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Iby; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja & RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In response to the growing concerns regarding security along the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway, the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adegboye, Ph.D., NPM, has implemented robust measures to enhance safety and security in the region. A statement signed by the Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, made available yesterday, said that in recognizing the paramount



Late Adamu Fika, GCON



Amb. Arikana Chihombori-Quao



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## Kano Guber: APC Attempting To Blackmail Supreme Court, NNPP Raises Alarm

**\*Says ploy will fail**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) yesterday, raised alarm over the alleged attempt by the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kano State to blackmail the Supreme Court on the state governorship legal tussle. Raising the alarm in a statement signed by its acting National Chairman, Abba Kawu Ali, NNPP said that all the alleged attempts by the Kano State chapter of the APC to blackmail the Supreme Court will fail.

According to the statement, reports from Kano state showed that leaders of the APC in the state, "have been distributing souvenirs like clothes, t-shirts among others which according to them, is in anticipation of their "victory" at the apex court".

Maintaining that, "it is the standard norm all over the world that when a matter is before the judiciary, no party in the suit should do anything to influence the outcome by whatever means", NNPP reiterated its unflinching confidence in the ability of the Supreme Court to dispense justice.

The party emphasized that all the issues before the Supreme Court are matters that have at various times been decided in favour of the NNPP position, asking why the APC is heating up the polity.

"Without doubt, this action by the APC is tantamount to harassment and blackmail of the judiciary. And this act should be roundly condemned by all lovers of democracy and the rule of law", it said.

NNPP added, "It is the view of the NNPP that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the leader of the APC in Nigeria should call his party leaders in Kano State to order. As a matter of fact, the desperation of the APC leaders in Kano State has reached a crescendo and if not checked, could plunge the

state, Northern Nigeria and the entire country into a crisis of monumental proportion.

"It is very visible, even to the blind, that the APC was roundly defeated by the NNPP in Kano State in the last general elections and that the APC was only trying to get through the back door what it failed to get through the ballot box". The party maintained, "The facts are there for all to see. It is on record that NNPP trounced the APC in all the five elections conducted in Kano State in the 2023 general elections. So why are they so particular about the governorship seat?"

"We are using this medium to reiterate our unflinching confidence in the ability of the Supreme Court to dispense justice. All the issues before the Supreme Court are matters that have at various times been decided in favour of the NNPP position. So, why is the APC heating up the polity.

"From our findings, the justices in the Supreme Court are men and women of courage and impeccable character that have the fear of God in their hearts, and are focussed on dispensing justice and upholding the rule of law. Perhaps it has become pertinent to remind the APC in Kano that if the former party in Government had behaved the way APC in Kano is behaving, democracy would have long been dead and buried in Nigeria.

"We assure the vast majority of Kano people who are in love with the man to whom they feely gave their mandate, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Executive Governor of Kano State, that nothing will happen to the mandate they freely gave to him on March 18, 2023. Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf will continue to discharge the duties and responsibilities of his office to the best of his abilities and for the maximum benefit to the good people of Kano State".

## ABU Benefits From Over \$15m From McArthur Foundation

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria has benefitted with \$15.538.896 million support from McArthur Foundation to enhance learning and research for national development. The Africa Regional Director of the foundation, Dr Kole Shettima disclosed this at the ABU's Diamond Jubilee Public Lecture titled, 'the Challenges of Quality High Education in Africa' on Wednesday held in Zaria.

Shettima said the foundation was very excited about its interventions at the university which includes the installation of fibre optics and linking of the ABU Teaching Hospital, Shika to Samaru and

Kongo campuses of the university.

Adding that the foundation also supported 67 Ph.d and 87 masters students among other interventions.

Shettima appealed to the government and other key stakeholders to increase funding and transparency for high education sector in Nigeria.

According to him, the transparency and accountability component was to ensure efficiency in service delivery in the sector and stem the 'japa syndrome'.

He therefore, advised the Alumni of the university to support their alma-mata towards augmenting government efforts to further salvage the institution from its numerous challenges.

In his remarks, Vice

Chancellor of ABU Professor Kabiru Bala acknowledged the long relationship between the foundation and the ABU stressing that beside TETFund no individual, local or international organization has supported ABU like McArthur foundation.

He said the university community remained indebted to the Director of the foundation for the support in ICT infrastructure, digitization and automation of libraries and establishment of the some centres.

Bala said the centers include the center for development communication; rural finance; veterinary public health and reproductive health among others.

He noted that ABU was established in 1962 and the

diamond jubilee celebration ought to have been celebrated in Oct./Nov. 2022 but ASUU strike could not allow the celebration to hold until now.

The Chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Munnir Ja'afaru urged the government to prioritize funding of tertiary education in Nigeria adding that education was bedrock of nation development.

He said, it was a collective responsibilities to ensure these tertiary institutions have the necessary resources to flourish.'

Ja'afaru urged the alumni of ABU to rally together and come to aid the institution adding that ABU has become a national asset that most protected from potential collapse.

## New Year Celebration: Sen Abbo Gifts 35 Motorcycles To Adamawa Constituents

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Adamawa Senator from Northern Senatorial district, Mr Ishaku Abbo in the spirit of New Year has given thirty-five motorcycles to his constituents as a January take away gift.

Abbo in the spirit of New Year celebration, said the gesture is to cushion the effects of transportation hardship caused as a result of fuel subsidy removal.

He gave the thirty-five motorcycles to the beneficiaries instead of the five hundred thousand Naira initially planned to improve their standard of living.

The ceremony which took place in Muchalla, Mubi North Local Government Area of the state, was a beehive occasion as commended by the constituents.



Hosea Naphtali, a renowned Facebook influencer took to his wall and stressed that God will never leave Abbo astray and prayed that He will allow him to enjoy the fruits of his labour in good health and long life.

He said Abbo made them proud while serving as a senator of the zone, adding that his absence as

a ranking Senator is glaringly noticed, but he maintains his act of kindness to all people.

Mary Emmanuel on her Facebook wall also, while congratulating the thirty-five beneficiaries, said Abbo is a politician that has good intentions for the people of Adamawa State.

According to her, the Senator has made a good name in living,

defending, and advocating the cause of the common man.

