average Ebonyians in line with his People's Charter of Needs Blueprint. "We have recruited 36 new doctors added to seven of them previously bringing the total of them to 42. What the state will do is to pay them salary equivalent to what the Federal Government pays doctors, buy them brand new jeeps, furnish the doctors quarters in the general hospitals and make them habitable. "As we speak, a contract of 8.81 billion Naira has already been awarded for the supply of drugs, consumables, and

equipment in the general hospitals so that you don't have any need to come to town or even Abuja in search of medical attention." Governor Nwifuru further spoke on his administration's preparedness to open up rural communities through aggressive road constructions in the incoming year, clarified that out of the 512kms of roads earmarked for construction, a total of 310kms would be completed within the cycle of the 2024 budget. The governor also hinted of his administration's desire to scale up empowerment for underprivileged Ebonyians under the 2024 budget.

Platform Tasks Kaduna Govt To Plan More With Taxation, Stop Borrowing

**Warns against over taxing citizens*

By ; A L E X UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Tax Justice and Governance Platform (TJ&GP), on Thursday, tasked the state government to plan its budget around revenue generated internally, rather than go for excessive borrowing.

The network also advised the government not to over tax citizens in its quest to depend solely on revenue generation to engender development in the State. Coordinator of the Network, Simeon Olatunde, who gave the advice at a one day public private dialogue they organized in partnership with Kaduna State Internal Revenue Services (KADIRS), called on the private sector and citizens to at all times support government by complying to tax payment.

Olatunde, noted that government cannot fulfill the social contract for the citizens inline with its mandate of ensuring infrastructural development, quality and accessible health care service, education, and many others without tax.

"The aim of the dialogue is to bring the public sectors, private sectors, CSOs and the media together on how to develop the state without depending on foreign resources and loans, but map out strategies to foster development.

"Over the years we have observed that without resources government is vulnerable to achieve the citizens demands. We have the demand and supply chain of which the citizens are on the demand side and government on the supply side but in between is the resources needed.

"Because these resources are not available, government go for loans which also come with some burdens and eventually the people have to pay. But why not advocate for payment of taxes and avoid loans and

it's burdens; bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

"Our role is a stand in between the government and the people. The blame syndrome should be stopped but we should think on how to move things forward, let everyone be involved. We have a drive to see that no one is overtasked and the task paid is accounted for." He explained.

In his presentation on "Internally Generated Revenue: the Crux of Sustainable State Development (the past, the present and the future)", Dr. Mohammed Lawal, Executive Director Corporate Services, KADIRS, harped on the need for citizens to be tax compliant so government can have sufficient funds to deliver Sustainable Development.

"The state does not have endless flow of resources, we often depend on Abuja which is the center to get allocation. We must go back to what we know, taxation, which perhaps is the only way of generating sustainable revenue for the state to deliver services to the citizens". Dr. Lawal, noted.

In her remarks, Mrs Linda Yahaya, Director Administration and Human Resources, Planning and Budget Commission, commended the organisers of the dialogue, noting that it was no doubt aimed at promoting fair, inclusive and citizens driven tax process.

She added that P&BC were keen and hopeful that the gathering would chat more and better ways in ensuring tax compliance and ensuring effective Grievance Redress Mechanisms, and strengthen the relationship between the state and non-state actors towards improving tax administration in Kaduna for the betterment of citizens and businesses survival.



From left: Special Guest of Honour/Past President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Dame Onome Joy Adewuyi; President, Dr. Innocent Okwuosa; Vice-President, Davidson Alaribe; and 1st Deputy Vice President, Haruna Yahaya; during ICAN 72nd induction ceremony, held in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Security Agencies Must Close Ranks To Win War Against Financial Crime - PSC Boss Arase

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE,**
Lagos

A former Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase, has called on all security agencies to close ranks in order to tackle the endemic financial crime that is threatening the economy of the nation.

Dr. Arase who also queried the institutional capacity of the national security and intelligence community to professionally detect, prevent and deploy modern investigative tools towards dissecting the criminal signatures of fraudsters, noted that attainment of an enhanced technical, intellectual and professional capacity is needed to understand the complex trails of financial crimes

Speaking at the annual lecture and award ceremony of Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) in Lagos Arase stressed the need for all security agencies to equip themselves with requisite capacity that will enable them identify pieces of technically-aided evidence of prosecutorial value that could engender the successful prosecution of the criminals.

He was represented at the occasion by the Assistant Inspector General of Police Force Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department (FCIID), Lagos annex, AIG Idowu Owohunwa.

His words, "The questions here, however, are:

Do the national security and intelligence community have the institutional capacity to professionally detect, prevent, and deploy modern investigative tools towards dissecting the criminal signatures of these fraudsters, and identifying pieces of technically-aided evidence of prosecutorial value that could engender the successful prosecution of the

criminals?

"Have the nation's security institutions built strong inter-agency synergy that could stimulate a coordinated and symbiotic approach in dealing with this threat including maximizing the tools of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU)?

In order to strengthening financial crimes safeguards and fraud alarm system, particularly, by corporate players and public agencies, Dr. Arase called for pathways to bridging the capacity gap of the security agencies in relation to understanding the complex dynamics and highly technical field of financial crimes.

He also suggested closing the capacity gap of security agencies in unraveling the constantly advancing modus operandi, trends, and patterns of financial crime networks towards bringing them to deserved justice amongst others.

While presenting a paper, the guest lecturer Dr. Bone Efoziem said financial crime in Nigeria has become endemic, saying the

young ones should re-channel their energy to hard work.

Speaking on Financial Crimes and National Security, Efoziem, said, though the situation in Nigeria is not as bad as being portrail to the outside world on social media, but there should be a collective efforts in addressing the security situation in the country.

"The situation in Nigeria is not as bad as being portrail to the outside world on social media. I believe that the abuse on social media should be looked into.

"There should be a collective efforts in addressing the security situation in the country. It must be noted that all crimes and criminality are local" he added.

Speaking further, the security expert and Managing Director, Strict Guard Security Limited advised every Nigerian to be ready to support the security agencies by providing information since the operatives are not magicians.

Also speaking the acting Commissioner of Police of Lagos, represented by ACP Saheed Kazeem thanked the

organisers of the event and congratulated the award recipients.

Mr. Kazeem said he hopes the award would spur them more for the service of the nation.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, the President of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), Mr. Lekan Olabulo, has frowned at the rate at which crime is increasingly committed in public and private space, insisting that the act is now becoming a thing of embarrassment to the nation.

Olabulo who lampooned corrupt public office holders, noted that those involved in syphoning the common wealth of the nation should remember that they are not insulated from being probed.

The President of CRAN, disclosed that the annual lecture cum. award series, which he said started about 30 years ago, has become a veritable platforms through which suggestions are made on how best relevant agencies and other stakeholders could tackle the menace of insecurity, bedeviling the nation.

