

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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**Says they cannot question government in power for accountability when they lack such*

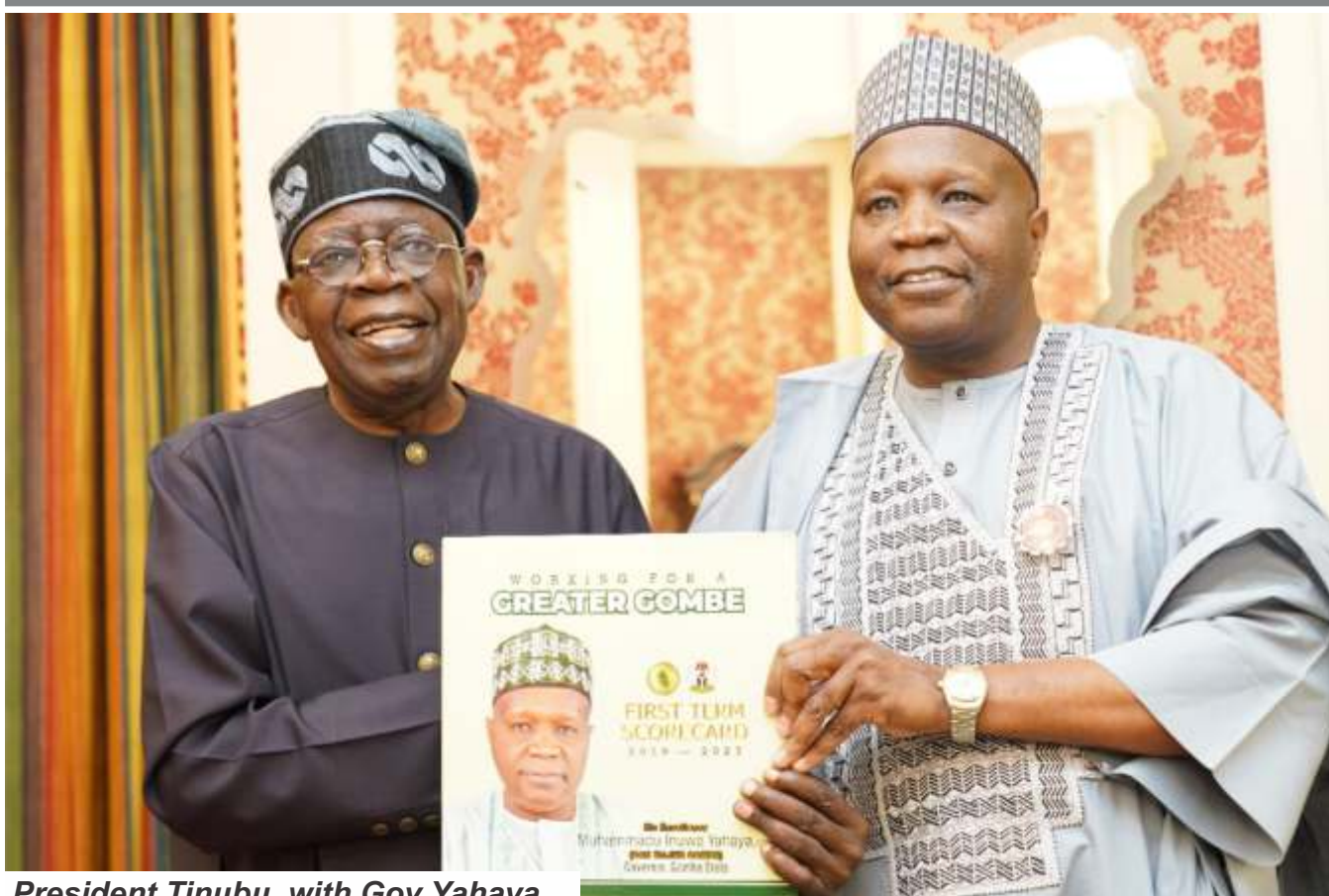
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President Tinubu with Gov Yahaya

Governor Inuwa Visits Tinubu, Seeks More Collaboration Between Federal, State Govts

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As business activities resume in 2024, the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone B has vowed to prevent smugglers, with a view to boosting legitimate enterprises and giving the nation's economy a boost. Comptroller Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone 'B' Kaduna, Dalha Wada Chedi, expressed

this while briefing the press yesterday.

"I also need to assure the citizenry through you, members of the media, that the operatives of the unit in this New Year are poised like never before, to foil all attempts by smugglers at importing any prohibited goods into its area of jurisdiction as well as recover all underpaid duties into the government's coffers," he said.

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Nigerian Workforce Expects New Minimum Wage Before March - NLC

Troops Neutralize 10 Bandits, Rescue 9 Victims In Katsina, Zamfara

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Zaria Church Offers Special Prayers For El-Zakzakky

*As IMN members fellowship with Christians

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

Christ Gospel Church, Samaru, Zaria has offered a special prayer for the good health to the leader of Islamic Movement In Nigeria Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzakky.

The prayers were offered, when IMN Youths Forum, Samaru visited the church to celebrate the New Year with them and to strengthen religious harmony and unity among the reveals faith and other religions. Pastor Hassan Latima Tula of the church, said, Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzakky is one out of many that consider Christianity as one without any differences with Islam.

He described him as

humble and a very dedicated religious leader, worthy of emulation by all.

Pastor Hassan Latima Tula called on both religious and political leaders to fear God while informing their followers of the correct things and also to avoid misleading them with lies, He commended IMN for sustaining the long relationship and urged them not to relent on the noble task.

In his remarks, the IMN team leader, Prof. Isah Hassan Enuamshelgaru, said the visit was to celebrate Christmas/New Year with Christian brothers at Christ Gospel Church Samaru, Zaria.

He noted that their visit is to foster friendliness and

unity as the theme of the visit was, "Renew Hope" for divine unity among Muslims, Christians and other religions.

According to him, the visit to the church by the group for the celebration of Christmas/New Year was to strengthen the relationship between the two faiths and foster divine unity.

He said Muslims and Christians were the revealed faith in Nigeria and they account for more than 90 per cent of its population, while the remaining faith are less than the remaining 10 per cent.

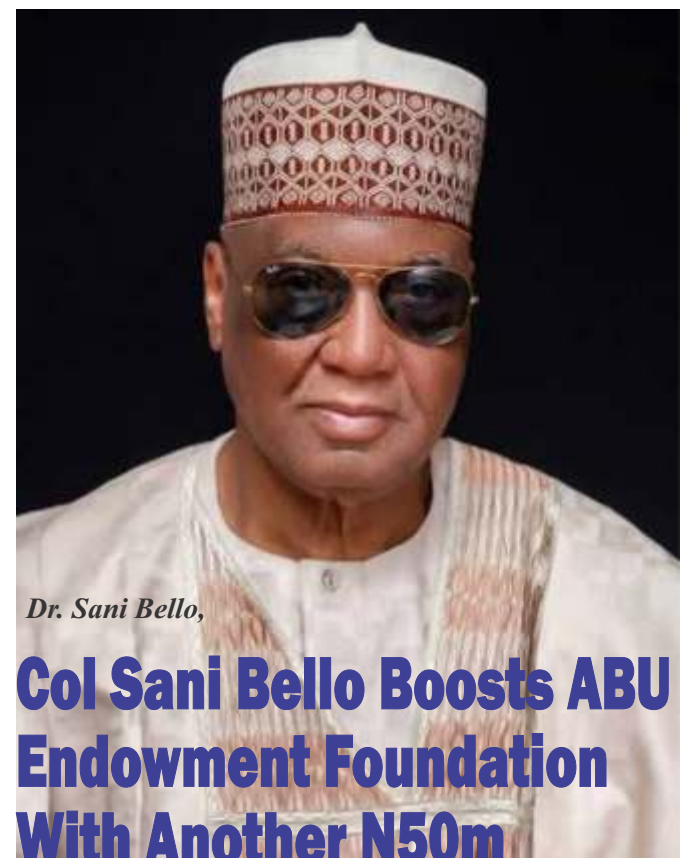
"So, when these revealed faith and other religions are united, it means the whole of Nigeria is united," he explained.

Professor Enuamshelgaru said as a group, they started the visit to churches more than 35 years ago and since then, more understanding between the group and Christians has been established.

"The visit has reduced the fears and some animosities between the two faith; they (Christians) are now open to us; we share sentiments and problems together.

"The visits had so far bridged the existing gaps between us due to the persistent meetings between us," Mshelgaru said.

Highlights of the event was presentation of gifts to the church and cutting of New Year cake by the leaders of the group.



Dr. Sani Bello,

Col Sani Bello Boosts ABU Endowment Foundation With Another N50m

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

Ahmadu Bello University (ABU)

Endowment Foundation has received a boost from the Chairman of the Mainstream Energy Solutions Company, Dr. Sani Bello, who donated another N50 million.

Dr. Bello, who was a one-time military governor of old Kano State, first donated N50 million to the University in March 2022 based on his total conviction about the transformative power of education, especially at university level.

A statement from the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Thursday January 4, 2024, said that the donation hit the account of the Foundation on Wednesday January 3, 2024, a great gesture well acknowledged and appreciated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, and the University as a whole.

Col. Bello's unwavering zeal for education transformation manifested through the companies he chaired and is still charring. He ensured that as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), his companies extend valuable assistance to universities.

A good example is the establishment of the MTN-Library Connect at Kashim Ibrahim Library in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 2010. This digital hub was equipped by MTN with 120 computers, 2 servers, 3 databases, and a self-operated timer. The

facility is used extensively by undergraduate students to support their learning and research.

Similarly, his Mainstream Energy Solutions Company, which functions as an electricity generation enterprise, graciously provided and heavily discounted electricity for Lagos State University in Lagos.

The Foundation is intended to give the University the much-needed financial stability, flexibility, and confidence to make capital improvements, build capacity in emerging academic areas, engage in cutting-edge research, and adapt to the changing needs of the institution's students.

The Board of Trustees for the Foundation was recently reconstituted with the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Ajiyan Katagum, CFR, as Chairman, as well as other illustrious alumni and friends of the University as members.

The reconstitution of the Board followed approval of the University Governing Council as its 194th (Regular) meeting held in February, 2021, and the 12-member Board had since been inaugurated.

Additionally, the university has automated the alumni registration process in order to maintain close contact with its alumni from all walks of life, a genuine effort largely seen as a step towards harnessing the huge potential of the ABU alumni family to ensure prosperity of the University.



AIG Dismisses 2 Officers Over Armed Robbery, Other Misconducts

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two police officers attached to the Zone 2 Police Command headquarters, Onikan Lagos, have been dismissed following their alleged involvement in armed robbery, official corruption and for performing illegal duty. The Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 2 Command comprising Lagos and Ogun States AIG Ari Muhammed Ali, Phd ordered the dismissal of the erring officers identified as AP. No. 279495 Inspector Sunday Adetoye and AP. No. 223521 Inspector Ogunleye Stephen having been found guilty of the offences.