She described the court case that led to his removal as a gang up by his political detractors and enemies.

She described the gesture of the thirty-five motorcycles distribution as a way of his strong love for the people, who always maintains good leadership.

## ABU To Confer Honorary Degrees On Justice Lawal Uwais, Late Adamu Fika, Ambassador Chihombori-Quao

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria has approved the award for Honorary Degrees to three deserving personalities at its 43rd Convocation Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, 27th January, 2024 as approved by His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria and Visitor to the University.

The deserving honorees are the former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Honourable Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, GCON; the late Wazirin Fika, Malam Adamu Mu'azzam Fika, GCON; and the former African Union Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao.

Justice Uwais will be conferred with the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) Honoris Causa, the late Adamu Fika is recommended for post-

humorous conferment with the degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) Honoris Causa, and Ambassador Chihombori-Quao is to receive the degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) Honoris Causa.

A statement signed by the Director, Public Affairs Directorate, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Auwalu Umar, made available yesterday, said ABU's decision to confer the eminent personalities with the Honorary Degrees is in accordance with Statute 11 of the institution's Laws.

Justice Lawal Uwais, who had an excellent career in the Nigerian judiciary and international judicial organisations from 1964 to 2006, rose through the ranks by dint of hard work and dedication to duty to become the Chief Justice of Nigeria in 1995.

Uwais' career is replete with record-breaking attainments that impacted positively on the Nigerian and international judiciary.

For instance, he had the opportunity of delivering more judgements than most of his colleagues who passed through the Supreme Court.

Fika, who was Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Ahmadu Bello University Governing Council, served as Commissioner of Finance in the defunct North Eastern State in 1972; Permanent Secretary in various Federal Ministries and establishments; Secretary to the Government and Civil Service of the Federation; and Chairman of several government and private agencies and organisations.

The services he rendered in these capacities went a long way in enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the public service and educational development.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, former African Union Representative to the

United Nations, is an exemplary leader and advocate for African unity, social justice, and economic empowerment, and global issues. Born and grew up in a village of Chivhu in Zimbabwe, and later emigrated to the United States in 1977, Chihombori-Quao tirelessly works towards strengthening the relationship between Africa and the United States.

Her dedication to fostering partnerships, promoting investment, and advocating for the interest of the African Continent has been exceptional. She has consistently advocated for African unity and the empowerment of African nations on the global stage.

All the three deserving honorees have since accepted the decision of the institution to be conferred with the Honorary Degrees of the University during the upcoming Convocation Ceremony.

## Both Sides Resort To Prayers In Kano Ahead Supreme Court Judgment

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Kano State remains one of the states awaiting the final judgement in a gubernatorial case where the two strong parties are struggling to climb the ladder of power after the March 18 governorship election in 2023.

As the Supreme Court fixed today for the final verdict, all the All Progressives Congress (APC) and New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) supporters were seen in groups intensifying prayers for the success of their sides and based on our reporter's observation across the city centre and some local government areas, there was normalcy at both rural and urban settlements.

In the metropolitan area, business activities were ongoing hitch-free at Sabon Gari, Kantin Kwari, Singer and Kofar Wambai Markets without any obstacles, while transportation from one location to the other was

also normal.

Similarly, the activities at some rural areas were also normal and lucrative, despite the forthcoming Supreme Court verdict, with most of the people that had an interactive session with our correspondent, optimistic that Kano will remain peaceful even after the verdict.

Malam Musa Gwammaja from Dala Local Government Area, said that, "Kano is special in politics and commerce, therefore, even after the court judgement, we would remain peaceful because no politician is allowed to take the advantage of the court issue to create violence in our state for his own interest".

As at the time of filing this report, there was no presence of additional security personnel, which is a clear indication that Kano State residents would continue to be law abiding citizens, despite the heated political misunderstanding.

## Church Leases Public School's Open Land As Burial Ground In Ibadan, Oyo Govt Raises Alarm

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government has raised alarm over the purported leasing of land belonging to a public school in Ibadan as burial ground by a church.

The Executive Chairman, Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, Dr. Nureni Adeniran raised the alarm during a monitoring exercise to schools in the state.

Dr Adeniran tasked the leadership of a church that shares boundary with St. Paul's Primary School, Odo Ona, Ibadan to consider the future of pupils, and stop leasing the school's open land as burial sites.

Visiting the school in Odo-ona, area of Ibadan, the chairman said beyond the space left for the school, the presence of the cemetery in a school premises is an issue the board cannot live with.

"It was gathered that the church that shares land space with the

school just started encroaching on the school space, leasing the available land as a burial ground", he said.

Dr Adeniran added, "Hence, it is unfair that the siting of the school and its pupils did not matter to the church, making the school and the burial site share a very close boundary.

"In one of the classrooms, a look through the window by the pupils would mean a look into the world of the dead because of the close proximity. For a school that has a functional cemetery as its neighbour, that means witnessing burial rites has become a part of the learning process for the pupils".

The Oyo SUBEB chairman therefore, instructed the Education Secretary, Ibadan South-West, Mrs. Morenike Adeniran and other Local Government Universal Basic Education Authority staff members to meet with the Vicar of the church on the matter.



# Insecurity: IGP Strengthens Security Deployments Along Abuja-Kaduna Expressway

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importance of securing this critical transportation artery, the IGP has intensified deployments of Police Officers and security paraphernalia, leveraging advanced technology and strategic resources to bolster the overall security infrastructure along the route.

The IGP, while directing the DIG Operations, DIG Ede Ayuba Ekpeji, on strict supervision of the personnel detailed for Operations along the route, reiterated that the proactive step aims to reassure citizens and travellers of their safety, as the increased presence of security forces in the region will act as a deterrent to criminal activities.

The Inspector-General of Police while emphasizing the collaboration between various security agencies and concerned communities in the region, urges the public to remain vigilant, report any suspicious activities, and cooperate with security personnel as the collective effort is crucial in maintaining the security and well-being of all residents and travelers.

He assured the public that these strengthened security measures are part of an ongoing commitment to ensuring a secure and peaceful environment.