"Outside the corridor of governance, many Nigerians particularly the youths are engaged in financial crimes such as internet fraud commonly referred to as Yahoo, Yahoo and other illicit financial businesses

"In spite of the existence of laws to check crime in Nigeria, more youths are enlisting in the Yahoo Yahoo business with such conviction that what they are doing is illegal.

"Yahoo, Yahoo or cybercrime has come to be generally accepted by most parents as if it is a legitimate business and many communities are now in competition over the number of youths who have acquired humongous wealth through Yahoo, Yahoo", CRAN President bemoaned.

Olabulo hinted that the annual lecture cum. award series started about 30 years ago has become veritable platforms through which suggestions are made on how best the relevant agencies and other stakeholders could tackle the menace of insecurity, bedeviling the nation.



Participants at the event

Politicians Raise Alarm Over Position Sharing Imbalance In Kaduna State

**Demand State Assembly Speakership*

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
Concerned politicians in Northern Senatorial Zone of Kaduna State have raised alarm over alleged imbalance in political positions sharing in the state. Speaking to journalists in Zaria on the position sharing, Alhaji Bako Kabiru, a politician from Wuciciri, said it is time to check and address their observations on the matter.

He pointed out that for equity and justice in the sharing formula, the Northern Senatorial Zone deserves to have the state Assembly Speaker position, since Central has Governor and Southern Zone has Deputy Governor.

Bako said, presently, the occupant of the Speaker's seat is not in the Assembly, following the Appeal Court annulment of his election which ordered for an election in some polling

units in his constituency. According to him, the State Assembly cannot run without a substantive leader, "Speaker" particularly when it comes to budget passage. He said if the speakership is given to the Northern Senatorial Zone, the political sharing will be balanced.

Bako Wuciciri pointed out that the Northern Senatorial Zone has qualified representatives who served more than

three terms in the Assembly. He advised INEC to consider conducting the election at the polling units as directed by the Appeal Court so that his constituency will enjoy the representation of their area.

Alhaji Bako Kabiru expressed hope that Governor Uba Sani will keenly address this imbalance of political positions sharing formula which marginalized Zone

Michelin Strengthens Relationships With Partners

** Reiterates commitment to giving Nigerian road users "A BETTER WAY FORWARD" in Mobility, Safety, Premium Quality tyres*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Michelin Tyre Services Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to the Nigerian market and its valued partners, reiterating its focus on ensuring smooth delivery of quality tyres and services to its customers, during an address to its partners and stakeholders in transport and safety sectors at the Michelin Stakeholders Dinner Night held over the weekend at Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

In her opening speech, The Managing Director, Michelin Nigeria, Mrs. Chioma Alonge said, "we appreciate Michelin stakeholders every year, and the reason we do this is to show them our heartfelt appreciation for their support and trust. We bring them together because our success is a shared accomplishment."

She also dispelled rumours of the company's departure from Nigeria, emphasizing its six decade presence and ongoing operations.

She stated that while the manufacturing plant in Port Harcourt closed in 2007 due to unfavourable conditions, Michelin's commitment to the Nigerian market remains unwavering.

Mrs. Alonge emphasized, "Michelin does not just sell tyres. We are concerned about saving lives on Nigerian roads, and that's why we ensure that only premium quality tyres are distributed."

"This commitment is evident in the diverse range of tyres Michelin offers, including passenger car, light truck, truck, earthmover, and SUV tyres, along with brands like Komoran, and BF

Goodrich.

According to Mrs Alonge, Michelin's dedication extends beyond product provision, encompassing comprehensive after-sales services, with Tyre Service Centres and mobile technical service vans providing tyre fitment, and other free technical services nationwide."

Mr. Ferreol Tournebize, The Beyond Road Sales Director for Africa-Middle East-India (AIM), highlighted the importance of the dealer network, stating, "Our focus is customer-centered".

He further stressed that Michelin's expertise and coverage goes beyond tyres, encompassing a broader range of products and a deep concern for road safety in Africa.

Dr Ganiyat Olusola Adebayo, Assistant Director at Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), urged the end users and dealers to use and sell certified tyres, even as she enumerated the signs and dimensions of tyres that are good for Nigerian roads.

Dr. Akpabio Nseobong Charles, Deputy Corps Marshal (rted) Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in his contribution for the night charged the dealers to also ensure that the end users of tyres are adequately attended to, and the necessary measures taken to ensure safety.

Michelin's renewed commitment to the Nigerian market underscores its long-term vision for the market.

By prioritizing quality, service, and safety, the company aims to continue its legacy of providing exceptional value to its customers and stakeholders.



Aftermath Of Attack: Kogi EPT Relocates To Abuja

By; OMALE ADAMA, Lokoja

The President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, has relocated the sitting of the Kogi State Off-cycle Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal from Lokoja to Abuja.

The Secretary of the tribunal, Mr. David Mike announced the relocation in a statement made available to pressmen in Lokoja midweek. Mike was however, silent on the reason behind the

relocation, but a top source at the tribunal said the step was necessitated by "security reasons."

The change of venue from Lokoja to far away Abuja was not unconnected with the dastardly attack on the Scribe of the Tribunal last Monday in Lokoja by some armed hoodlums in SVU cars who carted away judicial documents from his Peugeot car.

He said the tribunal will now hold its sitting at the National Judicial Institute VB located on Umar Yar'Adua Way, Abuja and

advised litigants to take note of the change of venue.

The source said that members of staff of the tribunal had been attacked on several occasions in Lokoja.

"Armed men just pounced on the officials. They robbed them of everything. They took away all the documents that were in the car"

Copies of petitions and personal belongings, official receipts, processes like subpoena, official stamps, were all carted

away by the assailants "Generally, thugs are frustrating the job and the lives of our officials are at stake, making it difficult to work there," the source said.

It would be recalled that All Progressives Congress (APC) was declared winner of the November 11 off-cycle election, beating the Social Democratic Party (SDP) to a second runner up while the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) clinched the third position.



LASTMA officials in a designated van during the advocacy campaign

LBS, GRI Partner, Launch Agric Sector Standard For Sustainability Reporting In Nigeria

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre (LBSSC) has partnered with the Africa regional hub of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) to launch GRI 13 Sector Standard.

The GRI 13 Sector Standard was designed to enhance the quality, consistency and comparability of reporting sustainability impacts for agriculture, aquaculture and fishery sectors.

The sector specific reporting standard will come into effect on 1st January 2024, Jonathan Ikeolumba, Affiliate Researcher, LBSSC, said. It "will spotlight for businesses in the sector ways to enable sustainable agricultural practices that enhance fair trade,

improve competitiveness and promote responsible business conduct," Ikeolumba clarified.

The launching took place on Thursday, 30th November 2023 at the George Hotel, Lagos, doubling as the launch of the new reporting standard and a platform for stakeholders dialogue.

The Sector Reporting Standard was developed to provide information that applies to organizations involved in crops, animals and fisheries production, the Director of GRI Africa, Douglas Kativu, explained while speaking on the topic, "Driving Responsibility and Accountability in Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing."

The Sector Reporting Standard has 26 likely material topics for the

sectors grouped under climate change and environment, human rights and communities, equitable livelihoods, ethics and governance, food and health, employment and farming and fishing practices, Kativu said.