The Zonal Police Public Relations Officer, Zone 2 Command headquarters, SP I'mma Tunni Ayuba made the disclosure in a statement yesterday. According to the release, the dismissed officers, facing trial for a similar offence, had on November 23, 2023, at about 20.00pm went in the company of three others; two members of Vigilante Group, one Semiu Afisu'M', one Abidoye Femi 'M', and one Charles John 'M' (the driver), to the residence of one Taiwo Monsuru, 'M', and one Akintola Sunday, 'M', at Obada-Oko in Ogun State; armed with 2 SMG rifles and live ammunition,

conducted a search without a warrant where they made away with 5 iPhones, 1 Samsung smartphone, 1 Tecno smartphone, and 2 laptop computers.

" Police officers attached to Ifo Division mounted a roadblock after other residents of the apartment informed them of the description of the vehicle, which led to the apprehension of the occupants of the vehicle without ASP Ajayi Victor 'm' who led the illegal operation and is currently at large.

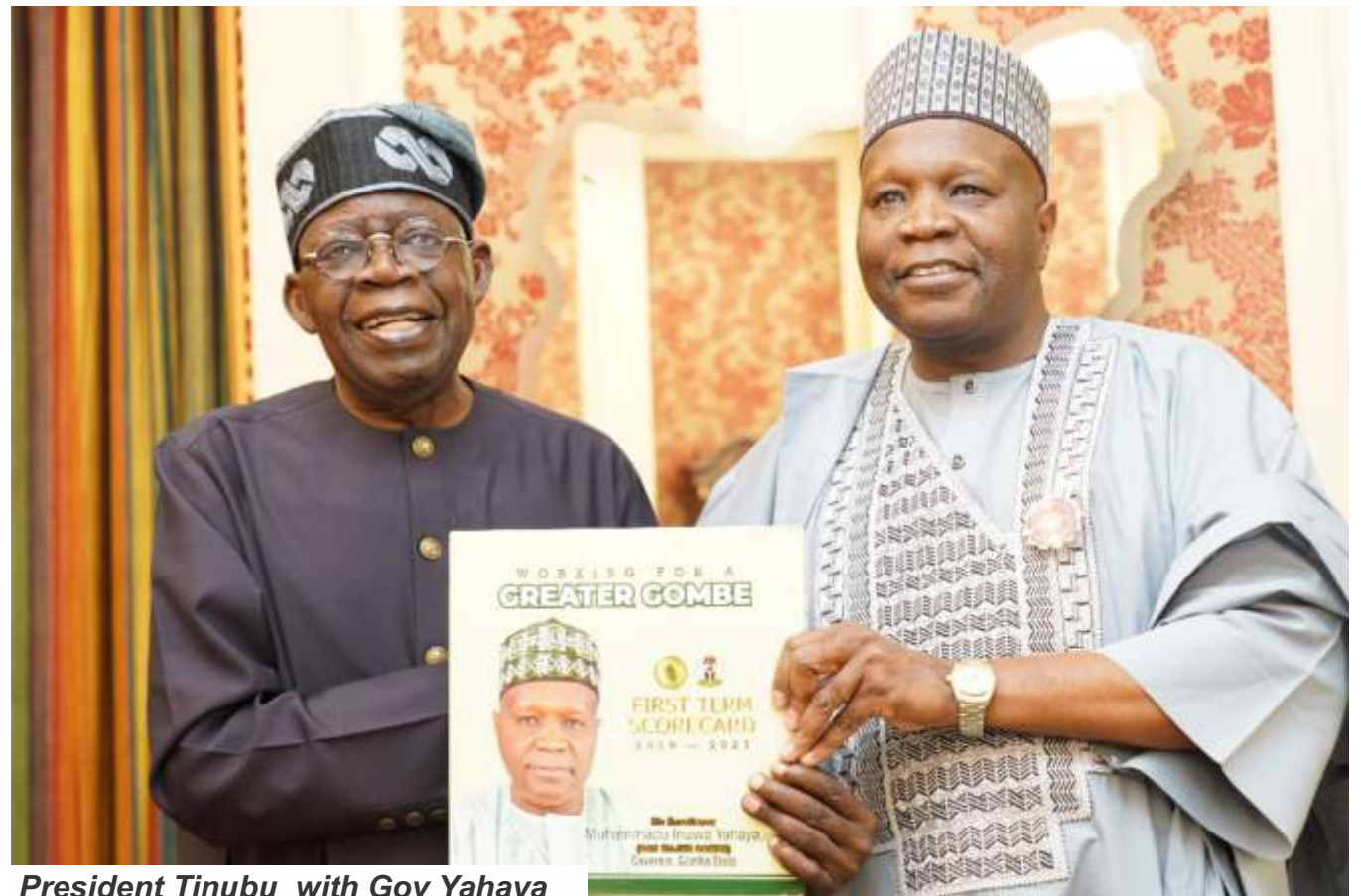
" The AIG has directed that the dismissed officers be charged to court alongside the civilians involved, while he urges all officers and men of the force to remain professional in the discharge of their duties in accordance with the law, as anyone found wanting will be accountable for his/her action or inaction.

" He further emphasizes that the current management of the Nigeria Police Force, under the leadership of IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD, NPM, will not tolerate any form of unprofessional and corrupt practice, while he implores members of the public to always report unprofessional conduct of officers and men, as the Police is always there for the protection of all.", SP Ayuba stated.



The two suspected traffic robbers

Governor Inuwa Visits Tinubu, Seeks More Collaboration Between Federal, State Govts



President Tinubu with Gov Yahaya

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor and Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON on Thursday, met with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

The governor used the visit to intimate the Nigerian leader on the developments in his state as well as the Northern region.

He also brought the President up to speed with the achievements recorded by the state under his leadership as governor, assuring that his government is ready to put more words into action in order to bring about faster development.

The governor, while interacting with State House Correspondents soon after he met behind closed doors with the President, emphasized the need for more collaboration between the federal and State governments towards bettering the lot of citizens, saying doing so will help a great deal in achieving development in all sectors.

He said: "There were several engagements between us towards the

end of 2023 particularly pertaining healthcare and enabling business environment reforms and many more. Without the economy picking and doing well, we will continuously be where we are or even worse of.

"Collaboration of the states and the federal government; in fact including the local governments is very key and fundamental for us because if there is any disconnect, we may not deliver on what we have to do for the people."

Commenting on the importance of agriculture to human development and attaining food sufficiency, the Governor said there is need for farmers to embrace modern techniques in order to boost their production.

"The way it is now, people have to understand that we must modernise. There is need for machine tools, there is need for processing and luckily Gombe is among the States that have been approved to be part of the Special Agric Processing zones.

"We have set up an industrial park where we can process all the raw materials or the agricultural produce that we have in the State. I

think if all States will key-in and work in tandem and work with the federal government, we shall easily reach the desired destination for Nigeria," he added.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya also commented on security challenges troubling some parts of the country.

He however commended President Bola Tinubu for sending Vice President Kashim Shettima to visit Kaduna and Plateau States, in order to get the details of what transpired at Tudun Biri, as well as Bokokos and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas.

"In my capacity as the Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum, I praise the steps taken by the President in order to get to the root of what happened in these two States and the pledge he made that the right action would be taken to prevent future occurrence of those incidents. Above all, I thank him for the support given to victims or survivors," the Governor stated.

Speaking specifically on the Plateau crisis, the Governor said there is need for a review of the immediate and remote causes in order to find a lasting solution.

"Despite the fact that this

matter has been there for long, it is time for stakeholders to have a round table and tell each other the truth and then take deliberate steps toward loving each other. Before now, the people were living in peace and going about their normal businesses.

"Some of the major issues that seem to allow the problem to persist include issues like farmer-herder clashes, the clamour for indigenes versus settlers. But the world over, if any society or country doesn't welcome visitors, such a nation will not progress. After all we here are one and the same family.

"Therefore, we are commiserating with those who lost their loved ones. There should be no reason why anyone should go and kill or take the life of a fellow human being since it is not a war situation. Reprisal attacks have not taken us anywhere so, what we need to concentrate on doing is to understand ourselves and know that we have leaders at all levels whom we can lodge our complaints to. We should imbibe the habit of loving one another and living in peace for the progress of all of us," the Gombe State Governor advised.

Troops Neutralize 10 Bandits, Rescue 9 Victims In Katsina, Zamfara

By; **A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau**

The troops of the Joint Task Force North West Operation HADARIN DAJI (OPHD) said it has neutralized 10 terrorists, rescued nine kidnap victims and recovered arms and ammunition including operational motorcycle and communication gadgets in Katsina and Zamfara states during operation. The troops said the feat was recorded in recent dry season clearance

operations commanded by the General Officer Commanding 8 Division Nigerian Army, Major General Godwin Mutkut. "Notably, on the 3rd January 2024, the combined troops of the OPHD conducted an offensive operation in identified Terrorist enclaves at Batsari and Safana LGAs of Katsina state, neutralizing 10 of the terrorists while others fled with gunshot wounds".

The troops also recovered 1 AK-47 Rifle,

ammunition, seven dane guns, three locally fabricated guns, and other dangerous weapons as well as communication gadgets, mobile phones and military uniforms while four motorcycles recovered and destroyed. Similarly, on the same day, troops of Operation HADARIN DAJI operating in Zamfara State, conducted a search and rescue operation at Dansadau and Dandalla villages in Maru LGA of Zamfara state. During the operation, nine kidnapped

victims were rescued which includes; five women and four babies. The victims were abandoned by the terrorists who fled after a gun duel with the resilient troops. The rescued victims were immediately reunited with their families at Magami. The Commander Joint Task Force North West Operation HADARIN DAJI, Major General Godwin Mutkut, commended the efforts of the troops and urged them to maintain the tempo.



General Christopher Musa, CDS

Nigerians, UK Returnees Decry Deplorable Access Roads At Lagos Airport Despite Revenue In Billions On Toll Gates

**Task Tinubu, Keyamo to stem corruption*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Some Nigerians alongside UK Returnees have decried precarious state of access roads at the main gate leading to the local wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos State despite huge revenue accruing daily via toll gates at the airport.

Chief Bolaji Agoro, an oil and gas industry stakeholder told some journalists on Wednesday at the airport, that huge revenue which to him should be between five and seven billions monthly ought to be enough to maintain the roads therein.

He stressed that there was no basis for the deplorable condition of the road to the local wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

"I lodged at a hotel close to one they called Legend hotel. I was there yesterday (Tuesday) and today, Wednesday in readiness for my trip out of Lagos State and observed influx of vehicles in hundreds hourly", he said.

Chief Agoro added, "This shows that we can count thousands of vehicles entering and moving out of this airport after paying certain fees in accordance with

the type of vehicles that come in. "A car with four tyres is charged N500; those vehicles with six tyres are paying N1,000 while trucks/trailers are charged N2,000 as toll fees and a number of these vehicles especially the commercial ones can enter several times and are expected to pay at every entry of the four toll gate points".

A returnee, Mr. Clement Fidelis, who sat very close to the first speaker at a lounge in the airport on his part said "despite huge revenues, road to Legend Hotel is deplorable while access roads to Sahara Petroleum tank amongst others have gone so bad with crates everywhere!".

Mr Fidelis stressed, unlike what you see at Gatwick Airport in London, a number of Nigerians entering this Airport are paying cash with no receipt on many occasions fueling speculation that there is big time corruption going on around here.