**\*NSCDC Parades 8 Suspects for abduction of minor for one year, child labour and mining in Akwa Ibom State.**

Meanwhile, the Akwa Ibom State Command of NSCDC has apprehended eight suspects for different offences ranging from abduction of minor, child labour and illegal mining in different operations in the state.

This was contained in a statement signed by the National PRO NSCDC, NHQ Abuja, CSC Babawale Afolabi, made available yesterday.

Acting on credible intelligence, Comdt Eluwade Eluyemi deployed the Command tactical squad to a residence in Ndom Ebom in Uruan LGA to raid the apartment where a 14 year old Master Wisdom Aniekpeno Efiok was abducted to live and work for one year.

While briefing newsmen at the State Command headquarters in Uyo, Comdt Eluwade Stated that "we received a credible intelligence about a 14 year old boy, \*Wisdom Aniekpeno Ifiok\* who had been declared missing since January, 2023. On Monday, 4th of January, 2024, my personnel raided the apartment where he was seen in Ndon Ebom village in Uruan LGA and arrested 7 suspects. The minor was taken for one (1) year without the consent of his parents and was used to carry out fishing activities in riverine areas up to the high sea into Cameroon. The key suspect who was the master to the minor, Mr. Otobong Aneitie Udoekong is currently undergoing investigation for criminal conspiracy, abduction of a minor for 1 year and subjecting the victim to child labour. Other suspects are being profiled to ascertain their level of involvement.

In another operation on the 5th of January, 2024, personnel of the Command arrested one suspect and impounded two (2) tipper trucks and a Peugeot car at a Borrow pit site in Ikot Anyang Offot Village, Ekpri Nsukara in Uyo, Local Government Area for engaging in illegal mining activity. The suspect, \*Mr. Peter Ime Okon\* was arrested for carrying out mining activity without a mining license.

Commandant Eluwade has warned that mining without license is illegal. "Illegal Miners do not take the environment into consideration and their activities endanger lives and robs Government of revenue". He affirmed that the Corps will not rest on its oars in combating illegal mining in Akwa Ibom State.

He called on Akwa Ibomites and residents to shun all forms of crimes or the long arm of the law will catch up with them when caught.

The suspects involved in the abduction and child labour will be handed over to relevant agency on conclusion of profiling and investigation,

while the illegal miner will be charged to Courts.

**\*Lagos Police Apprehends 7 Cultists Kingpin**

In another successful Operation by security forces, no fewer than seven notorious cultists kingpin are now in the police net in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Our correspondent gathered that the suspects were arrested in Ikorodu area of the state in two different operations.

As gathered, the deadly cultists are part of the criminals terrorising innocent residents and causing disturbance of public peace in the area.

Confirming the arrest, the Commissioner of Police Lagos State Command, CP Adegoke Fayode hinted that the suspects were apprehended about five days ago.

Fayode, who spoke during a parley with members of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) at the State Command Headquarters yesterday, said three out of the suspects were arrested on Tuesday, while four were arrested on Thursday at different parts of Ikorodu in Lagos.

The Commissioner of Police said that cultism, traffic robbery and kidnapping were some major crimes he was going to tackle headlong.

Fayode, who solicited the support of CRAN members, stressed that the media personnel were part of his eyes and ears in



**IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun,**

getting feedback and other information.

He said he was also partnering the judiciary with a view to ensure arrested criminals were kept away for a long time.

The police boss said he will be transparent in his operations, stressing that no officer will be cover-up for any wrong doing.

Fayode said he will ensure that his officers and men carry out their duties professionally, requesting members of the public to give him information on any unprofessional conduct.

He called on all Divisional Police Officers to ensure they make their stations conducive for all to make report/complaint when necessary.

On commercial motorcyclists, he said there will be strict enforcement than before, stressing that some of them were part of the security challenges in the State.

The police boss warned his men and officers against land issues, saying it is a civil matter.

He however, warned that those who may want to cause trouble through land matter will be dealt with.

Speaking at the occasion, the President of CRAN, Mr Olalekan Olabulor, assured the CP of the association's support, as long as information will always be available for members to work with.

# Zulum Assents To 2024 Appropriation Bill Of N358.7bn Into Law

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

**B**orno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has assented to the 2024 appropriation bill of N358,732,146,000.00 passed by Borno State House of Assembly with an adjustment amounting to N18.1bn.

With the increase in the budget size, the revised capital expenditure now stands at over N208.4bn while the revised recurrent expenditure is N150.4bn.

The revised appropriation bill was presented by the speaker of Borno State House of Assembly, Abdulkarim Lawan, to the governor at the council chamber of the Government House in Maiduguri on Wednesday.

Speaking at the event, Zulum charged heads of agencies and members of the state executive council to comply strictly with the provisions of the appropriation bill while presenting their memos for approval.

The governor also commended the leadership and members of Borno State House of Assembly for approving the budget on time.

"We have to commend the leadership of the House of Assembly, we also have to commend the maturity of the house," Zulum said.

Zulum also expressed his optimism regarding the potential impact of the appropriation bill, emphasizing that with capital expenditure standing at N208.7bn, it is designed to provide dividends of democracy to the people of Borno State.

Earlier, the speaker of Borno State House of Assembly commended the governor for the quality projects he has executed across the state in the last five years.

The Speaker noted that the upward review of the appropriation bill was to capture some areas of critical significance to the lives of the people.

The Speaker was accompanied by his deputy, Engr Abdullahi Askira, and other principal officers of Borno State House of Assembly.



# Zazzau Education, Trade Summit To Hold In May

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Zazzau National Education Trade and Investment Summit (ZANETIS), would be holding from May 3 to 12, 2024.

This came to the fore, after a meeting of officials of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment with organisers of ZANETIS on Wednesday January 10, 2024.

It was reliably gathered that the meeting was convened at the instance of the ministry for possible collaborations for the successful hosting of the summit.

Those who attended the meeting, included, the Managing Director/CEO ZAZCCIMA Investment Ltd, V the organizers of the Summit Mal. Yahaya

Garba (Garkuwan Madakin Zazzau) and other Members of the Steering Committee which include, Professor Abdu Jafaru Bambale, Hon. Sani Ibrahim Tanko (Wakilin Watsa Labaran Zazzau), Engr Nasiru Ibrahim and Mal. Jafaru Aminu.