"The topics align with many authoritative international instruments defining responsible business conduct as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030," the GRI director elaborated.

A high point of the event was a panel discussion on the topic: "Enhancing Competitiveness Through Responsibility, Traceability, and Shared Value."

Panelists proffered solutions to the various traceability and

standardization challenges plaguing the sector in Nigeria.

GRI is a global standardization organization which has developed and delivered the global best practice for how organizations communicate and demonstrate accountability for their impacts on environment, economy and people.

"GRI provides the world's widely used sustainability reporting standards which cover a wide range of topics from biodiversity to agriculture to health and safety and everything in between," LBS management wrote in a statement titled, "GRI, LBS Sustainability Centre Host Nigeria Launch of Agric Sector Standard for Sustainability Reporting."

LASTMA Flags Off Ember Months Road Safety Advocacy Campaign

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Sequel to the usual increase in commercial activities among the motoring public during festive seasons, the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has flagged off the Year 2023 Ember Months' Public Enlightenment and Safety Advocacy Campaign with the launching of 'LASTMA Female Elite Corp'.

The exercise, which kick started on Monday, is an annual event designed to engage the minds of the motoring public on the need to be safety-conscious and have respect for other road users during the ember months.

In a press statement made available to journalists in Lagos, the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment of LASTMA Mr. Adebayo Taofiq said the safety of lives and property is paramount to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, hence the advocacy campaign.

Adebayo quoted the Ag. General Manager of the Agency Mr. Bakare Oki Olalekan saying that traffic law enforcement officers are friends of the public, while the behavioural attitude of most drivers is what makes them to be regularly apprehended.

He admonished both private and commercial bus drivers to imbibe an attitudinal change while behind the steering wheel. The LASTMA boss equally enjoined motoring

public particularly commercial bus drivers not to be reckless on the road and to obey all traffic rules and regulations.

"Drivers must take good care of themselves and do away with bad habits like smoking, drunk driving and making phone calls while at the wheel and always learn to respect other road user"

Also speaking during the enlightenment campaign, the Coordinator of 'Lastma Female Elite Corp' Mrs. Biola Aina (An Assistant Chief Traffic Superintendent) admonished the commuting public not to allow the prevailing commercial boost which is occasioned by high volume of vehicular

movement during this festive season to override public safety on the road.

She emphasized that ignorance of the law is not an excuse and that members of the public should be expecting a new face of Lastma with empathy, civility and humane approach to motorists on the road.

According to her "Our advocacy programme would cover the entire five (5) divisions of Lagos"

While expressing that the 'LASTMA Female Elite Corp' was initiated to promote the new face of the Agency before the public, She therefore named various motor parks/markets visited by the advocacy train to include Obalende, C.M.S, Lekki, Iyana-Oworo and Apongbon.



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

Tree Planting: Dr Malami Gets Commendation Letter At COP 28

By: ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

The Ambassador At Large African Region, International Human Rights Commission (IHRC), Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji has been commended for his contribution to the greener and more sustainable future through his active participation in Azerbaijan's "Plant a Tree" initiative. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Republic of Azerbaijan and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation presented the certificate of commendation to Ambassador Dr. Shehu Malami at the 28th session of the Conference of the United Nations Climate Change in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The letter of appreciation says Ambassador Dr. Malami Shehu's commitment to planting a tree symbolizes meaningful step towards environmental stewardship and enhances the natural beauty and ecological health of their nation. "Thank you for joining us in

this vital effort to nurture our planet" the letter says. Among the delegates from almost 200 countries was the World Chairman of International Human Rights Commission IHRC Ambassador Shahid Amir Khan whom met with the Nigerian President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu and other world leaders advocated collective action to stop climate change worldwide. At the conference, Ambassador At Large African Region, IHRC Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji met with the State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate

Action at the Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany H E Ms. Jennifer Lee Morgan. Amb. Dr. Malami Shehu also met the Nigerian Minister of State for Environment, Mr. Balarabe Abbas Lawal during the submit on climate change at the Nigerian Pavilion in Dubai. In an interview with journalists,

Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji to consider some key factors in African region particularly governance, agriculture, funding, climate change, crisis among others. The meeting is expected to declare the submit close on Tuesday.



Your 2024 Budget Proposal Unrealistic, Fraudulent, Oyo APC Tells Makinde

*Urges OYHA members not to rush in passing it to law

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday, faulted the Oyo State 2024 N434.2 billion budget proposal as presented by Governor Seyi Makinde to the state House of Assembly last week APC in a statement by its Publicity Secretary in Oyo State, Comrade Olawale Sadare, described the budget proposal as defective and unrealistic. According to APC, members of the Oyo State House of Assembly should avoid rushing into its passage into law without a thorough job as it has been the case since 2020. Faulting the N434.2 billion budget proposal for 2024, APC alleged that the budget presentation was aimed at hoodwinking the good people of the state by a government which has shown that it lacks innovation, policy direction and

accountability over time. "Pundits and economic management experts have had to express worries over the future of the Pacesetter state in view of the fact that the administration of Gov. Makinde has done little or nothing to improve the economy and create wealth as being done in some other states across the country", it said. The party added, "To make it worse, an expert recently said that Gov. Makinde has reduced Oyo state to 'Land Grabbing and Okada/Keke economy. Credence was again given to the observation of pundits last week when the governor tabled before the House of Assembly an proposed budget for the 2024". According to APC, "In the document, N434.2 billion is quoted as the total budget for the year but N260 billion is the total amount of funds expected in revenue leaving over

N170 billion in deficit. How realistic is this? "A whopping sum of N21 billion is budget for the Office of the Governor without any breakdown of what they intend to do with it in specific term while another N485 million would go for Cabinet and Security service. The ruins in public facilities, in the state, is feasible in the deplorable condition of all the monumental structures in the Agodi State Secretariat while the Government House has been reduced to eyesore now harboring all sort of strange persons". Oyo APC stated, "Yet money has been allocated and released for the maintenance of these facilities since 2020 but there is nothing to show for it". It alleged further, "Again, the governor attempted to play a fast one on the public by quoting 20 per cent allocation to education but the pertinent

question is; what happened to the previous allocations because virtually all public schools have suffered neglect while pupils carry chairs and table to classrooms from home. Parents pay learning materials such books as well as WAEC and NECO fees on their own. "As if that was not enough, questions are being asked as to what success Oyo has recorded in the area of agriculture, commerce, job creation and so in the last four years", saying, "We rely on the North for beans, tomato, peppers, cow, onions, rice etc when we have massive arable land and human resources". Oyo APC claimed in the statement that "Ogun and Lagos states remain manufacturing and industrial hubs but in Oyo state, investors are being chased away with multiple taxes and confiscation of their land and properties".

Guber: I Have Capacity To Move Edo Forward - Ighodalo

By; RAPHAEL OKHIRIA, Benin City

One of the frontline governorship aspirants of the 2024 election in Edo State, Barrister Asue Ighodaro, has said that he is fully prepared to make a positive difference in the governance of the state, if voted the governor of the state.