"The deplorable state of infrastructure, including access roads around the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja, Lagos is worrisome notwithstanding millions of naira earned daily as revenue from Access Toll Gates/Car Parks," Fidelis added.

Another UK-bound passenger, Chukwu Arinse asked when corruption would become a thing of the past at every sector of Nigerian nation, wondering if the authorities are not aware of the allegations of corruption at the nation's airports.

A trader who simply identified herself as Blessing said President Bola Tinubu and the Aviation Minister, Festus Keyamo need to do a lot to stem the alleged mind boggling corruption going on daily through leakages here.

"Why can't the FAAN utilize the revenue being collected from the toll gates and other facilities, including car parks, to fix roads around the airport?"

"Your guess is as good as mine. The Federal Government needs to institute a probe panel like it did at the CBN recently to ensure that FAAN and Concessionaire account for the huge revenue it makes from automated/cash points at access toll plazas, car parks and other commercial activity points around the Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos, as the state of infrastructure; roads and other facilities within the airport – has reached intolerable levels," Blessing added.

Comrade Adeolu Olubisi in his comment called on the CBN to produce automated chips which people can be using to access and pay tolls at the airport, saying "this debit card can be inserted in the 'touch and open machines'.

This would reduce if not totally eradicate the fraud of receiving cash from users of the airport. Olubisi argued that, "if the allegation that between 400,000 to 500,000 vehicles patronize the Airport daily is anything to go by, then Federal Government is losing revenues in billions monthly and annually. The Minister, Mr Festus Keyamo has started very well, let him also beam his searchlight on toll gates and overhaul the entire place for sanity to prevail and revenue to go through the right channels.

A stakeholder in the Aviation sector, Prof Ben Adamu said since roads are not maintained at every location of the airport, the need to call on the authorities to re-introduce strict automated machines with security features to help prevent noticeable leakages at the airport has therefore becomes inevitable.

Adamu recalled a publication by The Nation Newspaper which dwelled and exposed the rot in the airport but which nothing has

been done to at least stem the ugly malfeasance at the airport.

He recalled part of the report, "... because the toll plaza is not fully automated, accounting for the accruals and how they are utilised will be an uphill task", adding, "decrepit state of the road linking the local wing to the international terminal around the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Centex, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) Headquarters Annex toward the private hangars, why is it that FAAN has failed to fix the roads that are unbefitting of our country's gateway."

An insider at the airport who didn't volunteer his name alleged that not less than about 500,000 vehicles ply the route daily with a projected review to be hovering around N250million daily and estimated monthly revenue of about N7.5billion.

His position could not be immediately verified as efforts to get the FAAN officials to comment on the allegations bordering on sleeve around the airport rages, as at the time of filing this report on Wednesday evening.

2024: We Are Poised Like Never Before To Foil Attempts By Smugglers, Customs FOU Zone B Vows

*Makes 71 seizures worth over N406m

*Seizes thirty-seven bales, four rolls of Nigeria Police Camouflage Uniforms

According to him, the onslaught by operatives of the unit during the period under review yielded the total of seventy-one (71) seizures of 12 different items intercepted at various locations in the zone, which are of grave implications to the health and safety of Nigerians. "I must also say that the extent of seizures we were able to make during the period is a fulfillment of our pledge that the Unit will ensure full compliance with the FGN directives on closure of all land borders with Niger Republic. "Remarkably among these 71 seized items was the arrest made on the 15th December, 2023 at about 1400hrs, the operatives of the unit arrested a container truck based on credible intelligence along the Lokoja-

Abuja expressway suspected to be conveying prohibited items. After a 100% physical examination, thirty-seven bales and four (4) rolls of Nigeria Police Camouflage Uniforms alongside other different items were discovered in the truck. Four (4) suspects were arrested in connection with the seizure. "Considering the nature of the items and its possibility of being utilized for nefarious activities by unscrupulous elements, the seized police camouflage uniforms, the 4 suspects together with the means of conveyance were all handed over to the State Director, Department of State Security (DSS) Kaduna State Command on Wednesday 27 December 2023 for further investigation and possible

prosecution in the spirit of inter-agency collaboration and having obtained necessary approval from the Comptroller-General of Customs," he said. Speaking further, he said, "It is also pertinent to let you know that the seizures were made in different parts of the Zone with the Duty Paid Value of Four hundred and Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Ninety-One Naira, Thirty-Four Kobo (₦406,924,091.34) only. "The breakdown showed that, due to the positive use of credible intelligence by the FOU, Zone B operatives, Eight (8) used vehicles as well as Two (2) Means of Conveyance were impounded during the period.

"Also as a result of the constant patrol of our operatives, the Unit was able to seize 195 bags of foreign parboiled rice (50kg each), which would have made their ways into the markets, and consumed by the people, despite the hazards, some of such imported grains posed to health," he added. The Comptroller said that the vigilance of the operatives of the unit during the period, likewise led to the interception and seizure of 877 jerry-cans (25 litres each) of Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS). "However, in line with the extant laws and guidelines as directed by the Customs Headquarters, the PMS that were seized have been auctioned and the proceeds remitted to the coffers of the Federal



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Government," he informed.

He said that other seizures made during the period include; 240 bales of Foreign Second Hand Clothing, 10 Jerry-cans of Foreign Refined Vegetable Oil (25 litres each), 415 Cartons of Foreign Spaghetti, Macaroni and Couscous, 349 Cartons of Foreign New Shoes (Unisex), 500mg of 3,400 Sachets of Foreign Amoxicillin and 35 Cartons of Foreign Flame Lighters.

"Beyond this, suffice to say that despite the value of the 17 seizures made within the period, as stated above, we are proud to say that the Unit has seized hard drugs and other assorted goods at various intervals in the Year 2023 worth about Four Billion Naira (N4 billion) in Duty Paid Value(DPV) from 1st January to 31st December, 2023. This represents 100% increase in seizures made above total DPV

of #2,345,155,577.38 that was seized in the year 2022. It is also an indication that the operatives of the Unit have up-the-ante in the fight against smuggling in the Zone.

"It is instructive to note that the recognition of the renewed effort of the operatives of the Unit led to the Customs Headquarters, giving the Unit a Letter of Commendation earlier in 2023. This development, I must say has contributed to the boosting of the morale of the Officers and Men of the Unit," he said.

The Comptroller therefore, on behalf of all the Officers and Men of the Unit; reiterate his commitment at enforcing the Federal Government Fiscal policies in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as our operatives are battle-ready to carry out our mandate effectively.

Speaking further, he described the media

as key partners in fight against smuggling.

"The importance of media in the fight against smuggling cannot be overemphasized because it is a veritable tool for information dissemination and shaping public opinion. I urge you to continue to amplify our efforts for the general public to understand the ills and menace of smuggling to our dear Nation.

"Gentlemen of the press, you can observe a change in the pattern of today's briefing in terms of items to be displayed; most of the seized items were deposited at the various Customs formation across the Zone as enshrined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of securing seized items. It is also served as one of the counter measures of securing seizures in case of attacks by smugglers as they (smugglers) are now engaging bandits to

attack our operatives while conveying seizures to a long distance.

"I want to use this opportunity, to commend the Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, MFR and his management team for their usual support to the Unit as well as appreciate our sister agencies, namely the Nigeria Police, DSS, Military, NDLEA, NAFDAC among others for their collaborations.

"I am also expressing appreciation on behalf of the Unit to the Media, for its support and objectivity in disseminating our efforts in the fight against smuggling, as I urge all well-meaning Nigerians to continue to provide relevant information to the Unit, that would aid in combating smuggling for the benefit of the Nigerian economy," he said.

Environmental Activist Writes 7 points Agenda To Oborevwo

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

A renowned Delta State human rights and development advocate, Comrade Sheriff Mulade, yesterday, said that, "A lot happened in 2023, a year that witnessed vigorous political campaigns and general elections; the birth of new governments at the federal and state levels; withdrawal of petrol subsidy leading to hyper inflation because of hike in transport fares, amongst others."

Comrade Mulade, who is also the National Coordinator of the Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ), also said that, "sadly, the recent and unfortunate massacre of hundreds of innocent Nigerians in parts of the country by terrorists, which further exacerbated the Nation's security challenges."

"Those who made it to the new year have cause to celebrate as life is for the living." According to him, "it is not yet Uhuru, as the economy is yet to recover from the subsidy shocks that have caused severe hardships for many families, worsening the prevailing rate of unemployment in the country, and forcing Nigerians to flee overseas, in addition to the abysmally poor performance of the Naira at the foreign exchange market."

"Oborevwo has been working assiduously to unite Deltans, as well as ushering in a new phase of development to Delta State."

He presented the following 7-point agenda to the governor, which include, "Governor Sheriff Oborevwo should run an all-inclusive government, carrying all Deltans along, irrespective of political, religious or ethnic affiliations, as Delta State is for us all. To further unite the State, all hands must be on deck, while equal opportunities should be given to all Deltans to contribute their quota towards moving the State forward and be wary of political sycophancy."

"The Delta State 2024 Budget should provide for the neglected riverine areas of the State, particularly the Ijaw and

Itsekiri areas, where about 80% of the State's resources to fund the 2024 budget will come from. This is due to the fact that for decades now, the people of the coastal areas of Delta State have been grossly neglected in terms of tangible infrastructural projects that are economically viable for sustainable development of the riverine areas.

"If these neglected areas were not adequately captured in the already passed 2024 Budget, a supplementary budget that will accommodate and give sense of belonging to the riverine areas is recommended."

"Delta State must be on the map of progressive States. It is very heartwarming that for the first time, Delta State Government has kicked against shoddy projects, and that it will no longer be business as usual for quack contractors, as demonstrated by Governor Sheriff Oborevwo, who engaged the bridge and road construction giant, Julius Berger Plc, a proof that the current administration is serious about leaving a lasting legacy as far as infrastructural development is concerned."

"This is commendable, but the Governor should sustain the tempo and diversify the transport sector; attract foreign investors to the State; and set up a strong security architecture."

"Governor Oborevwo should embrace environmental sustainability and best practices for the preservation of our ecological heritage. The Delta State Government should liaise with the Federal Government and its agencies to put an end to gas flaring, create opportunities that will discourage pollution, and encourage good sanitation habits."

"The Delta State Government should focus more on education which is the bedrock of development in every progressive society. Quality education should be provided in all parts of the State, particularly in the riverine areas, where there are paucity of teachers, and

learning facilities are dilapidated."

"Quality education should be seen by government as an investment in citizens' positive contributions to development in the future, after being trained and certified."

"Efforts should be made to reduce the number of out-of-school children to the barest minimum, while learning institutions must be strengthened to enable them make positive impacts."

"The Governor should focus on agricultural development in the State. In fact, the government should engage and empower the jobless youths and women so that they can contribute to food production."

"Government should establish agricultural schemes with palliatives to lure and encourage Deltans to go into crop farming and fishing. Delta State should not only be exporting crude oil but also be food sufficient with the surplus exported to neighbouring States and other countries."

"Agriculture is very important as fossil fuel can no longer be relied upon as revenue base for future development. The future belongs to agriculture which has comparative advantages over crude oil."