Other members representing Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment at the meeting were, Mr I. Timothy sitting on behalf of Director Trade, Malam Ahmad Mahmood Zungeru, Schedule Officer Trade and Investment and Malam Hamza Ibrahim.

The scheduled date for the event is to from Friday 3 to May 12, 2024 at Zaria Polo Field/ABU Hotel/ NITT Conference Hall.



Managing Director/CEO ZAZCCIMA INVESTMENT Ltd the organizers of the Summit Mal. Yahaya Garba (Garkuwan Madakin Zazzau) and other Members of the Steering Committee which includes Professor Abdu Jafaru Bambale, Hon. Sani Ibrahim Tanko (Wakilin Watsa Labaran Zazzau), Engr Nasiru Ibrahim and Mal. Jafaru Aminu other Members representing Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment are Mr I. Timothy sitting on behalf of Director Trade, Malam Ahmad Mahmood Zungeru, Schedule Officer Trade and Investment and Malam Hamza Ibrahim.

# UPPP Expresses Satisfaction With Appointments Of Habibat Oyiza Tijani, Yakubu Isiyaka, Says Well-deserved

*\*Charges Gov Elect to carry every one along \*Says Gov Bello acted rightly*

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The Chairman of United Progressive People Party (UPPP), Mallam Bala Abdulghafar Dirisu has congratulated Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State for making swift and what he called profound appointments in the state.

It would be recalled that earlier in the week, Governor Bello announced the appointments of the following persons, Hon. Habibat Oyiza Tijani as Accountant General, Kogi State, Hon. Yakubu Isiyaka Adabanenge, Auditor General For Local Government and three others.

Similarly, twenty one chairmen were appointed as caretakers for the 21 local government areas of the state.

In a statement signed by Mallam Bala Abdulghafar Dirisu on January 10, 2024, the UPPP Chairman while commending the governor, also congratulated Hon. Habibat Oyiza Tijani, Yakubu Isiyaka Adabanenge for their appointments.

According to him, "In view of the track records of the two illustrious sons of Kogi, the appointments by Governor Bello is simply a round peg in a round hole.

"It is with this, that the UPPP wishes to congratulate Hajia Habitat and Hon Adabanenge while urging them to give it their best shots in the course of discharging their duties.

"The UPPP also is ready to partner with the appointees as they assume office in order to move the state forward," the

statement said.

In the same vein, Mallam Bala Dirisu congratulated the twenty local

government caretaker chairmen, acknowledging that their appointments are truly well deserved.

"On behalf of the UPPP, I wish to extend my congratulations to the twenty one caretaker chairmen, your appointments are well deserved and we of the UPPP urge you to do your best for the state so that we can have a better Kogi for all," the statement said.

The UPPP Chairman also encouraged the Kogi State Governor-Elect, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo to brace up for the challenges ahead of him as he assumes office few weeks from now.

Dirisu as chairman of the United Progressive Political Parties for Ododo, who played a crucial role in ensuring that the All Progressives Congress Gubernatorial candidate emerged victorious during the Kogi polls in November 2023, appealed to Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo to carry along members of the UPPP as contained in their pact.

"I will like to charge Governor-elect, Musa Ododo not to forget the UPPP as we all get ready for a new face in the Lugard House. We had promised to stand by him, that promise, we kept.

"We are going to hold him by his own promise of carrying UPPP along. We are also congratulating him in advance as he assumes office few weeks from now."



Gov Bello

# Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Kwara Gov Donates, Seeks Support For Families Of Fallen Heroes

By: BILIQIS ONAOLAPO  
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

**K**wara State Governor, AbdulRazaq has called on Nigerians to join hands with the government in promoting the welfare of ex-servicemen and families of fallen heroes and heroines to encourage current members of the Armed Forces to serve bravely.

"We have a duty to show our appreciation by contributing generously for the upkeep of their families. This is one of the many ways their loved ones can feel that these heroes did not die in vain," the Governor said at the launching of 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day and Emblem Appeal held in Ilorin.

"Our appreciation will also encourage current members of the Armed Forces to serve bravely, knowing that they would not be forgotten even in death.

"This is a special fundraiser to cater for the families and dependants of our ex-servicemen, who fought gallantly during the World Wars and the Nigeria Civil War. The fund will also cater for families of soldiers who lost their lives during peacekeeping operations in different part of the country as well as the victims of the Hercules C130 plane crash of 26th September 1992. This fund will also provide assistance to those incapacitated as a result of these wars and incidents."

AbdulRazaq encouraged Nigerians to always remember that the gallant heroes and heroines made the supreme sacrifice for peace and harmony in the country.

"The administration



*L-R: Alhaji AbdulRazaq Jiddah; State Commandant Nigerian Legion Corps of Commissionaires Corps Commander (Amb) Dr. Omolale Olusegun; Commissioner of Police CP Victor Olaiya; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Social Development Ayanwale Kayode Peter; State Legion Chairman Brig. Gen Abdulkadir Ani-igiobi; Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Commissioner of Social Development Hon. Afolashade Opeyemi Oluwakemi; Brig. General N.M Nworah; Brig. General M.K Gulack; Commissioner for Tertiary Education Dr. Mary Arinde; and Commissioner for Communication Hon. Bola Olukoju; during the launching of the Armed Forces Remembrance and Emblem Appeal Fund, in Ilorin, on Tuesday.*

acknowledges the invaluable contributions of the ex-servicemen and women to the protection of the territorial integrity of our country and maintenance of peace, unity and progress of our great nation in particular and the world in general. We therefore salute your courage, patriotism, and selfless sacrifices," he added.

"Permit me to seize this opportunity to specially commend the effort of the legion members. The fact that you make it a point of duty to mobilise funds annually in support of your incapacitated colleagues, their families as well as for those of

your dead colleagues is quite commendable. We will always support you in your concern for the fallen and incapacitated heroes and heroines."

The Governor made a donation to the legion and urged other members of the public to do the same.

Commissioner for Social Development Mrs Opeyemi Folashade, for her part, emphasised that the week is a recognition of the laudable services of these gallant officers, noting that the labour of the nation's heroes should not be in vain.