Ighodalo who stated this during an interactive chat with newsmen in Benin City, said he has a lot of good things to offer the people of the state and make their lives more meaningful.

The governorship aspirant who last week resigned as chairman of the Nigeria Breweries PLC, to enable him fully concentrate on election, disclosed that he is the best man for the job. He stated that he had worked with the immediate past governor of the state, Comrade Adam Oshiomhole from 2008 to 2016 and that he is also doing the same for Governor Obaseki, as the chairman of Alaghadaro Summit.

Ighodalo who hails from Ewohimi in Esan South-East Local Government Area of the state, described himself as a bonafide 'home boy', fully prepared for the great tasks ahead.

He stated that it was out of his own volition that he ventured into the governorship race, saying that he was nobody's candidate but one who is ready to bring his experience of serving as chairman of various companies to bear when he gets the party nomination and being voted as the governor of the state.

"I'm offering myself for service because of my desire to make Edo strong economically, because there are several parts of the economy that can be used to provide for the people and take them out of poverty.

"Edo State as the heart beat of the nation should have good infrastructures like good roads, pipe borne water, good

hospitals, good schools and many others.

"I am here to serve the state and I can say I am the best man for the job. I hear people saying I am Someone's candidate but I can tell you that I am nobody's candidate. All I will do is to bring my experience to bear having been chairman of several top companies.

"It was tough decision resigning from those position. I'm coming from a comfort zone and you put all of that down to say you want to do things for your people. I have the ability to do things for many more people having done for fewer people in the corporate world.

"I have to leave my comfort zone to serve my people. I decided to allow my the peoples interest to supercede my personal interest because if you don't love the people, you cannot lead the people well. I'm ready to make a difference in the lives of the people of Edo state.

"All of the experience and connection I have had allover the years would be brought to bear. I am committed and convinced that I can do it. It looks uncertain but even it will be certain in God's name.

"I pledge to give youths the opportunity to serve in my government because the youths have talents to build the state. Be assured that I am fully committed to the upliftment of our state and I will give my life to ensure that."

He promised to give priority attention to education, civil service reforms, agriculture, portable drinking water, roads construction, amongst others.



Ighodalo

Kaduna NHIS Organizes One-day Sensitization Programme For Private Sectors

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Kaduna State has organized a one-day awareness programme to sensitize the general public sector on the need for them to be part of the ongoing scheme across the country.

Speaking in an interview during the event held in Kaduna, Malam Aminu Tanimu, coordinator Kaduna NHIS disclosed that the programme is meant to create an in-depth awareness to the general public based on the benefits of being registered under the NHIS program.

Malam Aminu Tanimu added that for the purpose of ensuring they achieved their desired goal of having various business men, companies and individuals registered with the agency, his team from Abuja came to Kaduna and ensure they sensitized them on new act by way of NHIS and at the same time, they benefit by that NHIS.

"So, this are the things we discussed with them and a lot of questions where asked. There's lack of awareness for the people and doing the part of NHIS and a lot of the participants are willing to do it, though some are already on different programs that

they really enjoyed it, so we asked them to go back and sell it to their respective people.

"The new act of NHIS made it mandatory on everyone, either you are a market woman, Okada rider or a farmer, it is compulsory for you to register because if you're a business company you can't get contract when you don't have an NHIS registration.

"We have a program for the vulnerable that is called basic high care provision fund which is a program by the federal government that 1% consolidated is being deducted and it was given

to health and is taking care of the agents, children, women and the handicap all-over the country, while is being done by wards and in each state we have that arrangements." Says Tanimu According to the State NHIS coordinator, part of the benefits of registering with them is that with just the N15000 Naira registration fees, one can have access to various health facilities including Caesarian Section (CS) for pregnant women and other treatment that ordinarily one will be expected to spend much within the year.

NUJ Honours Media Icons

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), under the leadership of Dr. Chris Isiguzo, MFR has honoured some outstanding media Professionals, at the second edition of its Milestone Recognition of Media Icon in Nigeria, which held at the Airport Hotel, Ikeja Lagos last Thursday.

In his welcome address, the NUJ President Dr. Chris Isiguzo, warmly welcomed the recipients and guest to the event.

"You are all welcome to the the Milestone Recognition of Media Icons in Nigeria.

"You will agree with me that our recipients are persons that have contributed to the growth of Journalism in Nigeria and beyond.

"This initiative is birthed to celebrate these media personalities while alive,"

he said.

The Minister for Information and National Orientation, Malam Idris Malagi was represented by Dr Mohammed Bulama, Director General (DG), FRCN.

The minister lauded the initiative, while commending the leadership of the NUJ.

He urged the media to be fair in its reportage while promoting unity and good governance at all times.

The recipients of the award included; Mr Ray Ekpu, Dr. Danladi Bako, High Chief Tony Akiotu, Mrs Dupe Ajayi-Gbadebo, Mallam Baba Dantiye, Alhaji Najeem Jimoh, Prof Stella Okunna, Prince Henry Odukamaiya and Prof. Ralph Akinfeleye.

Others were, Prof Femi Adefela, Chief Emeka Izeze, Aremo Taiwo Alimi, Senator Chris Anyanwu, Dr. Grace Achums, Sir Folu Olamiti, and Mrs. Agbeke Ogunsanwo.

Governor Bala

Mohammed of Bauchi State was awarded "The Media Friendly Governor of The Year". He delivered a paper on the theme "The Place of Icons and Role Models in National Development: The NUJ Milestone Awards in Perspective" Representative of Gov Bala Mohammed, Muhammed Bulama, who is also the Secretary of the State Government, SSG, charged the media to hold public officers accountable to their promises and be part of the tasks of nation-building.

"As you would expect, the dominant concern of most political administrators in today's Nigeria is the governance challenges confronting us: issues of the cost of living, security, out-of-school children, employment of our teeming youth, national cohesion, the and the recurring challenge of democratic succession in a system that prioritises

highly divisive primordial sentiments over the excruciating poverty that neither recognises nor respects those primordial sentiments.

"At the beginning, I had admitted that we need a national conversation on the country's electoral process if for no other reasons, to reduce the disputations that attend each election and enhance the integrity of the outcome without recourse to the acrimonious litigations that threaten every institution of the state.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Danladi Bako commended Nigerian Journalists, especially those who have carved a niche for themselves in the industry.

He commended the NUJ for the giant strides and tasked the Journalists to be committed to the profession being the watchdog of the society.

Ujah Abah Foundation Commences Annual Free Medical Outreach



By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

A Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), Ujah Abah Education and Health Foundation (UAEHF), has commenced its annual free medical outreach with over 500 patients receiving various medical care, including drugs within the first two days.

The annual Ujah Abah free medical outreach, 2023, which took place in Aidogodo Okpoga, Okpokwu Local Government Area, Benue State, attracted patients across the local government and medical experts from all part of the country.