"Security should be prioritized by the Oborevwo administration to guarantee



Oborevwo Delta Governor

peace, attract investors into the State, and create job and employment opportunities for Deltans and other Nigerians in the state.

"Security is everybody's business, but the state government must put in place the needed security facilities, and collaborate with the Federal Government's security agencies to curb criminal activities in the State to further boost confidence, and attract local, national and foreign investors."

Comrade Mulade, however, urged all residents of Delta State to, "give maximum cooperation and support to the current Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwo, to enable him implement and achieve his MORE Agenda for the benefit of all Deltans."

"I believe that this 7-point agenda will help to boost the economy of Delta State, and will, no doubt, place the State on the world map as an investment destination."

Unite To Confront Challenges In State Headlong, Katsina Governor Tells Citizens

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has urged residents of the state to unite and forge a stronger bond with a will to confront challenges of the state headlong.

Governor Dikko Radda in his new year message to the people of the state, expressed optimism about the future of the

state in year 2024, reiterating his commitment to leading Katsina towards a future marked by progress and prosperity. The governor who spoke through his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed extended his warm wishes to the resilient and vibrant people of the state as they welcome the year 2024.

Governor Radda, while recognising the unbreakable spirit of residents who,

despite all odds, have faced the challenges bedeviling the state, assured them of his unwavering commitment to ensure that the challenges affecting the state are soon a thing of the past.

However, while thanking the people for the cooperation and support he received for the establishment of the Katsina Neighbourhood Community Watch Corp, which was set up to eradicate and tackle

insecurity in the state, Governor Radda assured that the government, together with the people, would deal a resounding blow to the menace of insecurity.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda outlined his administration's dedication to promoting inclusivity, economic growth, and accelerated development, calling on the citizens to leverage on the opportunities being created to reduce

Malumfashi Old Boys Association Expresses Confidence On Ability Of Katsina State Radio Service GM

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

National body of Malumfashi Old Boys Association has expressed confidence on the ability of the new General Manager of Katsina State Radio Service, a veteran journalist, Alhaji Lawal Attahiru Bakori to deliver in his new position.

The association expressed this through its State Chairman, Comrade Mannir Sulaiman during a courtesy visit to the new General Manager at his office.

Comrade Mannir Sulaiman who is also the

State Chairman of Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria (MHWUN), said Lawal Attahiru Bakori as General Manager of the radio station would not be a disappointment.

According to him, the new General Manager's previous records in all positions he held remained exemplary as he demonstrated honesty, transparency and accountability.

He therefore, expressed gratitude to Governor Dikko Umar Radda for appointing one of their own and one that has been supportive to the Local Chapter of their

Association to serve as General Manager of Katsina State Radio Service.

While urging for support from staff of the State Radio to the new General Manager, Comrade Mannir Sulaiman prayed God's guidance and protection to the appointee to achieve successes.

Others who spoke during the visit, Abdu Idris Maska, Dahiru Iro Dabai and Bashir Sule Anche promised to continue to pray for successful stewardship of the new General Manager of the State Radio Lawal Attahiru Bakori being an efficient and reliable

member of their Association.

They however, urged him to remain fair and just in handling the station and its staff affairs.

Responding, the new General Manager of Katsina State Radio Service Lawal Attahiru Bakori reached his earlier resolve to do his best to move the station forward on whatever way possible.

He expressed gratitude to the Association for the show of solidarity and promised not to let them down during his stay as General Manager of Katsina State Radio Service.

2024: NACHPN Kaduna State Branch Felicitates Members

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria (NACHPN) has felicitated members and Nigerians for witnessing the year 2024.

The Kaduna State Chairman of the association, Comrade, Aliyu Abdurrasheed Umar expressed this while speaking with journalists on the New Year celebration in Zaria.

Comrade Aliyu Umar said the National Association of Community Health Practitioners in the state would remain committed in supporting Kaduna State Government in all spheres of health, education and other sectors of the economy.

The chairman noted that, the association will improve its service delivery in the State as enshrined in their professional ethics.

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

and progress of the state in the year 2024.

Comrade Aliyu Abdurrasheed Umar reaffirmed the association's commitment towards enhanced health care delivery in the twenty three local government areas of Kaduna State.

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

The Chairman also used the opportunity to congratulate Governor Uba Sani on his 55th Birthday and pray to Allah to continue to give him wisdom, guidance to lead Kaduna State to the greater height.

He said on behalf of the entire members of the association wishes Governor Uba Sani a good health to lead Kaduna State into a peaceful co-existence and economic development.

Kogi AEDC Consumers Protest Against Poor Power Supply

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The indigenes of Lokoja Local Government Area in Lokoja, the state capital on Tuesday, staged a peaceful protest to Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) Area office to present their complaints on the constant power outage in the state. The aggrieved residents asked the company to expedite action on the poor supply, as the lack of power was crippling businesses in the state.

The protesters who were led by the chairman of a pressure group under the

aegis of 'Light up Movement', Mallam Illiasu Zakari lamented that they had been experiencing outages before the celebration of Christmas and New Year to the present time and AEDC did nothing to correct anomaly.

Apparently pressed to the wall by the negative consequences of the power outage, the consumers decided to mobilise for the next phase of their demands.

Enough of AEDC surcharging us and putting the movement in bad light in the minds of the public while reneging on all

agreements reached in previous engagements."

Among placards displayed by the protesters with inscriptions such were "We are tired of frequent power outage, epileptic power supply in Lokoja and its environs", "AEDC should give us light to boost our economic fortunes in the state." stop the outrageous billings".

One of the protesters, Inuwa Isa, said electricity was not always available, even before the celebration of Christmas and New year as residents were always left in darkness.

However, the Area

Manager of AEDC in Lokoja, Emmanuel Ajibogun, who attended to the aggrieved residents commended the protesters for their peaceful conduct and promised to look into their grievances.

He assured the protesters that a roundtable discussion will be held with the leadership of the community as soon as possible.

The most affected are residents, iron fabricators, petty traders, restaurants and bars, sachet water sellers who complained of poor sales among all the sectors of the economy.

Exposed: How Some Officials Are Sabotaging Speaker Abbas Foodstuff Distribution In His Constituency

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

As Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr. Abbas Tajuddeen is touching the lives of his constituents with foodstuff, some officials have been alleged to be sabotaging his efforts.

An investigations conducted by the New Nigerian on the mode of beneficiaries selections and the distribution revealed that some officials select their wives, children and relatives as

beneficiaries.

The rice distributions has been 90 per cent successful, while the recent beans distribution which is meant for women, has been dominated by male officials which is contrary to the Speaker's plan.

Also revealed, one person has been accused for cornering four bags of beans, another official took two bags, but the sad aspect of the development is that of one official who put down a woman's name

when she collected the bag of beans, he gave her N1,000 and collected the beans on the spot and then she bursted into tears, asking him if that is what he will do to her.

Upon understanding what he did, people condemned his action, prompting him to immediately add N500 to the innocent woman and he went away with the beans.

Another revelation is that there are buyers hanging around as they buy each bag of beans at N50,000.

Some side reactions from people who condemned the actions of some officials on mode of selection of the beneficiaries which they made only their families and party allies.

Some on the scene, suggested that it is time for Honourable Speaker dismantled those cabals at the ward and polling units level, since they are only sabotaging his efforts to assist the needy in his constituency.



Comrade, Aliyu Abdurrasheed Umar

Governor Alia Signs 2024 Budget Into Law

*Says Implementation takes effect January 1

By: ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, has signed into law the state's 2024 Budget.

Performing the ceremony at the Old Banquet Hall of the Benue State Government House, the governor described the occasion as a significant step towards the progress and prosperity of Benue State.

Christened "the budget for infrastructural development, job creation, and poverty alleviation," Governor Alia explained that the budget has an aggregated financing to the sum of 225.7 billion Naira.

According to the governor, out of the total aggregated financing sum, there is a recurrent expenditure of 110.5 billion, representing 48.9% of the total budget, while the Capital head stands at 115.2 billion Naira, representing 51.1% of the total 2024 budget, adding further that the deficit financing of the budget stands at 34.6 billion Naira only, representing 15.3% of the total 2024 budget.

He said the budget will serve as a roadmap which will chart the course for a future where Benue communities will thrive, with the economy flourishing and the

citizens of the state enjoying an improved quality of life.

Citing examples of critical areas covered in the budget, Governor Alia said the administration is going to invest significantly in the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other vital infrastructure, adding that job seekers and entrepreneurs will also smile.

"This budget is a beacon of hope for job seekers and aspiring entrepreneurs. We understand the importance of job creation in fostering a dynamic and resilient economy. By allocating resources to various sectors, we aim to stimulate economic activities that will, in turn generate employment opportunities. Whether through public works projects, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, agriculture or investments in emerging industries, in which we are committed to creating a conducive environment for job growth. Poverty alleviation remains at the forefront of our agenda," he stated.

While appreciating the legislators for their tireless efforts at ensuring the budget is passed into law, the governor called for the support of all Benue people, saying "together,



we can build a future that is characterized by prosperity, inclusivity, and shared success." The signing of the budget comes a day after the Benue State House of Assembly had passed the bill presented by the Governor a few weeks to the assembly.

Prominent amongst those in

attendance during the signing, include, the Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly, Hon. Aondona Dajoh, the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Austin Agada, the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice and Public Order, F.B. Mnyim.

Others include, Commissioner for Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Hon. Michael Olegba, Chief of Staff to the Governor, Rt. Hon. Paul Biam, Director General of the Benue State Planning Commission, Dr. Jerome Andohol amongst several other top government functionaries.

N3.5bn Debt: Stop Intimidation, Blackmail, Pay Sacked Oyo State LGs Officials, APC Tells Gov Makinde

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Worried by the plight of sacked Council Chairmen in Oyo State since 2019, the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday, asked Gov Seyi Makinde to respect the Supreme court judgement and pay the N3.5 billion owed the sacked chairmen by the state government.

In a statement by its Oyo State Publicity Secretary, Olawale Sadare, APC emphasized the need for Gov Makinde to pay the NN3.5 billion debt without wasting further time.

Berating Governor Makinde for his alleged refusal to accept the verdict of the Supreme Court on the payment of entitlements of

the sacked Chairmen, APC said Gov Makinde should rather comply with the judgement instead of resorting to alleged intimidation and blackmail of the deprived Chairmen and councillors.

It pointed out that Nigerians would not watch Gov Makinde become a full despot in the nation's democratic space, describing the development as disturbing, embarrassing and unbecoming of any leader in a democratic setting.

"It beats the imagination of many pundits and political watchers across the globe that a governor who swore to an oath to defend the nation's constitution but now turned out to be the one desecrating the sacred

document," it said.

The party added "As a matter of fact, Gov. Makinde left no one in doubt of his mission to rule with iron hand and total disregard to the rule of law when he ordered the sack of elected council officials on his first day in office without any recourse to the law of the land".

"But rather than employ confrontation and violence, his victims took their case to the lower court where their prayers for reinstatement were expressly granted. The judgment of the Federal High Court was appealed by the state government up to the Apex Court and at every stage, Gov. Makinde lost out since the law is so apt on the administration of all the three

tiers of government without one being allowed to swallow or strangle the other."