"Some of them died while in active service and on the warfront while many others are physically incapacitated. It is for this reason that the legion of ex-servicemen is seeking support for officers of the Nigerian Armed Forces who are disabled as a result of these wars and to also cater for the family of the dead ones among them. It is my sincere hope that the labour of our heroes past shall not be in vain," she explained.

State Chairman Nigerian Legion Brigadier General Abdulkadir Anigiobi appealed to the government and well-meaning individuals to support the

families of the fallen heroes in the state and those incapacitated during the wars.

"Armed Forces Emblem Appeal Fund week is an annual event with the sole aim of raising fund for the care of the families and dependants of our fallen heroes who fought gallantly during the last civil war, the world wars, including our gallant officers and soldiers who lost their lives through insurgency in the North East, communal clashes and terrorist attacks. The fund will also provide assistance to those incapacitated as a result of those unfortunate wars incident," he said.

## Identify Perpetrators, Sponsors Of Killings In Nigeria, Catholic Archbishop Tasks Tinubu

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

**T**he Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Most Rev. Alfred Martins, has appealed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led government to identify the perpetrators and sponsors of the recent killings in Plateau State and other parts of the country in order to bring them to book.

According to him, President Bola Tinubu's action against the evildoers, would prove that they are not being shielded and show that the battle against insecurity is not lost.

In a statement signed by the church's Director of Communications, Rev. Fr. Anthony Godonu, on Tuesday, Martins noted that the failure of the security agencies to bring culprits to book and their inability to secure their lives further may leave the people to resort to bearing arms to protect their lives and property.

On Christmas eve through December 26, there was outrage attacks on communities in

three local government areas of Plateau State leading to the loss of lives and properties worth millions of Naira.

The Catholic Bishop, while reacting said, "The heart of everyone with human feelings must bleed as we watched the corpses of innocent citizens lined up and buried in mass graves after being hacked down by heartless people who have been operating with impunity in many communities."

He noted that the killings have continued because there have not been any repercussions on those who carry them out, saying that all they see after each round of killing are government officials condemning the killing and promising that the perpetrators would be brought to book.

According to him, the cliché is beginning to sound like a broken record, and people take such promises with a pinch of salt because no one has actually heard of anyone being taken to court or convicted for such heinous crimes,

stressing that it cannot be allowed to go on.

He said that the people who are victims of the crimes want to see real action taken to bring justice to their dear ones, pointing out that people's anger can be assuaged only if those found culpable are brought to book.

He said that they want to know who the perpetrators are and all those who sent them on the inglorious missions, believing that until these are done, the general impression would be that the culprits are being shielded by powerful forces in and out of government circles.

The Archbishop countered the claim that the killings were targeted at Christians, saying that if the killings had happened in areas that are predominantly Christian in population and there are no efforts made to arrest the situation, as is the case today, people would feel entirely justified to come to such a conclusion.

So government and security agencies,

according to him have the duty of proving them wrong by ensuring that no stone is left unturned in bringing the perpetrators to book and restoring the confidence of people that they would be protected wherever they chose to live and whatever religion they choose to practice.

He believes that there is no true religion that supports or preaches such atrocious shedding of innocent blood even if some of their adherents abuse their religion in that way, saying that the onus, therefore, also lies on true believers and their leaders to denounce such killings and take proactive steps to bring such mindless killings to an end.

Martins advised the government to find a long lasting solution to the problem and urged religious groups and leaders to do all necessary to help bring the atrocities to an end as the consequences of religious discord are very grave.

# CORN To Tinubu: Overhaul Nigeria's Social Protection Architecture

*\*Ask Tinubu to go beyond suspension of Betta Edu*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Director Conflict Research Network West Africa (CORN) Dr. Tarila Marclint Ebiede has advocated overhauling of Social Intervention programmes Architecture in Nigeria.

The CORN Director made the call in a statement signed by him in Ibadan made available to journalists on Wednesday. According to him, there is the need for President Tinubu to go beyond the suspension of the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. He stressed that the research Network had warned the president to be more vigilant on his social protection programmes, which it said was at the risk of being hijacked by politicians.

Dr Ebiede noted that President Tinubu needs "to revisit the 2017 National

Social Protection Policy (NSPP), including subsequent revisions in 2021, anchored in the Ministry of National Planning with the objective of ensuring policy coordination and coherence between the different federal government agencies involved in delivering the social protection objectives of the federal government".

"The allegations against the suspended Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation validate the findings and arguments made by researchers at CORN's Conference on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict affected Societies in Nigeria", he said.

The CORN Director added, "The need for effective, efficient, and transparent management of resources allocated to the Ministry to achieve its mandate can not be

overemphasized'.

'CORN wish to remind the President, international development partners and the Nigerian civil society that one of the key findings from research presented at its November 2023 Conference on Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict Affected Societies in Nigeria was the political capture and lack of transparency in the implementation of Nigeria's social protection programmes, including the national conditional cash transfer, palliatives and other financial support provided by the government".

Dr Ebiede maintained that President Tinubu should set up a framework within the federal government to ensure that all Federal Government Ministries, agencies and parastatals with a social protection mandate are working in a coherent and coordinated manner towards a shared

objective of "promoting social justice, equity and inclusive productive growth" and "addressing poverty, unemployment, social and economic vulnerabilities, inequality, exclusion and other threats to sustainable development".

He stressed that the ongoing in administration of social protection had been flagged by researchers within the network in its 2023 Conference held in Abuja where researchers at the conference "called on President Tinubu to quickly put in place mechanisms to ensure that the social protection policies of his government are not hijacked by political actors."

According to Dr Ebiede, the failure of the ministry to achieve its mandate will undermine peace building and worsen insecurity in the country as the number of vulnerable persons is increasing'.

# Gombe Governor Appoints Special Advisers, DG, SSAs

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has approved some key

appointments to enhance State's administration and advance its development objectives.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi

who conveyed the Governor's approval, said the new appointments cover a spectrum of crucial roles, including security, social welfare programme, gender mainstreaming, educational opportunities, administrative functions, and technology-driven entrepreneurship.