Addressing the medical experts, beneficiaries, community leaders among others, the founder and promoter of annual free medical outreach, Innocent Ujah noted with gratitude to God for making it possible for the commencement of the 2023 free medical outreach to be a reality, despite emerging challenges.

Prof Ujah who is the Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo, explained that the decision to sustain the annual free medical outreach in rural communities, is a way of giving back to the society his little contribution to humanity.

According to Prof Ujah who appealed to spirited individuals to imbibe the spirit of sacrifice as it is better to save life than kill cows for burials, urged people from the neighbouring communities to take advantage of the free

medical outreach to get examined, tested, treated and probably referred.

Chairman of the Free Medical Outreach, Dr Michael Onoja commended Prof Ujah for sustaining the annual free medical outreach with the current situation especially with the high cost of drugs and other related medical items, "apart from the general logistics and welfare of medical experts across the country."

Dr Onoja who described the promoter as a man of integrity and humility despite achieving so much, said the massive turn out including elderly and children have impacted positively on the health development of the grass roots people.

Speaking with New Nigerian Newspapers (NNN), Dr Patricia Musa, a Consultant Ophthalmologist with the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo, said over 100 patients with eyes related issues like cataract, refractive errors, presbyopia, allergic conjunctivitis, and among others were attended to..

Dr Onoja Boniface Adokole of the GOPD also commended Prof Ujah for the initiatives and giving back to the society by granting access of medical services to the rural communities through annual free medical outreach.

Madam Maria Ode told NNN that she has been down for long without money to go to the hospital, "but today I am taken care of with drugs and importantly I have glasses to read which was not even part of my primary problem"



Award Recipients of NUJ Milestone Recognition of Media Icons

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ADVERT RATE

SPACE	COLOUR			BLACK AND WHITE		
	RATE	VAT	TOTAL	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
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.
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- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
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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)	550,000.00	41,250.00	591,250.00
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

A Gesture Of Intellect Of Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach

By; ISAAC ODEH

Nigerian author, activist and journalist, Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach is an author of numerous books across the divisions of literature.

The books have been circulated globally by some of the greatest and largest booksellers.

His works exemplify rich meanings in religion, politics, philosophy, psychology, sociology and many of them which regards educational transformational and revolutionary values.

Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach's political articles on Nigeria influential newspapers and on scholarly international journals have vigorously elucidated meaningful contents which make valuable contributions to political circles in Nigeria, Africa and the rest of the world. New ideologies to shape and reshape national desires are squarely highlighted and enumerated for appropriational usage. Hence, powerful messages on needs for youthful governance and a pursuit to make accountability and transparency of government are core vision and mission of his political writings.

Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach born 15th of February, 1995 in Ochadamu, Ofu, Local Government Area of Kogi State, is the state coordinator of Fix Nigeria Group - a pan-African group founded by Tunde Eso, a Nigerian Visionary and journalist.

Shadrach has led peaceful protests and has equally headed various positions in social cultural groups in his pursuit to campaign and defend rights and freedoms of the common citizens across Nigeria and beyond.

Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach, in his endeavors to regulate creative relationship between humans to humans, humans to natures and natures to natures in the hemisphere - to standardize and promote humanity, he has published Shadrachology, Ideguology, Ojonugwaology and Aruwaology to fulfill his desires and purposes for living. Those books are guides to daily engagements across the globe.

In his journalistic scores, he is a contributing writer to Converseer Newspaper and an editor and reporter to media houses.

Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach's books have emerged bestsellers. The Manner, a book written by him is in audio-format. Making his name among successful author, his books have been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Greeks. These translated books are in paperback and e-book formats which are on sale on Apple Store, Amazon, Kobo and the rest.



Shadrach

Shadrach is an intellectual reviewer and this has earned him an award from B P International Publisher. Hence, he reviews for the publisher and Brilliance Publishing Limited.

Shadrach, in his various interviews on national diaries, he always approaches issues surrounding the state of nation with reasonable points and has always embrace citizens to carry out and organize peaceful protests to challenge animalistic acts of Nigerian political and religious leaders.

Just as simple and as knowledgeable as he is, he exemplifies that in his writing, journalistic and activism career. Hence, his works are full of contents with little explanations and accompanied with simple way of expressions. And, his preaching of peaceful protests in his books

especially in The Revolution and The Stakeholders; is in alignment with his physical approaches to constructive protects. His central pursuit in activism is to seek equal life of citizens of a state and giving regards to proper management of natural resources to meet standards of all citizens, and to urge poor masses to love one another so as to get desirable life as the rich citizens do.

Idegu Ojonugwa Shadrach, in his quest to fulfill his writing career, he began to write during his secondary school days, whereas the publication follows in 2017, the same year he completed his first-degree studies at Kogi State University, Anyigba, now Prince Abubakar University. His publication started with Shadrachology. And, since then, he

has continued writing. In one of his interviews, he assured his readers to keep hoping on him till he transits to second phase of life. He also admitted that, the easiest way to make his activism is through writing and for that, he has no singular reason to stop writing.

Shadrach, though, from a middle-class family, but as he isolated himself from his family just to avoid distraction, he suffered in his desire to manifest his writing career. Hence, comprehensive account of his struggles within Nigeria and outside Nigeria before having reasonable scores on his career are documented in his memoirs My Empire and The Moving Value.

Nigeria Facing Hunger, Poverty, Other Serious Challenges, Gov Makinde Admits

*Says country needs law abiding citizens

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde, has raised the alarm that Nigeria is facing hunger, poverty as well as other serious challenges.

The governor said this on Monday, while speaking at the inauguration of Oyo State Advisory Council led by Chief Bolaji Ayorinde, (SAN) held at the Executive Chambers of the Governor's Office, Ibadan.

He declared that amidst these, there is the need for the creation of a law abiding citizens for the many challenges that we are facing in the country.

The governor maintained that on his part in Oyo State, his administration will create a different Oyo State where citizens are law-abiding despite the many challenges they are faced with.

"There is hunger and poverty in the land as well as other serious challenges we are facing as a country. There is nothing that is

happening nationally that you would not see here. Every major intersection is a market. We have security issues, pressure around the mining communities and an education system with infrastructure deficits", he said

Gov Makinde added, "We have to create an Oyo State that is different and law-abiding. In our various family units, we are progressively-minded people but when it comes to the society, things are often not the same".

"So, you have a big role to play. Through your efforts as an Advisory Council, you must strive to call our attention to some of these issues so that we can make decisions that will be sustainable. If you drive from here for five minutes you will see people driving against traffic. You will see people putting up buildings without a permit".

He pointed out that Oyo state on its part would soon come up with legislation to restore order and sanity in the society.

Commenting on the Advisory Council, the governor hinted that the "Council is extremely important in getting feedback for the administration to ensure that decisions are taken in the best interest of the state", saying, "I have been here for four years and six months and I do know that when our people come in with an idea, we have to dig a little bit deeper to see whether that idea is in the best interest of the generality of our people or the best interest of the individual bringing the advice. So, the intersection of personal versus group interest is where you have to stand".