APC emphasized that "In the history of the nation's democracy, there has not been a time that a governor would discountenance the verdict of the Supreme Court and this call the bluff of the judiciary brazenly as Gov. Makinde is doing at the moment. The governor has not only defied the court, he has also made it an habit to throw tantrums and jibes at the court in the public over a verdict that went against him"

"Reports have it that about 27 of the sacked officials died recently as they could not get money to treat one ailment or the other, To

save the society from dire consequences of Gov. Makinde's recklessness and abuse of power, the onus now lies on President Bola Tinubu, the National Assembly, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and other relevant authorities to stop Gov. Makinde from making a mockery of the judiciary as his current attitude poses a grave danger to the nation's democracy.

It added, "When a governor displays brazen disregard to the Supreme Court and disrespect for the entire judiciary, he is laying a bad precedent and this has to be checked without further delay as the issue goes beyond APC versus PDP."

2024 Shall Be A Year Of Possibilities, Good Tidings - Uba Sani

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, congratulated everyone for making it to 2024.

According to his New Year message, he said, the past year 2023 was a particularly challenging one, assuring that 2024 will bring good tidings.

"Though tasked almost to the limits on all fronts, we persevered and marched on with determination and courage. We are indeed a resilient people with an abiding faith in the Almighty God.

"We possess the attributes of nations that have made giant progress. Such nations were honed in the furnace of struggle. They saw every difficulty or challenge as an opportunity to better their situation.

"They did not indulge endlessly in lamentations. They dragged their nations by the scruffs of the neck to higher heights. The progress and development their nations achieved have endured because they did not come by happenstance. They were

products of vision, mission, focus, grit, determination and uncommon commitment.

"It is in this sense that the year 2024 shall be a year of possibilities for Nigeria. 2023 was a year of seed sowing and lesson learning. We sowed the seed of good governance and development when we elected new leaders and representatives at national and subnational levels," he said.

Governor Uba Sani said, the year 2023 taught us that we must at all times prepare for the rainy day. It taught us that we must be prepared to take hard decisions in good time to avoid unpleasant consequences in the future. It also taught us that the people remain the centre of development and governance.

"In the last six months, my administration has left no one in doubt as to our determination to carry everyone along; better the lots of our dear citizens and take Kaduna State to a higher level. We are building a state where no one will feel oppressed, marginalized or neglected. We are taking development closer to the people through the Rural

Transformation and Nurturing of Citizens Engagement initiatives.

"Consequently, we are closing the infrastructure and human capital gaps and promoting social inclusion. We are securing the state for the people and their investments. In all we do, we get the people involved because we are merely servants of the people. We are conscious of the fact that if we alienate ourselves from the people we govern, we endanger this democracy we fought hard for.

"The unfortunate Tudun Biri incident brought out the best in the people of Kaduna State. We grieved together, worked together to bring relief to the injured and families of the victims, and together warded off the machinations and advances of conflict entrepreneurs. We are one people and must march forward as ONE FAMILY.

"The promises made by the Federal Government, National Assembly, Nigeria Governors Forum, Corporate Organizations and well meaning Nigerians are being gradually fulfilled. We shall effectively monitor the execution of the intervention



programmes for the Tudun Biri Community.

"2024 heralds good tidings as we join hands together to turn things around. Focus, hard work and commitment will lead us to the path of restoration and happiness. Let us recommit

ourselves to the progress and development of Nigeria. Let us join hands to make Kaduna State the model of development and peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. Happy New Year!!!"

New Year: Collective Action, Support To Security Agencies, Panacea To Insecurity - Gov Aliyu Sokoto



By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto has identified collective action and support to security agencies as fundamental drivers and panacea to security challenges bedeviling the country.

The governor said it was the only sure and best way to end the menace fast threatening national development.

Aliyu Sokoto pointed out in his New Year message to the people of Sokoto State and Nigerians. He observed that during the year under review, Nigeria witnessed series of challenges, especially in the area of security causing serious setback in the nation's quest for a strong and vibrant economy.

The governor decried that bandits' attacks were so rampant in many parts of Sokoto State, leaving many people either killed, displaced or abducted.

Dr. Aliyu who further expressed worries while noting that banditry was plaguing the Northern states said the menace required urgent and practical attention for solution from the three tiers of government.

"This is a source of great concern which needs the attention of government at all levels", he stressed.

This was contained in a statement on Monday by his Press Secretary, Abubakar Bawa, the governor while reflecting on his seven month old government said it has recorded tremendous feat in the fight against banditry and other forms of criminality in the state.

"So far, over 100 kidnapped victims have been successfully rescued by the military as a result of the sustained support and encouragement they enjoy from the state government.

"We have recently procured and distributed over 70 patrol

vehicles to our security personnel with a view to making them adequately equipped to discharge their constitutional duty.

"I have also signed the bill for the establishment of the Sokoto State Community Guard Corps in order to complement the efforts of our conventional Security outfits in ridding the state of banditry and other forms of criminalities," Aliyu averred.

The governor further restated his administration's resolve to end banditry, appealing for support from the well meaning citizens in the state.

He expressed hope that, year 2024 will by the grace of God be the end of security challenges confronting the nation, and called for support from the citizenry.

Dr Aliyu, while wishing Nigerians a prosperous new year, called for fervent prayers for the leaders and the country at large.

Eschew Bitterness For Interest Of Peace In Nasarawa, PDP Charges Residents

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nasarawa State has called on the people to remain peaceful, steadfast, committed to the peace and unity of the state.

The party also appealed to the residents to eschew bitterness, resist any form of provocations, shun religious sentiments, ethnic propaganda in the interest of Nasarawa State. A statement by the State Chairman, Francis Orogu explained that the appeal has become necessary in view of the pending and doubting challenges confronting the state.

"As we move into the new year 2024, as well as

awaiting the Supreme Court governorship election judgement, we must put behind us any action capable of breaching the peace and unity of the state, forged a friendly religious, ethnic and clandestine propaganda in our dear state", the statement added.

"Residents of the state owed it a duty to refrain from encouraging an ember of disunity, religious sentiments and embrace prayers to ensure that the state remain peace irrespective of our religious belief".

"Our God Almighty is always ahead of every principality. The will of God shall prevail and put to shame those insisting on

taking the people's freedom and joy in Nasarawa.

The statement, while expressing the optimism that the mandate genuinely given for a positive change in Nasarawa would be delivered by the Supreme Court in the interest of justice, equity, and fair play.

The PDP family in the state however, expressed confidence in the nation's judiciary describing the institution as the last hope of the common man, urging the people to remain calm and provocation," but be prayerful for a renewed hope that the judiciary would ensure for those who meritoriously seek it in spite of moves by some

people to truncate the popular narratives."

"We in PDP believed in the ability and capability of the judiciary to deliver a decision in the governorship. Therefore, we wish at this time advise our supporters and the entire residents of the state to remain united, steadfast, and committed to their quest for a united Nasarawa State.

According to the statement, the party promised to remain committed to fighting for freedom, peace, and development of the state in spite of the level of provocation tinted towards drawing the state backward and set chaos, confusion against one another.

NIDCOM Raises Alarm Over Phoney Diaspora Groups

**Tasks MDAs, embassies to be wary*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) on Tuesday, alerted of phoney diaspora groups with apparent sinister and political ulterior motives, parading as authentic diaspora group.

NIDCOM raised the alarm in a statement by its Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit, Abdur-Rahman Balogun made available to journalists.

In the statement, NIDCOM warned all government Ministries, Agencies, Embassies and High Commissions as well as Diaspora groups to beware of the phoney diaspora groups.

The Commission specifically mentioned a group, Nigeria Diaspora Forum, (NDF) who claimed it has established an office in Abuja for the welfare of Nigerians in the Diaspora.

According to NIDCOM, "the so-called Forum, an arm of Labour Party, masquerading as a diaspora group, is not even registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

"We are aware that all registered Political parties including the ruling party, APC, PDP, SDP, NNPP and even LP, etc have diaspora chapters and support groups outside the country and do work to promote and champion

their party ideals", it said. NIDCOM added, "It is equally sinister that an unregistered body with the Corporate Affairs Commission will fraudulently and boldly announce the setting up of an office to oversee the welfare of Nigerians in Diaspora in Abuja".

"This is no doubt an attempt to fraudulently hoodwink unsuspecting members of the public, ministries, departments and agencies, embassies, high commissions as well as state and local governments".

NIDCOM stressed, "We hereby advise all government agencies at both the federal and state levels as well as the diplomatic community to always double check with NIDCOM the status of such groups as NIDCOM has a data base of all registered diaspora groups".

"NIDCOM is using this opportunity to also remind all that States have diaspora focal persons who are readily available to handle issues relating to their diaspora. NIDCOM is the only Commission mandated by an act of the Parliament to oversee the welfare of Nigerians in the diaspora, in the last four years.

"It has been, and will continue to fulfill its mandate, while also working with genuine Nigerian diaspora groups, associations and individuals".

Kaduna High Court Orders Zaria LG To Suspend Work At Kake Land

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Kaduna State High Court 3 sitting at Dogarawa Zaria, has ordered Zaria Local Government Council to suspend any work or operations on the controversial land and concentrate on engaging

the plaintiffs and the people of Kake Community that have claimed ownership of the land with a view to verifying their claims and compensate the genuine owners before commencing any work or project.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Abdulkarim Mahmud said, in view of the urgency involve in the case, the court ordered for accelerated hearing.

He said, the court has refused to grant the defendant application to

restrain the plaintiffs from doing anything on the said land, and ordered the local government and other representatives to stay away from the land.

The case was adjourned to February 1, 2024 for hearing.

NANS Urges FG To Suspend Institutions Running Unaccredited Courses

By; AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), has noted that as the Federal Ministry of Education on Tuesday, announced the suspension of evaluation and accreditation of degree certificates from the Republic of Benin and Togo, it requested that similar measures be taken against home-based institutions running unaccredited courses.

The ministry of education had blacklisted about 18 of those learning institutions following the undercover investigation conducted by a Nigerian newspaper which exposed the activities of a degree mill in Cotonou, a major city of Benin Republic.

Elvis Ekundina, the factional National Senate President, in a statement signed on Wednesday, NANS commended the Federal Government over the suspension of the evaluation and accreditation of degree certificates obtained from institutions in Benin Republic and Togo.

According to the statement, "NANS described as outrageous, the utilisation of deceptive methods by some Nigerians to acquire degrees from Benin Republic and Togo, aimed at securing job opportunities for which they lack qualifications.

The association enjoined the Federal Government to commence investigation into the activities of the Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), National Youth

Service Corps (NYSC) and other agencies fingered in the fraudulent activities of obtaining degree certificates from foreign universities.

NANS said that since commended the Federal Government for its quick decision to suspend the accreditation of degree certificates obtained from institutions in Benin Republic and Togo, it is, important for the government to take further steps into investigating the activities of relevant agencies fingered in the fraudulent activities, saying that it is the only way the Federal government can save its face and restore the battered image of the country.