The new appointees are: AIG Zubairu Mu'azu (Rtd), Special Adviser on Security Matters; Aishatu Adamu, Special Adviser/State Coordinator, Social

Investment Programme; Finney David, Special Adviser on Women Affairs/ Nigeria for Women Project and Amina Dahiru Usman Bauchi, Special Adviser on Almajiri & Tsangaya Education.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Wednesday January 10, 2024 said that also appointed are, ACP Ibrahim Bappa (Rtd) as Director-General & Commandant, GOSTEC; Ibrahim Saidu Umar, Senior Special Assistant (I) on Protocol Matters and Yakubu Sarma, Senior Special Assistant (I) on General Duties.

All the appointments are with immediate effect.



Gov Inuwa

# Son, Accomplice Arrested For Removing Father's Fresh Head From Grave

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Two suspects including a middle aged man are now in the net of the Western Nigeria Security Network Amotekun in Oyo State for allegedly cutting and removing a fresh human head from a graveyard in Saki.

The two suspects according to sources, included the son of the dead man whose head was cut and removed from the graveyard by the suspects on Tuesday night around 7pm.

According to one of the suspects, the middle aged man who said he is a son to the deceased, reportedly stormed graveyard few

hours after his father was buried on Monday evening to dig the grave and remove his head.

He claimed that the other suspect identified as Alfa allegedly sent him on the mission to cut and remove his late father's fresh head.

It was learnt that the middle aged man resides at Oba Abimbola layout, off Ogboro road, Saki was apprehended by Amotekun operatives with the possession of two human heads.

Oyo State Commandant of Amotekun, Col. Olayinka Olayanju (rtd) when contacted confirmed the arrest of the two suspects, saying, "It is true. Yes it is true".

# Wailare Extends Condolences To Makoda Family

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

An elder statesman, Alhaji Bukar Makoda would continue to be remembered for his great contributions to the development of Nigeria's economy and national unity.

This was contained in a condolence message issued to newsmen in Kano on Wednesday by the founder of Tamallan Foundation, Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare, where he described alhaji Bukar Makoda as one of the pillars of development not only in Kano but in the country at large.

"We lost a father who always gives us counselling whenever we meet him, and we have learnt so much lessons

from him especially on national unity, democracy and being brothers keepers. On behalf of the directors, staff and workers of Tamallan Foundation, I condole the Honourable Commissioner for Water Resources, Dr. Ali Haruna Makoda and the entire people of Makoda Local Government Area over this great loss," he said.

Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare, who is a prominent politician and has contributed towards the development of democracy said he would continue to be at the forefront in terms of national growth through the provision of employment opportunities across Dambatta and Makoda Federal Constituency.



Makoda



# Delta Presents C Of O of 3,747 Hectares Of Land To Navy

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Government on Tuesday, presented Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) for 3,747 hectares of land to the Nigerian Navy for its Forward Operation Base in Escravos, Warri South West Local Government Area of the state.

The State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori made the presentation to the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla and his delegation at Government House, Asaba.

Speaking during the courtesy visit, Governor Oborevwori commended the Nigerian Navy and other security agencies for their support and cooperation to the government and people of the state.

He noted that the state has been experiencing peace especially in the waterways because of the efforts of the security agencies, assuring that his administration would continue to partner with them for the development of the state.

Oborevwori said, "The Navy is very key to us in Delta state, especially in our water ways. Since I came in about seven months ago, it has been wonderful in terms of water ways security. We have a very good Naval team in Delta State.

"A lot has been going on and we are very happy with the operations of the Navy here in Delta State, unlike other states. You have improved a lot but we still ask for more because security can never be hundred per cent.

"The state government will continue to do her best as we hope that the Navy will continue to do its best. I know that this visit is a good one for all of us.

"One good news you will take home today is that I am handing to you now the Certificate of Occupancy to a 3,747 hectares of land already secured for the Nigerian Navy.

"Like I said, we will continue to partner together with the Nigerian Navy in order to continue to improve our security.

"I have assured my people in my MORE Agenda that we are going to enhance peace and security and that is exactly what we are doing and we are happy that there is peace in Delta State".

Earlier, Vice Admiral Ogalla thanked Governor Oborevwori, the government and people of Delta State for their support to the Navy, assuring that it would continue to ensure security of the nation's oil assets for optimum production.

He said the Navy was saddled with the defence of the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty particularly in the maritime domain for the economic well being of the country.

Ogalla said the Navy requires the continued support and collaboration of coastal states with Delta being a major coastal state.

He said there has been gradual increase in oil production in the country and commended the Governor for the construction of a jetty at the Naval Base in Warri.





# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Kaura's Bumpy Road Woes: Need For Urgent Repairs

By: PRINCESS JULIET REUBEN

**K**aura, a town in the heart of Kaduna State, is grappling with a pressing issue that affects the daily lives of its residents: deteriorating roads.

This once smooth pathways have now transformed into a maze of potholes, cracks, and uneven surfaces, causing a bumpy and frustrating ride for commuters.

The sorry state of the roads has become a major concern for the community. Not only does it result in longer travel times, but it also poses a threat to the safety of motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

The constant swerving and maneuvering to avoid potholes has led to accidents and damage to vehicles, putting an additional financial burden on the already struggling residents.

The impact of these bad roads extends beyond inconvenience and safety hazards.

It has hindered economic growth and development in the area.

Local businesses face challenges in transporting goods, leading to increased costs and reduced profitability.

Moreover, the lack of proper infrastructure discourages potential investors from setting up shop in Kaura, hindering job creation and overall progress.

Despite these challenges, the resilient residents of Kaura have not lost hope.

Community members have been actively voicing their concerns and engaging with local authorities to find a solution.

They have organized town hall meetings, written petitions, and even taken to social media to raise awareness about the urgent need for road repairs.

In response, the government has acknowledged the issue and has promised to allocate funds for road rehabilitation projects.

However, progress has been slow, leaving residents frustrated and impatient.

PRINCESS JULIET REUBEN is a student of Veritas University Abuja



# BOGIS Commences Crack Down On Land Defaulters In Maiduguri

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Following recent notice issued in advance by the Borno Geographic Information Service (BOGIS) to revoke titles of defaulters under the BOGIS Pilot Scheme who refused to comply with the directive of perfecting their documents before the December 31 deadline, the agency has swung into action.