The governor said "In the health sector, yes, during Omituntun 1.0, we started rehabilitating our PHCs with one in each ward but staffing, equipping and having sustainable PHCs still constitute a big challenge".

Also, inaugurating the 5-man Governing Council of the Emmanuel Alayande

University of Education, Oyo, Gov Makinde said his administration sought for the upgrade of the Emmanuel Alayande College of Education to a university during his first term of office because it noticed the shortage of manpower in the education sector.

While calling on the university to step up to the plate to bridge that gap, Gov Makinde appreciated the management of the university as well as the chairman of the Governing Council of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Prof Ayodeji Omole and that the University's team had hit the ground running in ensuring that the National University Commission (NUC) visited and approved the university's courses.

He however, charged the varsity's management to ensure religious balance in all its operations.

Money Rituals Will Shorten Your Life Span, Cleric Warns Youth

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Youth have been warned to desist from quick money making syndrome, because it will shorten their life span.

An Islamic scholar, Professor Saeed Olurotimi Timehin gave the warning at the 20th year anniversary of Aduranigba Daars Sahaadat Alasalatun of Nigeria (ADASSAN) cum Maolud Nabbiy, at Mowe, Ogun State.

According to him, there was a time he was running an Islamic program on radio, a traditional program was also been run by an elderly man, when the man was asked if there is anything like money ritual, the man said there was nothing like it.

"The old man said there is no deity producing money or make one rich, its only God that can make you rich. In that case youths should be careful of what they are doing. There was also a time a young boy was caught at Ibadan with his friend skull, when asked what he wanted to use it for, he claim it was for money ritual so as to buy a mansion at Lekki in Lagos.

"Most parents don't have time for their children anymore, we don't teach them our religion's moral any longer. Some parents have destroy the life of their children, all because they wanted them to be rich at cost. We now have internet fraudsters parents association in Nigeria. Prophet Muhammad said there are two

ways of life for men, the day of happiness and bitterness, we should let our children know these days. Don't think you have it today, it will be like that forever, there are time for everything.

"Majority of us parents always show it to our children that it's well. We are only taking care of their body, we are not taken care of their spiritual life. Majority of those whose parents were rich couldn't sustained what's left of their parents now. Because of worldly things some youths now can go to any length to make money." He added that, parents should show their children ways of God, because a child who knows God will never go astray or do wrong things.

"We should let our children knows that the rich also cry and made them understand that they cannot get things done on a plater of gold. They should work for it. Those who cannot endure suffering today are those being lure into cultism, kidnapping and other vices. We also need to teach our children our language, rather we are forcing them to speak english."

Earlier in his welcome address, the Missioner of ADASSAN, Imam Suleiman Adigun said the event is a remarkable one as the society started 2003 under palm frond makeshift, but today there is a befitting mosque and Arabia class for the students.

Imam Adigun thanks all those who have

contributed to the development of ADASSAN, alive and dead and pray Allah to rewards them all.

Meanwhile, the event making the 20 years anniversary of ADASSAN cum Moalud Nabbiy started on Friday with a special Jumat prayer, followed by a walk and medical Screening for members and non members alike and the grand finale held on Sunday December 10, with dignitaries from near and far who grace the occasion. Notable People's were given awards and those who have passed away, there children got their posthumous award for their contribution to the success of ADASSAN.

However, the Secretary of the planning committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Adisa urges to the awardees to justify the confidence repose on them, for nominating them as the awardees.

Alhaji Adisa said "it is an opportunity for you to used the position to better the life of others and promote Islam and also continue to observe your solat and be a good ambassador of the association.

Also, the president of old Student of Daarun Sahaadat-Wa- Rosheed Taleem, Mr. Tunde Adisa said as old of the Islamic School, on behalf others they will continue to support the school and ADASSAN to get to the enviable height they plan for.

While, the second guest speaker, Sheilk

Abdullah Olohunlomerue, urges women to be humble to their husbands and those around them.

He also called on young girls who dress indecently to change, and also urged the rich to help the poors in the society, because it is instructions from almighty God.

Meanwhile, in his remark, the chairman of the occasion, Comrade Semiu Adigun said it is a thing of joy for him to be at the event.

It was celebration for me to be here again, ten years ago, now here at the 20 years anniversary of ADASSAN, Imam Suleiman Adigun is a 'child of 'destiny' from his antecedent and his gradual evolvement from birth till date, one would see that he had an extremely humble beggining and it reflected in it's activities on daily basis, not minding the challenges in every situation.

"The process of his transformation was frustrating and challenging, this is evident in the various shortcomings that characterized the process, he absented himself from modrasat at will, he even attempted abandoning the program, my father will chase him back, while our mother would never mind traveling with him from Iwo to mile 12 in Lagos in order to remain there. Here we are today, all glory to Allah alone for seeing him to this level."

Uba Sani Plans Further Developing Kaduna Sports Through Private Public Partnership

*Director of Sports excited by visit to athletes

*Kada Kings Chairman also visits, doles out cash

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

In view of his passion for youth and quest to keeping them engaged positively through sports, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has assured of plans to further develop sports in the state through public private sponsorship.

He expressed this, while interacting with athletes at the ongoing 2023 National Para Games at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja on Thursday December 12, 2023.

"We are working to create a lot of facilities, we are working round the clock, visiting citizens of the state all over the country, with a view to get them involved in sports development through public private partnership," he said.

Represented by his SA on Sports, Alhaji Idris Dibis, Senator Uba Sani said that he is impressed with the performance of the state's representatives at the Para

Games.

He said, "By the grace of God, it will not be business as usual. We will ensure the necessary equipment are provided for you.

"From now onward, no association will give us notice of less than three weeks camping before competitions, to ensure proper preparation," he assured.

Speaking further, Dibis said, "His Excellency has done a great job for us. While we are mourning the over 80 people killed in Tudun Biri, yet His Excellency ensured you are here.

"We are happy that the governor has done his best," he said.

The SA informed that based on the importance attached to sports by the Uba Sani-led government is lining up several sporting activities within the first quarter of 2024.

"We have gotten approval for marathon and the committee will be out soon.

"We also have a sports racing coming up in honour of Emir of Zazzau in January or February.

"We have reactivated the scholarship for sportsmen and women. Anyone who has capacity for education can benefit," he said.

Speaking further, he explained that he was accompanied on the visit to the athletes by a sports lover, Ahmed Tijjani who is the Chairman of Kada Kings Basketball Team, Board Member Kaduna State Basketball Association and Coordinator Youth NBBF North West.

"He is my friend, he is the first to have a basketball team in Kaduna. He has gathered a document on private public partnership in sports development," he said.

"He is going to give a token of N50, 000 to you for refreshment," he said.

Dibis praised sports writers in the state for positive repirtage.

"Journalists have done a great work in covering sports. You are doing a very good job," he said.

In his remarks, Ahmed Tijjani told the athletes that he has a basketball team where they groom young players.

"Right now, we have some playing out of the country.

"We are looking at how we can activate para basketball in the state.