NANS called on the government to beam its searchlight into the activities of tertiary institutions, especially privately owned

ones, that are running unaccredited courses.

The statement noted that the institutions, in their fraudulent act, are destroying the education sector and swindling innocent young Nigerians of their money by offering them unaccredited courses, describing the universities and polytechnics offering unaccredited courses as illegal institutions as they want the government to deal with them appropriately.

The statement called on the Federal Government to collaborate with NANS and other student bodies to rid the country of illegal tertiary learning institutions towards repositioning the nation's education sector for better.

NDLEA Seizes Over 95 Tonnes Of Illicit Drugs, Convicts 237 Offenders In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 95,083.114 kilograms, comprising of over 95 tonnes of different types of illicit drugs were seized by the Lagos Command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in year 2023, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt. The command also successfully prosecuted and convicted two hundred and thirty-seven (237) defendants with various jail terms.

During the year under review, the Command arrested Nine hundred and nineteen (919) suspects comprising of Seven hundred and ninety-three (793) male and one hundred and twenty-six (126) female that are involved in the illegal drug trade. The Asst. State Commander, Media & Advocacy, ACN Mallum Musa made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists in Lagos on Wednesday.

According to the statement, the successes recorded during the year 2023 did not end with arrests and seizures but also in prosecuting the offenders.

It hinted that the assets of the convicts were also forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

These include a property situated at Bode Hamid Olowo Street, Mende Marland Lagos, and 14 vehicles that are used for the business of illicit drugs.

"Also, during the year 2023, the Command did not only concentrate on arrests, seizures, and prosecution, but it also embarked rigorously on sensitizations, awareness campaigns and seminars through the War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) initiative of the Hon. Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the NDLEA, Brg. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (rtd) OFR, CON.

In this aspect, communities, schools, religious bodies, civil societies and organisations were targeted to sensitise them of the danger and consequences of illicit drug trafficking and abuse with the intent of educating them to detect and expose those involved in the trade and also to desist and look for remedy for those who found themselves in the abuse of drugs.

"The successes that were

recorded in 2023 do not just occur on a silver platter. Rather, it was achieved through the cooperations of well-meaning Lagosians, Sister Security Agencies and Corporate bodies that are passionate about the War Against Drug Abuse and care for developmental strides of the State in particular and Nigeria in general. The NDLEA appreciates them as well as the state government for all their support in the achievements.

"The NDLEA, under the leadership of Abubakar Liman Wali, a Commander of Narcotics (CN), promised to maintain the tempo of the successes gained and will even surpass it in the current year, 2024.

"He is equally soliciting for more support, collaboration, synergy, and understanding so that we all together can tame the tide of this monster called illicit drug peddling and abuse that is ravaging our societies.

"Drug is not a respecter of anybody. It takes your money, joy, health, and even life no matter the class you belong to. We all must join hands together to fight it head-on.", the Command added.



Lagos Commander NDLEA, Abubakar Liman Wali

Federal, States Governors Advised To Focus On Vocational Training, Empowerment To Make Livelihood Flexible

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been called upon to focus on skills acquisition programmes and other vocational training for both gender in order to make livelihood better through self-reliance. The call was made by Hajiya Rahinatu Aliyu Waddau in a chat with our correspondent in Kano Tuesday, adding that most of the developing countries are now better and exemplary because they focused on vocational training and empowering their youth in different types of entrepreneurship. "We have seen how countries like China, Japan, Korea, India America and England to mention a few, developed

through vocational training and empowerment with optimum results and we can do similar projects at both federal, states and local government levels in order to make livelihood more flexible and better," she stressed.

Hajiya Rahinatu urged three tiers of government to bring out better ways of transforming the lives of their electorates and makes follow ups on all programmes initiated for the benefits of the people on a continuity basis.

In conclusion, she prayed that 2024 will be better and easy to the people of Nigeria and the globe in general, especially nowadays when the economic process is facing serious challenge globally.



2024: Akwa Ibom Commissioner Declares Greatness For Staff

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo
Staff of the Ministry of Information in Akwa Ibom State on Wednesday, gathered in a solemn moment as their Boss, Comrade Ini Ememobong poured down blessings of elevation, promotion and all round greatness on them in the New Year 2024.

The occasion was the New Year Covenant Prayer by Staff of the Ministry held at the Ministry's carport, which has become an annual practice of the Ministry since the assumption of office of Comrade Ini Ememobong as the Commissioner in the Ministry.

Comrade Ememobong who started off with spiritual songs of adoration and supplications prayed God to make Year 2024 a blessing to all staff by elevating them in their civil service career, flourishing them materially and spirituality as well as prophesying that, there will be no loss in the Ministry in 2024.

In his homily at the occasion, the Guest Minister, Pastor Claris Essienubong of Restoration Grace Assembly, Uyo, said, God will honour the supplications of the Ministry because the Commissioner along with Staff of the Ministry has placed God first in the business of the Ministry with the Covenant prayer before resumption of work in 2024.

Drawing his scriptures from Proverb 3:5 and Matthew 6:33, Pastor Claris Essienubong stressed the need to seek God first in whatever plans we have so that, God can dwell within us and lead us to success.

The man of God who rededicated the staff to God for excellence Service delivery in 2024, prayed for good health, diligence, knowledge and understanding for both the management and staff of the Ministry, as they resumed office in the new year.

On his part, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Akparawa James Edet, expressed thanks to the Commissioner for upholding the annual Staff New Year Covenant Service in the Ministry and also thanked the staff for turning up for the Prayer before the official work resumption hour.

He further thanked the guest minister for sparing time to share in the solemn moment with staff of the Ministry and expressed with optimism that, Year 2024 will be prosperous for all the staff of the Ministry.

The Solemn Assembly featured, Praise and Worship, Hymn, Prayers and rededication of the Ministry to God in 2024 for optimal performance and maximum productivity.



Traders at Orilowo Market protest in Lagos yesterday. **Photos: AKINOLA ARIYO**



Akeredolu, A Great Patriot While Alive - Pa Adebanjo

*Leads Afenifere delegation to Akeredolu's residence in Ibadan

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

An Yoruba Socio-political organisation, 'Afenifere, factional leader Pa. Ayo Adebanjo has declared that the late Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) was as a great patriot while alive. Speaking in Ibadan on Tuesday, when he led Afenifere delegation to the Ibadan residence of late

Governor of Ondo State, Pa Adebanjo said late Arakunrin Akeredolu was someone "who believe in what he says, very courageous and consistent particularly during the invasion of Fulani herdsmen in South West states".

According to him, the group visit to the Akeredolu family in Ibadan was not because he was a former governor of Ondo State but for what he

stood for in Nigeria politics and the type of progressive politics he played while alive.

"Akeredolu stood firm, he call a spade a spade, he said Fulani men must get out of the forest they are, he is a great son of Oduduwa Oduduwa, he stood firm in spite of dominance of ex President Buhari", he said.

The Afenifere leader added, "That is why I have to lead this delegation

here, I would have sent someone but I said no, not for Rotimi, he transverse the courageous path, and he is a great son of Oduduwa and a star of the progressive government." Pa Adebanjo during the visit together with other members of Afenifere condoled with Akeredolu's wife, Mrs. Betty Akeredolu over the death of Arakunrin Akeredolu.

Nigerian Workforce Expects New Minimum Wage Before March - NLC

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The National President of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Joe Ajaero, has expressed confident that the negotiation of a new minimum wage between the federal government and the organized labour will be finalised before March, this year. Speaking to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday through telephone interview, the National President of NLC said, "The federal government had through a letter wrote to the organized labour to release our names to the new minimum wage committee to be constituted. Since last year, the list was submitted to the government and it is only when the committee

is constituted that we now go into negotiation with the government as a union to agree on it.

"The existing minimum wage will be expiring by March this year, so it is hope we may conclude the negotiation for a new minimum wage before March."

Speaking on the wage award by the federal government to Nigerian workforce, he stated that only one month was paid, saying, "All should be released to the workers by the end of this year January.

Comrade Ajaero explained that there was an agreement with the federal government, saying that the agreement must be strictly adhered to the country's workforce.

Labour Party Presidential Aspirant Demands Giving Account Of Campaign Funds

*Says they cannot question government in power for accountability when they lack such

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

In an open letter to the leadership of Labour Party on the 2023 election, Comrade Faduri Joseph, a former presidential aspirant under Labour Party has called the party to account for the campaign funds received during the 2023 presidential election as a sign of good leadership, which will be an indication that if given power, transparency and accountability will be the watchword.

Addressing the Labour Party leadership, executives, honourable, and his fellow compatriots, he observed that, "no doubt our party ran a laudable election and the support we got from Nigerians, showed that power belongs to the people, and it reflected in the contention that trailed the election of 2023 that we almost won.

"Having said this, I would like to use this medium to thank the people of Nigeria who believed that 'YES WE CAN' and in spite of many people thinking Labour Party had no structure to make a statement, we made a landmark and kudos to all of us and the good people of Nigeria.

"After election, our flag bearer and party went to court to challenge the outcome of the election; to fight for true democracy and we came back short," he said.

The activist also popularly called Fadojoe,

added that, beside all these, came so many troubled waters that the party went through from suspension of key leadership executive, to the leadership cracking into three factions as at today.

He further stressed on issue of money mismanagement, corruption within the party, that according to him, are just to mention but a few.

"We are no doubt suppose to be a formidable and positive opposition to this govt that has come to sink our nation the more with never thought through policies that has crumbled our nation in every areas of the economy.

"Having said all this. It is also worthy of note that if we must be a party of choice for Nigerians then we must show leadership and show to the good people of Nigeria that the New Nigeria we talk about is possible and achievable through our party, then we must first and foremost come together and resolve all issues and cracks within the party for 'a house divided against itself can not stand'.

"We must drop the hatchet and bring both warring parties in our party to a round table and resolve all our internal issues before we can say to be an opposition. We can not operate the same style of political mess we see in the ruling party we claim

we are better than and yet doing worse, then we will become laughing stock to Nigerians, who want nothing more than just a nation where they can survive and live as citizens. Not a situation where they live like slaves in their own country," he said.

He thus noted that since many Nigerians all around the world supported Labour Party and its presidential candidate financially, by now, one would have expected the party and most importantly, the presidential candidate in person of Mr. Peter Obi to release report of the support the party got from many Nigerians both home and abroad.

"How much we received, spent, and what we have left; if any, to plan ahead for next election.

"Thirdly, it is imperative to sit down and look through the lenses of 2023 and see what we did wrong. Where we lacked strength and how to work on these lapses for future elections, because if we don't look and examine inwardly, how we got it wrong in 2023 election then we will repeat the same mistakes in future elections get same result.

"Our candidate cannot claim to be an alternative to corruption, but refused to come out clean to Nigerians and the party

of how much kindhearted Nigerians donated, both home and abroad to support the movement and the new Nigeria agenda for the world to trust and believe us next time. So I am calling on His Excellency Mr. Peter Obi to give account of money donated to his campaign from both home and abroad; for Nigerians to see through, then we can criticize the present government in power for corruption and flaws in administration.