Members of the verification committee alongside other staff of the agency have stormed Old GRA, Circular Road, Damboa Road, and extensions in the layouts to serve enforcement notices to defaulters, both residents and commercial owners.

Among other notices issued by the BOGIS team during the final warning visits are ground rent, change of purpose, sub-

divisions, and perfect documents.

However, members of the committee expressed dismay over the erection of illegal buildings in some areas visited.

According to the Executive Secretary, Engr. Adams Bababe, despite all awareness by the agency, calling on people to seek government approval before sub-leasing their property, as contained in Section 21 of the

Land Use Act 1978 which provides that ('It shall not be lawful for any customary right of occupancy or any part of it to be alienated by assignment, mortgage, transfer of possession, sublease, or otherwise howsoever without the consent of the Governor')

He therefore, called on all landholders in the state to adhere strictly to the rules governing land regulations as the

government will not condone such.

It would be recalled that, from three years to date, the agency has issued several notices to 10 layouts under the BOGIS Pilot Scheme, mostly elitist Layouts.

He noted also that unfortunately, many turned deaf ears, hence, the need to swing into action in the interest of pursuing orderly and digitized land management in the state.



# Kwara Gov Restates Support For Judiciary As New Legal Year Begins

*\*CJ commends Gov's strides in infrastructural devt, seeks more*

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO  
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

**K**wara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq (CON) on Tuesday, pledged continuous support for the judicial arm of government, including in the area of infrastructural development and welfare.

The governor said rehabilitation of courtrooms, among other efforts of the administration, will continue within budgetary limits in the new year.

"Our administration will continue to partner with the judiciary to sustain the rule of law, public order, and safety. Along with some other supports that ease the dispensation of justice, I assure you that infrastructural development in the justice sector, including rehabilitation of courtrooms that we have started, will continue within budgetary allowances in the new year," AbdulRazaq said in a remark at a ceremony heralding the 2024 Legal Year of Kwara State.

"On this day and always, we value your partnership and the alliances that continue to sustain law and order as we mobilise resources for sustainable development and improved wellbeing of the people."

AbdulRazaq commended the judiciary for remaining steadfast and resolute in the dispensation of justice, congratulating all branches of the State Judiciary on the commencement of another legal year 2023/2024 and saying the event means a lot to the legal community as it does for the rest of our society.

"Without prejudice to the fact that every system is a work in progress, your commitment has helped to strengthen public confidence in the court and reinforce the ideal of the courts as the last hope of the common man. This has profound consequences for law and order, and public safety," AbdulRazaq added.

Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Senior Ibrahim Sulayman, said the administration is committed at all times to the rule of law, which he said is fundamental to justice.

Chief Judge of Kwara State, Justice Abiodun Adebara, applauded AbdulRazaq for his investment in court infrastructure, welfare of judicial staff as well as strengthening of



*L-R: Justice Yemisi Ajayi; Chief Judge of Kwara State Justice Abiodun Adebara; Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Grand Kadi Sharia Court of Appeal Justice Abdulateef Kamaldeen; and Justice Ibrahim Yusuf; during the Valedictory Court Session for the commencement of the new legal year, in Ilorin, Tuesday.*

its manpower to achieve a smoother, quicker and more efficient administration of justice.

Justice Adebara added: "Soon after his assumption of duty as Governor of Kwara State, he appointed five new High Court Judges in 2020. In the year 2023, he had equally given his approval for the appointment of six additional High Court Judges in the state. This represents the highest so far at a time in the state. The appointment exercise is ongoing before the National Judicial Council, and I believe that our judicial-friendly

Governor will do all that is necessary for the complete actualization of this appointment.

"When this is done, for the first time in the history of the state, it will bring the number of High Court Judges in the state to an all-time high number of 24.

"Coming to the infrastructural development, during the year under review, His Excellency gave approval and released funds for the complete renovation and rehabilitation of the High Court building in Offa Judicial Division. Since the Court was built many years ago, this will be

the first effort at renovating and rehabilitating the said Court."

The Chief Judge announced that 26,533 cases were registered in all tiers of the Court in the state in the 2022/2023 legal year, and commended the bar and the bench for their commitment to improved Justice system.

"The grand total of the cases registered in all tiers of Court in the state in the 2022/2023 legal year just ended is 26,533 out of which 13,720 were decided, leaving 12,813 pending cases at the beginning of the current legal year. The total revenue generated from both criminal and civil

cases in all the courts as well as Probate fees in Kwara State in the last legal year as fines and court fees amounted to N83,674,936.86," the Chief Judge said.

The event was attended by members of the bar and the bench, including serving and retired Appeal Court Justices, retired chief judges, and serving and retired judges.

Speaking on behalf of the body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SAN) in the state, Chief Peter Olorunnisola appealed to members of the bar not to do anything that will damage the image or greatness of the judiciary.

In their separate remarks, the Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association Ilorin Branch Kamaldeen Gambari and the Chairman of Offa NBA Prince Bashir Ijaiya stressed the need for upgrade of more offices and courtrooms of judges to dispense justice to all manner of people without fear or favour. They also appreciated Governor AbdulRazaq for renovating the High Court Building in Offa -- the first renovation to be carried out since the construction of the building in the 1980s.

**"On this day and always, we value your partnership and the alliances that continue to sustain law and order as we mobilise resources for sustainable development and improved wellbeing of the people."**

# We Have Every Reason To Thank God - DUFUHS VC

**\*Says grateful people can never be stranded in life**

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA OMOKE, Abakaliki

In appreciation to God for all He has done for the university and members of staff, the Vice Chancellor of David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences (DUFUHS), Prof. Jesse Uneke has said that the institution has every reason to thank and appreciate God for His mercies and kindness in the year 2023.

The Vice Chancellor who spoke during the thanksgiving service organized to show appreciation to God, saying, "that we are alive because God is not yet done with us. We have every reason to thank Him because no life was lost in 2023."

He explained that the institution transited fully to federal university; with accreditation of courses, massive increase in the number of students enrollment, among other great achievements in this space of time, stating that the school has resolved to always thank God at beginning of every academic section.