"We are seeing how we can package sports and sell it back to the private sector," he said.

In his response, the Director of Sports (DOS), Yakubu Ibrahim appreciated the Kada Kings chairman for his kind gesture.

"I know you have been into sports right from when I came into office. We want to thank you sir. You have been doing it for a long time, we want to thank you sir," he said.



SWAN Congratulates Osimhen, Oshoala, Nnadozie, Super Falcons On CAF Awards

*Harps on home grown solution to football development

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) on Tuesday congratulated the trio of Victor Osimhen, Asisat Oshoala and Chiamaka Nnadozie for emerging the best male and female footballers in Africa during a prestigious event which held on Monday in Marrakech, Morocco.

According to a statement signed by the Secretary-General, Ikenna Okonkwo, made available yesterday, SWAN also thumbed up Super Falcons for consolidating their dominance with another best team of the year rating.

While Osimhen, Super Eagles and Napoli forward was crowned Player of the year (Men) for the first time in 24 years, Oshoala, Super Falcons and FC Barcelona Femeni Striker won a record sixth award as CAF player of the year (Women).

Dazzling Super Falcons ace Nnadozie who plays professional football with FC Paris in France became first ever best African goalkeeper of the year (Women) in an

unforgettable Monday night for Nigeria football.

To cement it all, the country's Women Senior National team after their heroics at the 2023 World Cup, for the fifth time, emerged best National team in the continent.

Thrilled by the country's rare exploits, SWAN President, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, in a statement made available by the Association's Secretary-General Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, said, "I really feel very proud being a Nigerian. The collection of major awards by our footballers who were mainly groomed on Nigeria's soil is a testament of better times.

"Thank God, this is happening in about one month to 2023 AFCON scheduled for Cote d'Ivoire. I believe it will also steer the spirit of our Super Eagles to give their best especially as their performance have not really been satisfactory in recent times.

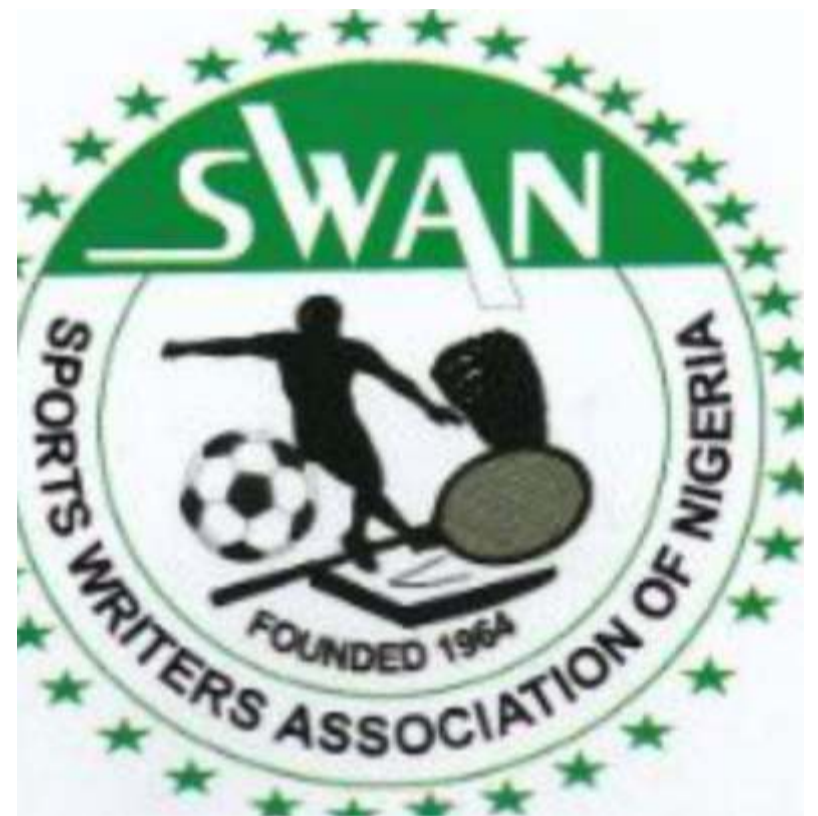
"I must say that all the awardees got the honour on top merit. And the awards shouldn't make them relax, rather they should put in their best the more for future anticipated glorious moments."

The SWAN President while also

facilitating with Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau and all football stakeholders on the CAF feat by Nigerians, called for a major concentration on grassroots football development which would lead to more discovery of talented footballers.

"Talents abound in every nook and cranny of this country, the onus lie with the administrators to do more in discovering them. The giant leap by these three footballers who were adjudged best among others in the continent on Monday night and were specifically discovered from cradle in Nigeria to a very large extent shows that the solution to our football development is with us.

"Much as those who were born abroad and grew up there are also needed, more efforts should be channelled towards galvanising a sustainable developmental pyramid from U-10 to elite level for both men and women. Also, more attention should be paid to the various Nigerian leagues," he said.



For the men category of CAF awards, aside Osimhen, other Nigerians who won the prize previously were Nwankwo Kanu (1996 and 1999), Rashidi Yekini in 1993, Emmanuel Amunike in 1994 and Victor Ikpeba in 1997. Upcoming Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) which kicks off on January 13, 2024 will

present another ample opportunity for Nigerian players to prove their mettle.

Later on same year, the Super Falcons will seek to reclaim their continental crown in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) tournament slated for Morocco.

New Nigerian Newspapers Lagos Bureau Chief Bags Media Excellence Award

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The unwavering tenacity and consistency in the media profession, with track records of exclusive reporting of crime stories by the Lagos Bureau Chief of New Nigerian Newspapers (NNN), Mr. Raymond Tedunjaye has once again, been recognized, as he bagged the "Icon of Media Excellence Award In Innovative Journalism" in Lagos.

The award, presented at a colourful ceremony penultimate weekend at the prestigious Nigeria Institute of Journalism (NIJ), Ogba Lagos, conferred on him the National Media Community Award, organised by the City Pride Media Communications.

The event was an evening of multiple applause from veteran journalists, senior police officers, business moguls and other guests who graced the

occasion.

Other outstanding journalists, senior police officers and captains of industries were also honoured at the event, amongst them were the chairperson of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Lagos chapter, Mrs. Olatutu Oladunni, publisher of Atlantic News Online, Frank Oshanugor, co-founder PM New Express Cyrus Izekwe, publisher of News Planet Emmanuel Edom amongst others.

Also bestowed with awards of different categories were ACP Nwachukwu Eburuaja, Commander Area "E" Command, ACP Gbenga Adeoye, Commander Area "M" Command, Spokesperson Lagos State Police Command SP Benjamin Hundeyin and DPO Shasha Division SP. Toyin Omomobi and her Denton Division counterpart CSP Joseph Egwonu.

According to the organisers, the NNN Lagos Bureau Chief was recognised for his steadfast and modest contributions towards the development of journalism in Nigeria, especially through exclusive crime stories reportage.