"You cannot question the government in power for accountability when we lack such. We cannot talk of corruption about this government when we can not explain millions of dollars, pounds sterling, and other foreign currencies giving to our party in 2023. We can not chide this administration of APC of failed policies when we as a party failed in just governing our own party," he opined.

Concluding he stressed that, "the New Nigeria project must start now, we in Labour Party must not just see ourselves as just fortunate and a better or choiced alternative without starting to sell a new agenda to Nigerians now, not to wait till when election is few months away before we put our party together and position it for take over."

GO-CARES- Fadama Distributes Agricultural Inputs To 36,009 Farmers In Gombe

By: ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

Over thirty six thousand farmers in Gombe State have benefited in the 3rd phase of the implementation of GO-CARES Programme by the Fadama Unit of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, with improved agricultural inputs and assets.

The State Project Coordinator of Fadama, Dr Babayo Makka revealed this during the distribution of the items to the

benefiting farmers at the premises of the Gombe State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

The Coordinator appreciated Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya for prompt release of funds to delivery platforms and creating an enabling environment for the project to thrive, and described the Governor as very supportive.

"Out of the 36,300 beneficiaries, 31,000 farmers were supported with improved agricultural inputs of maize, agro-chemicals,

fertilizers and poultry production, including food assistance of rice and noodles to improve on their livelihood" he said

Similarly, 2,800 poor and vulnerable farmers, including women and youth were supported with agricultural assets of water pumps, grinding machines and small ruminants to improve their capacity for food production and small scale primary processing to mitigate food loss and waste.

According to him, four culverts

and eight earth dams were equally rehabilitated under the third phase of the programme, where 2,500 direct beneficiaries of the infrastructures were supported.

The beneficiaries who were full of excitement and appreciation over the gesture, promised to make judicious use of what they were given to recover from the impact of COVID-19 on their livelihoods'

The mandate of Fadama also known as Result Area 2 in the GO-CARES program aims to support Government

interventions that mitigate the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on food security of the poor and vulnerable households and facilitate the safe functioning of food supply chains.

It would be recalled that different sets of farmers across the state, including women and youth benefitted from the first and second phases of the program where they received agricultural inputs and assets.

More farmers are expected to benefit in subsequent phases.



As The Helmsman Leads From The Front In Revamping Kaduna Electric

By: ADEWALE OMOWALE

The task of reviving a patient in intensive care is by no means an easy one. It requires the the best brains at work who have the expertise and wherewithal to administer the best possible medical procedures.

The same also applies in the world of business. To pull a company out of the doldrums - a near state of bankruptcy - into sound health is not a task for the faint at heart. This arduous task is exactly what Yusuf Usman Yahaya boldly undertook a little over a year ago.

While it may not be said that he has succeeded in wholly resuscitating Kaduna Electric back to sound health, the signs are indeed visible that positive steps and initiatives have been put in place for long term growth. In the situation he found himself, the first critical step that needed to be taken was to halt the bleeding. Avenues where the company was suffering serious financial haemorrhage had to be stopped.

People & Organization

The Chief Executive saw the urgent need to also restructure operations to give a new direction of travel. The organisational restructuring helped to refocus the company into a commercially driven business with regional leadership and area office teams given more autonomy to drive the business. Tied to this is the reorientation of staff to understand the critical role they play in the grand scheme of things. It goes without saying that without a dedicated and committed work force all attempts at transformation would not yield the desired outcome.

He has ensured that staff entitlements such as salaries, pension remittances and other allowances are paid in due time, a situation which has earned him accolades from the two in-house labour unions. The staff performance appraisal system has been digitized and remodeled to give staff the confidence that they are being properly appraised by their respective line managers. He has also spent time in building new operational processes and rejigging and streamlining existing ones to enhance efficiency in service delivery company wide. Additional operational vehicles and work tools such as computers, furniture, ladders, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) were purchased to support staff deliver on their tasks. Motorcycles have also been distributed especially to those staff in remote locations to help reach customers with ease. A plan has been rolled out to begin the phased rehabilitation of offices and provision of internet services to boost staff productivity.

Engineering & Technical

The backbone of the success in improving power supply is without doubt, the effort that has gone into the rehabilitation of the large, expansive network. Having the longest spanning network in the country, the challenge of rehabilitation is enormous. However, with a strategic plan that targets substations feeding key customer groups and communities, the task is being successfully managed one injection and distribution substation at a time. Some of the completed projects within the past one year include: a complete replacement of



Engr. Yusuf Usman Yahaya

11KV seven board panels and control room rehabilitation at Dawaki Injection Substation. Replacement of two 33KV Outdoor breakers at Abakpa and Unguwan Boro Injection Substations. Fencing of four Distribution Substations to Kaduna Electric standard (Branded inclusive. habilitation of Kofar Doka Injection Substation and Replacement of 33KV/11KV panels at Zaria. Construction of three Commercial feeders to improve power supply to commercial and industrial customers in Doka, Gusau and Sokoto. Construction of a 33KV feeder dedicated to the Sultan of Sokoto palace at Marina in Sokoto. Installation of fourteen auto reclosers in Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, and Kaduna. Construction of a 33KV feeder to Mothercat Injection Substation in Mando, Kaduna. Replacement of Burnt blue phase of the 2.5MVA 33/11KV power transformer in Gwandu, Kebbi state. Repairs and replacement of over thirty failed Distribution transformers within Kaduna Electric's franchise. Installation of over 10 33KV isolators for network flexibility. Commercial

With the dust that trailed the implementation of the National Mass Metering Programme (NMMP) and the Meter Asset Provider (MAP) scheme, it became apparent that urgent steps needed to be taken to sanitize the exercises and restore customer confidence. Under his leadership, NMMP Phase Zero was successfully concluded, and renewed commitment extracted from MAP vendors for a better managed scheme following robust engagements with them. Now, customers who have paid for MAP meters are assured of getting metered within the stipulated time frame. Other laudable initiative successfully championed by the Kaduna Electric helmsman include: Maximum Demand 132KV/33KV meter recertification exercise. 11KV feeder meter recertification exercise. New meter installations for customers. Replacement of faulty meters for customers free of charge to boost collection. Improvement of earthing system of all interface meters. Replacement of all interface meters with AMI compliant meters for easy reading and monitoring. Conversion of feeder meters - 132 KV,

33KV, 11KV - to reflect AMI and AMR possibilities.

MD customers meters were also changed from ring Current Transformers (CTs) operated meters to block Current Transformer (CTs) operated type for accurate energy accountability and minimizing losses. Changing non-MD meter type to Power Line Carrier (PLC) type for effective monitoring and accurate accountability and equitable distribution system. Changing of problematic customers with panel meters to outdoor VT/CT arrangement with effective earthing system. Rayhan Rice Mill in Kebbi was connected on to a 2.5MVA transformer to guarantee stable power supply for their operations. The Zamfara state Government House, Yariman Bakura hospital and Zamfara Textiles Limited for 24 hours supply after construction of a dedicated 11KV feeder to service their supply needs. A 2.5MVA transformer serving Baba Rice Limited has been connected to UNTL feeder to ensure supply stability and shore up revenue. Improvement in power supply also saw African Natural Resources and Mines Limited, a subsidiary of Abuja Steel Company agreeing to come on to Kaduna Electric's network where it has been enjoying steady power supply.

In response to customer complaints about sharp practices by some staff, the bold decision to stop sales representatives from directly handing cash was taken. The result has seen customers take ownership of their payments through the many online payment channels available. In addition to Buypower and Irecharge, more third-party vendors including Coral Pay, Ruaban POS, Pay4Power. All cash offices have also been provided card enabled POS devices to ease transactions for customers Customer Service

Realising the significant role of the customer in the value chain, Yusuf has led from the front in directly engaging with customers across the franchise, with appearances on radio programmes to boot. The aim has been to enlighten and educate customers on the need for prompt payments, supporting the fight against vandalism and energy theft and a better understanding of the power ecosystem in the country. While his peers choose to leave this critical function to subordinates, Yusuf has chosen to lead by example. The strategic engagements has also seen him interface with other key stakeholders such as state governments, religious and socio-cultural groups, security agencies and youth groups.

From the snapshot of initiatives highlighted, it is evident that in spite of the challenges of customer apathy to payments, pressure from the electricity market and poor revenue inflows, the Kaduna Electric's chief executive is succeeding in repositioning the company onto a sustainable growth trajectory. If the momentum is sustained, surely the company will be soon outpace its peers.

Adewale is a public affairs commentator based in Sokoto.

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FULL PAGE	395,176.32	29,638.22	424,814.54	323,433.00	24,257.48	347,690.48
HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
1" x 1 Col	6,072.00	455.40	6,527.40	4,083.42	306.26	4,389.68

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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

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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

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2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

Special Position

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

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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

Ministry Of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation: One Crisis Too Many

By; MURTALA ADOGI MOHAMMED

Nigerians are hungry for results, the poverty level is rapidly increasing - the inflation rates based on fuel subsidy removal is one of the major drivers taking Nigerians into the poverty hole. The first step in taking Nigerians out of poverty is having strong leadership in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

But sadly, it seems there is a crisis in the Ministry. The persistent crisis within the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs underscores the urgency for a critical review of its leadership. It prompts a crucial question: should the position of Minister be occupied by a core politician or a technocrat with a proven record of strong leadership and results delivery.

An Analysis.

1. Leadership Stability. The recurrent crises suggest a lack of stable leadership within the Ministry. A core politician may bring political acumen, but a technocrat could offer stability and focused expertise in navigating complex humanitarian challenges in Nigeria. We need some quick wins intervention immediately to calm Nigerians' 'poverty nerves' down.

2. Results Delivery. The essence of the ministry is effective results delivery in humanitarian endeavors. A technocrat, with a history of tangible results in similar roles, might bring a pragmatic and results-oriented approach to address the pressing issues at hand. Especially as Nigerians are finding it difficult to adapt to the effect of the fuel subsidy removal.

3. Specialized Knowledge. Humanitarian affairs demand a nuanced understanding of complex issues. A technocrat with specialized knowledge in humanitarian efforts could



potentially bring a more targeted and informed perspective to the table. Ranging from needs assessment, stakeholder engagement, impact, and result tracking, and communicating results.

4. Public Perception. The public's perception of the ministry's effectiveness is crucial. A technocrat leading the ministry might enhance public trust through visible and impactful initiatives, demonstrating a commitment to addressing humanitarian needs.

5. Accountability and Transparency. A technocrat, with a background in governance and

administration, may bring a greater emphasis on accountability and transparency in the operations of the Ministry. This is crucial for effective resource utilization and public trust. Such as establishing a results delivery dashboard for Nigerians to see what is going on.

6. Adaptability to Changing Circumstances. Humanitarian challenges are dynamic, requiring adaptive responses. A technocrat might demonstrate agility in responding to evolving crises, utilizing data-driven approaches to inform decision-making. To ensure value for money the

ministry's data must speak.

7. Stakeholder Collaboration. Building effective partnerships with local and international stakeholders is paramount in humanitarian work. A leader with a technocratic background may excel in collaborations, leveraging expertise from diverse sources for comprehensive solutions. This will enhance the confidence and trust of both primary and secondary stakeholders - most importantly donor partners.