It would be recalled that the seasoned and versatile journalist, a former Vice President of Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) and ex- SEC member, Lagos Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) had at one time or the other emerged as the most diligent crime reporter of the year 2018, bestowed on him by the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria and the Best Crime Reporter of the year 2020 conferred on him by Crime Watch Magazine.

While delivering a paper on "Roles of the Media In Nigeria, Socio- Political Development, Financial Stability and

Security", the guest speaker, Comrade Rotimi Ojamamoye articulated the indispensable role of the media in shaping Nigeria's socio-political landscape, ensuring financial stability, and fortifying national security.

Ojamamoye underscored the media's multifaceted role, portraying it as a reflective mirror of societal dynamics that significantly contributes to the nation's progress.

With a focus on socio-political development, he emphasized the media's capacity to shape opinions, foster debates, and disseminate crucial information to an engaged populace.

"Through investigative journalism, the media wields considerable influence in advocating for good governance, transparency, and accountability among leaders", he emphasized.



Raymond Tedunjaye being presented with the plaque for the award by the Commander Area "E" Command Lagos, ACP Nwachukwu Eburuaja.

Para Games 2023: Commissioner Visits Kaduna Athletes, Reveals Plans For Scholarship

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Impressed by the performance of Team Kaduna so far at the ongoing National Para Games 2023, Commissioner of Sports, Development, Professor Ben Gugong on Sunday, visited his state's athletes at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja.

During the visit, he revealed plans of the

Governor Uba Sani-led Kaduna State Government to float a scholarship scheme for budding athletes, with a view to spurring them to perform better.

He explained that the scholarship scheme will be targeted at those who make the state proud at national and international outings, to ensure they develop themselves in sports and

academically.

Professor Gugong praised the athletes who have so far, won medals for the state at the 2023 Para Games, assuring them that their efforts would not go in vain.

He explained that Governor Uba Sani who is a sports lover, is committed to ensuring that their welfare is adequately catered for.

Some of the athletes who were in contact with him, were excited and promised to win more laurels for the state.

Professor Gugong was accompanied on the visit by the SA Sports to Governor Uba Sani, Sa'id Dibis, as well as the Kaduna State Sports Writers of Association (SWAN) Chairman, Shehu Abdullahi.



CAF 2023 Awards: Ladipo Congratulates Osimhen, Oshoala, Nnadozie

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President General of the Nigeria Football Supporters Club, World wide Dr. Rafiu Oladipo has congratulated Victor Osimhen, the African King of Football for winning CAF best player of the year award for 2023.

In his words, Ladipo said he was not surprised that Osimhen won the prestigious award, taking into consideration his performances in his Club, Napoli of Italy and his contributions to the Nigerian National team, the Super

Eagles.

"I'm really happy for him and wish him well even as I urge him to go ahead and do much more for the game of football", began Oladipo who also doubles as the President of Nigerian Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C).

"Then to my daughter, the Queen of African football, Asisat Oshoala for retaining the CAF Women Award. This is the sixth time she is winning this noble award which shows that she's the best in African women football. "I'm happy that

she's doing well for both her club, Barcelona and Super Falcons of Nigeria and I pray God to strengthen her to achieve more in football.

"I will not fail to congratulate the best goalkeeper in Africa, our own Chiamaka Nnadozie. She is a potential future goalkeeper in the world.

"And also our own Falcons who won the best football team in Africa. I congratulate all of them and looking forward to one of my daughters, Rasheedat Ajibade who has been so promising and prominent in the

Super Falcons' achievement.

Ladipo also congratulated the NFF ably led by Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau for the award just as he rejoices with the Honourable Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Enoh for this happening during his tenure.

"It's important I congratulate the NFF and the Honourable Minister of Sports Development for this happening during his tenure and indeed to all Nigerians, I say congratulations", concluded Dr. Ladipo.

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Yobe: NEDC, Gowon Centre Flag-off Free Hepatitis Screening, Vaccination

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Yakubu Gowon Centre and partners with support from the North East Development Commission has flagged-off Hepatitis screening and vaccination across three Yobe Senatorial zones to reduce mortality resulting from the disease.

The Yobe Team Lead, Mr. Nduka Ozo who disclosed this at Damaturu Specialist Hospital, revealed that a total of 2,000 individuals would benefit from the vaccination but for the screening; it may exceed the number.

"The North East Development Commission has realized the need for hepatitis intervention in the region and Nigeria as a whole. In the past years, about 90,000 people have benefitted from this intervention in the northeast. In the 2nd phase because of scarce resources, we are doing an additional 6,000 in

Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states". "The 2,000 in each state is just for the vaccination, we can screen more than that, because it is a serious concern, a lot of people are living with the virus ignorantly, but thank God the turn out here is encouraging.

"To further support the state government, we have also installed a viral load machine at the Specialist Hospital Damaturu" he said.

The Chief Medical Director, Damaturu Specialists Hospital represented by the Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Abubakar Kawu-Mala Geidam as well as the Chief Nursing Officer, Bala Suleiman thanked the Yakubu Gowon Centre and partners for providing the intervention.

According to them, "the prevalence of the disease in the state capital is minimal but also it is a salient killer. People hardly come to hospital for checkups until when they are sick", they said.



The screening and the vaccination exercises are held concurrently at Damaturu, Gashua and Potiskum Specialists Hospitals across the state and would last for three days.

Gombe Governor Issues Executive Order, Establishes Small Towns' Water Supply, Sanitation Agency

*Upgrades LG Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) Units to full-fledged departments

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has issued Executive Order 002 of 2023, establishing the Gombe State Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (STWSSA).

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Monday, said that this is pursuant to the authority vested in him by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999(as amended) and all other powers enabling him in that behalf.

It is also a step towards achieving sustainable water supply and improved sanitation facilities across Gombe State in line with national and international initiatives for a holistic development.

The Executive Order outlines a comprehensive framework to revolutionize water supply and sanitation across urban and rural areas in Gombe State.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, citing the



Governor Yahaya

pressing need for improved water access, pointed out the commitment of Gombe State to promoting healthy living and

sustainable economic growth through this initiative.

Under the newly established STWSSA, the agency's mandates are multifaceted. It is mandated to oversee various critical aspects related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in all small towns across the state.

The mandate of the Agency also includes managing and controlling water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in small towns as well as planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining same.

Also, it is expected to focus on public enlightenment, training, research, and sustainable management of sanitation infrastructure as well as coordinating inter-governmental and non-governmental linkages for effective implementation.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya emphasized the importance of community participation,

indicating that ownership of schemes would gradually transition to benefiting communities through Water Consumer Associations (WCA) to encourage sustainability and local engagement.

Furthermore, the Executive Order upgrades Local Government Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Units to full-fledged Departments within their respective Local Government Councils. These Departments will spearhead project planning, support community-based committees, provide technical assistance, and facilitate improved water supply and sanitation services in local communities.

The Governor reiterated the immediate effect of this Executive Order, with provisions allowing for future revisions or modifications to align with evolving needs and circumstances.

The composition of the Board for the Agency will be announced in due course after consultations with relevant stakeholders.