Recommendations
1. Considering the recurring challenges, it is advisable to prioritize competence and experience over political

affiliations in appointing the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs.

2. Nigerians are hungry for results. I said it again! Therefore, this recommendation aims to align the leadership with the specialized nature of humanitarian affairs, ensuring that the focus remains on delivering impactful solutions to those in need, ultimately mitigating the ongoing crisis within the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

Murtala Adogi Mohammed PhD is the Founder/Executive Director System Strategy and Policy Lab Abuja, Nigeria

YSFON Queens Emerge Maiden Halimatu Ayinde Women's Cup Champions

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The inaugural Halimatu Ayinde Women's Cup 2024 tagged, "She Wins" reached a crescendo, with Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), Queens were crowned champions after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Rising Queens in Kaduna yesterday. Forward, Peace Pius etched her name in history as the match-winning scorer in the enterprising final of the well-attended maiden edition at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna.

Elated Ysfon Queens captain and Nigeria international, Ramat Abdulkareem, heaped praises on the organisers, while urging the state government to support Ayinde's initiative in quest to encourage women in sports in

the state.

Earlier, the third place match at the same venue, saw Wisdom Queens emerge victorious with a 2-1 win over Kada Queens, securing their place on the podium.

Individual brilliance shone throughout the tournament, culminating in Wisdom Queens' Temitope Olwatosin receiving the coveted Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. Augustina Boniface of YSFON Queens demonstrated stellar goalkeeping skills, earning her the Best Goalkeeper accolade.

The top scorer gong was shared by Blessing Musa of Rising Queens and Peace Pius of Ysfon Queens, both tallying two goals each.

Honourable Commissioner of Sports Kaduna State, Professor Benjamin Kumai-Gugon,

showered praises on the visionary organizer, Halimatu Ayinde and pledged unwavering support from the ministry, emphasizing the pivotal role the women's competition plays in empowering the girl child in Kaduna and Northern Nigeria.

In corroboration of the Commissioner's stance, Shehu Idris Dibis, Special Adviser to the Kaduna State Governor on Sports, echoed these sentiments, praising the grassroots impact of the tournament, while promising state government's desire to complement Ayinde's good initiative in providing support for the growth of Kaduna women's football.

Also, National President of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Isaiah Benjamin, added his commendation, hailing the

intention and investment of the organizer, Ayinde in her efforts to encourage women's development at the grassroots in the state.

Days after sponsoring men's 16-team tournament, Benjamin recognised the Halimatu Ayinde Women's Cup as a beacon for promoting gender equality, inclusivity and fostering talent at the grassroots level.

In her heartfelt appreciation speech, Nigeria and Rosengard midfielder, Ayinde expressed incredible joy over the successful competition, promising to do more in unearthing female football talents in the state and Northern region.

She said, "I am thrilled to witness the culmination of the Halimatu Ayinde Women's Cup, and I am profoundly grateful for

the overwhelming support we received from the state government, participating teams, and our local football stakeholders. This success is a testament to the collective commitment towards empowering women in football. I am keen to take this initiative to the next level, especially involving young girls in primary and secondary schools."

In addition to the accolades, the victors, YSFON Queens, received a trophy, a set of branded jerseys, and a cash prize of 100 thousand Naira.

The runners-up, Rising Queens, departed with a set of branded jerseys and 50 thousand Naira, while the third-placed team, Wisdom Queens, secured a set of branded jerseys and a cash prize of 30 thousand Naira.



YSFON Queens Emerge Maiden Halimatu Ayinde Women's Cup Champions



Yobe State SWAN Elects New Leaders



By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Yobe State Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Executive Committee election has been concluded successfully with the following as elected

officials to run for the next three years.

Joel Duku of the Nation newspaper was elected Chairman.

Yusuf Bukar Biriri of Yobe State Radio emerged Vice chairman, while Mustapha Yusuf Musa of

NTA is the Secretary.

Penina Jeje Ali of Yobe Radio was elected Treasurer, Michael Oshomah of TVC NEWS emerged Financial Secretary, Mohammed Rabiun Biriri of State Television is the Welfare Officer and Idriss Yunusa Bingel of

State Radio was elected Assistant Secretary.

The election was supervised by the SWAN Vice President North East Zone, Comrade Ahmed Kagana Amshi.

Those who witnessed the election include the Permanent

Secretary Min. of Sports Mohammed M. Balumi, State Director of Sports Dr. AbdulRaham Ago, and other Directors in the Sports Council among other distinguished personalities that grace the election.



Rivers State Inaugural International Marathon Holds May 18

*Event to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage and class

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Preparations are in top gear as Rivers State Government hosts its inaugural edition of Rivers International Marathon (RIM) on May 18, 2024.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by Tolu Oguntimehin on behalf of RIM Media Team, made available to our correspondent yesterday.

"In collaboration with Arch Raphael Limited, the Rivers State Government is meticulously preparing for its first-ever Rivers International Marathon scheduled for May 18, 2024.

"This significant event holds particular importance as it coincides with the state's celebration of its 57th anniversary since its establishment on May 27, 1967, emerging from the former Eastern Region of Nigeria," it said.

According to the statement, the project consultant, Mr. Femi Abegunde, underscored the timeliness of the marathon, aligning with the one-year anniversary of Governor Siminalayi Fubara's leadership in the state. Governor Fubara's commitment to empowering the

youth and fostering a peaceful environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) resonates with the marathon's objectives, standing as a key pillar in showcasing Rivers State as a hub for social enterprise, entertainment, and commerce.

Abegunde emphasized, "The Rivers International Marathon not only acknowledges the pivotal role of sports in providing opportunities for the youth but also directly promotes the governor's vision of creating projects that catalyze SME growth. Sports, as a grassroots influencer, touches every facet of society." Addressing the economic potential of the initiative, Abegunde highlighted, "This marathon will create opportunities for widespread youth engagement, stimulate businesses, and offer prospects for individuals before, during, and after the race.

"The engagement spans various sectors, including traditional media, social media influencers, national and state-level athletics federation members, out-of-home providers, graphic artists, signage experts, food vendors, and marketers of



various goods and services. It also aims to enhance the state's internally generated revenue."

With anticipation running high, marathon enthusiasts from across Africa are expected to participate, as the registration portal opens on February 15, 2024, for

both local and international runners. The event promises to be a dynamic platform, engaging diverse stakeholders and contributing to the overall development and economic growth of Rivers State.

Edo Dep Gov Mourns Passing Of Coach Imasuen

*Describes World Cup winning coach as celebrated sportsman



By: A Y O OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt Hon Comrade Philip Shaibu, has mourned the passing of veteran footballer and seasoned coach, Sebastian Brodericks Imasuen.

The deceased was Nigeria's first World Cup winning coach, who led the Golden Eaglets to win the inaugural Kodak-FIFA U-17 Championship in 1985, hosted by China. Coach Sebastian Brodericks Imasuen died at the age of 85 years at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, after battling to stay alive

since 2022 when he was diagnosed of stroke.

In his condolence message, the sports-loving Deputy Governor stated:

"It is with rude shock that I received news of the passing of Sebastian Brodericks Imasuen."

"He was a celebrated sportsman and a seasoned coach, who took Nigeria football to the global stage when he won for our great country, the first-ever FIFA U-17 World Cup, hosted by China in 1985".

"It is on record that the historic feat achieved by this Edo-born football czar brought about a spectacular revolution in youth

football in Nigeria and across the continent of Africa".

"For me, his demise is certainly not in vain, having carved a niche for himself and left behind, indelible footprints in the sands of time as a world-class celebrity in the round leather game".

"I commiserate with the Nigerian football family, particularly the bereaved family members, friends and associates over the loss of an iconic football superstar".

"May his gentle soul rest peacefully in the bosom of the Almighty Creator", Shaibu added.

President Tinubu Congratulates Kano Governor On 61ST Birthday

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President Bola Tinubu has congratulated Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf of Kano State on his 61st birthday.

This was contained in a statement signed by his Special Adviser to the President (Media & Publicity), Chief Ajuri Ngelale made available yesterday.

It said that President Tinubu

recognizes the steadfastness implicit in the political trajectory of Governor Yusuf, rising through the political rung from personal assistant, commissioner to governor.

"The President wishes the Governor success in the discharge of his duties.

"The President also prays that the Almighty grant the Governor many more years in good health and strength," the statement said.



President Tinubu and Governor Yusuf

Katsina Police Arrests 1,627 Suspects In 2023

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Commissioner of Police, Aliyu Abubakar Musa has said that of the nine hundred and thirty-eight (938) reported major crime cases to the command in the year 2023, a total of one thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (1,627) suspects were arrested out of which eight hundred and fifty-five (855) cases have been charged to court and are being prosecuted in various competent Courts of Law throughout the state.

Briefing journalists on the accomplishments of the Command in the year 2023 in his Office at the Police headquarters in Katsina Metropolis, Abubakar Musa said throughout the course of the campaign over two

hundred and fifty-eight (258) suspected Armed Robbers, Sixty-four (64) suspected kidnapers and One hundred and seventy-six (176) murder suspects were arrested.

Also arrested were three hundred and sixty-nine (369) suspected rapists/sodomists while a total number of four hundred and ninety-five (495) suspects were arrested for various other offences.

The Katsina State Police Commissioner, hinted that, the command during the year 2023 succeeded in rescuing one hundred and seventy one (171) kidnapped victims, sixty-seven (67) human trafficking victims, neutralized seventeen (17) suspected kidnapers, and recovered the following exhibits, Twelve (12) AK 47 rifles, over one thousand five hundred

(1,500) live rounds of ammunition, over seven hundred (700+) suspected rustled animals, Twelve (12) suspected stolen motor vehicles and motorcycles, seventeen (17) suspected stolen phones, Other exhibits recovered he said includes:- Five hundred and sixty-eight (568) sachet of D5 tablets, Twenty three (23) packets of Exzole tablets, four hundred and eleven (411) packets of Rebozel tablets, and five (5) packs of Diezole tablet Quantum of dried leaves suspected to be indian hemp.

Aliyu Abubakar Musa acknowledged that, the period under review has been very "demanding for the Command, however, Glory to God Almighty against all odds, the Command has accomplished notable success in combating the threat

of banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, activities of social miscreants among other forms of crime and criminality in the state. He explained that, despite the modest achievements more works remains to be done and warn unrepentant criminals to either surrender or risk arrest.

He expressed his profound appreciation to Katsina state government under Governor Dikko Umaru Radda for his solid support towards the Command. The Katsina State Police Commissioner also appreciated the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun for his unwavering support to the Command logistically and otherwise without which this feat would not have been possible.

He however, acknowledged and appreciated working Journalists in the state for their enormous

cooperation and friendship with the command.

"You have genuinely and passionately exhibited friendship and collaboration towards consolidating the relative peace and security in the state through your fair and balanced reportage of the command activities. The fight against crime and criminality is so dynamic and demanding, but I urge you to continue to project the diligent and good work of the command and other security agencies to the general public," CP Aliyu Musa emphasized.

The Katsina State Police Commissioner thanked people of the state for their unflinching support, understanding, and cooperation to the Command and called for maximum support of all and sundry towards assisting of security agencies in the state as the Police cannot do it alone.