"The reason why you are still alive is that God is not yet done with you. Most times, we tend to forget what God has done for us



so easily.

"Even as a university, we are all witnesses to what God did massively. We acknowledge that it is God that kept us in 2023, we didn't lose any staff in 2023. Also, we didn't lose any student in 2023. We have every reason to thank God for all He has done for us. We transited fully to federal university, our students have increased from 53 to over a thousand. This is one of the

fastest growing universities in the world.

"When you look at your families, there is no form of evil surrounding us, God has been good to the staff of this university and this is why we are here to celebrate and tell God that we are grateful for bringing us into the brand new year, 2024.

"We are very grateful and that is why we are here. It is our resolution, that at the beginning

of every academic session, we will come together as a university to thank God for all He has done for us," he said.

While delivering the sermon on the topic, "Dangers of Ingratitude" the state pastor of Living Faith Church, Abakaliki, Pst. Oluwale Wise said that, "men and women of gratitude can never be stranded in life because God is able to do more than we imagine, according to

Eph 3:20."

Pst. Oluwale further noted that thanksgiving is the power behind all the miracles happening in DUFUHS, "because the scripture says in all things, we should give thanks".

He explained that thanksgiving is very important in the life of every Christian as anyone that refuses to thank God, has stopped God from perfecting His blessings on him, saying that out of 10 lepers that were healed, only one came to thank God, according to Luke 17: 16--19.

He further warned that ingratitude makes God to resist people and what they are doing because it is pride in the sight of God not to give thanks.

"The Bible says in the book of James 4:6, that 'God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble' God is the reason why you didn't lose anything. There are situations that no man can help, except God. We must continue to give thanks in all situations even when it seems things are not working well. Consistency in thanksgiving propels God to answer our prayers," he explained.

## Zamfara Governor Distributes Agricultural Assets To Farmers In Tsafe

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal has extended the distribution of agricultural assets and vital farm inputs to Zamfara farmers in the Tsafe local government area.

The distribution ceremony was held on Monday at the Tsafe Local Government Secretariat as part of the ongoing COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus distribution program sponsored by FADAMA III.

A statement by the spokesperson of the Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, revealed that the Zamfara state government has made provisions in the 2024 budget to rehabilitate nine Earth Dams in Tsafe Local Government Area.

According to him, while leading the distribution of agricultural assets, Governor Lawal reiterated his commitment to providing employment opportunities for over 40,000 farmers in the local government.

During his speech, the governor emphasised that the Yanwaren Daji Dam

would be crucial in feeding over two million people yearly.

"The dam's well-planned drainage system will ensure that clean water is available to the entire Tsafe Local Government Area.

"Agriculture, which accounts for over 70% of our GDP, remains the backbone of our economy. In recognition of this, our program is poised to empower 100,000 farmers across the 14 Local Government Areas with essential farming equipment and seeds over the coming four years.

"Tsafe Local Government Area is legendary for farming and its massive contribution to the GDP of Zamfara State. With the flag-off of this program in this Local Government Area today, we are bringing tremendous opportunities for the farming communities in this industrious Local Government Area. I am confident that this program will go a long way to boosting our farmers' productivity, thereby alleviating rural poverty and its associated challenges.

"Building on this momentum, we plan to

introduce similar intervention projects, such as the integrated entrepreneurship program in Magazu Town. This program will encompass various agro-allied projects, including fisheries, poultry, and livestock fattening. Additionally, it will provide training and starter packs to small-scale businesses in multiple sectors, contributing significantly to our economic diversification efforts.

"Moreover, the project will help combat



malaria through innovative methods like rearing tilapia fish while generating substantial income for the beneficiaries through various interventions."

# Hope For Kano: APC Chieftain, Engineer Kailani Mobilizes North-West Supporters To Welcome Gawuna-Garo Administration

By: ABBAANWAR

As Nigerians await the judgment of the case concerning Kano State gubernatorial election, at the Supreme Court, the Director General of the Confederation of APC Support Groups (CASG), Engineer Kailani Muhammad, has mobilized All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters from across seven North West states, in anticipation of the judgment favouring All Progressives Congress (APC). Engineer Muhammad believes that, "Without any intent for court contempt, we are hopeful, praying and committed to believing that, the case before the Supreme Court will favour our gubernatorial and deputy gubernatorial candidates, His Excellency Dr Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna and His Excellency Murtala Sule Garo respectively."

While commending the National Chairman of APC Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, CON, as one of the main brains and architects behind APC's victory at the Tribunal and Court of Appeal, the Director General believes that, both Gawuna and Garo would be absolutely loyal to the National Chairman, the party and democracy in general.

"It is due to our fervent prayers and belief that, we are hopefully hopeful that APC will

emerge victorious at the Supreme Court. That is why I am saying, on behalf of the entire members of Confederation of APC Support Groups that we have started mobilizing our members from North West zone, comprising of seven states, to celebrate and support the in-coming administration of Gawuna-Garo," encouraged the Director General.

Adding that, Kano would witness the participation of hundreds of thousands of supporters, that has never been witnessed in recent political history in the state. Assuring that, "Gawuna-Garo administration will replicate former governor Ganduje's security architecture, respect for traditional institutions, youth/women empowerment, sports development, economic progress, improved healthcare delivery system, among other countless pluses."

Engineer Muhammad concludes his message with bravo attachment to the APC National Chairman, thrilling that, Ganduje's style of leadership as the National Chairman is not only unique, but a strong corridor for deepening party management, party politics and democracy in general.

Anwar was Chief Press Secretary to the former Governor of Kano State, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje



# Social Register Scandal: Group Defends Tunji-Ojo, Says He Resigned Before Becoming Minister

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group under the aegis of Forum for Transparency and Good Governance (FTGG) has come out strongly to defend the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, over his involvement in an alleged N438.1 million consultancy contract between New Planet

Project Limited and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation under the suspended Minister, Betta Edu.

According to the group, since documents revealed that the Interior Minister resigned as a Director of New Planet Project Limited in 2019, it would amount to witch-hunting to link him to the contract scandal.

The group, which explained reasons for defending the minister in a statement signed by Dr. Mustapha Ahmed Malumfashi, said it is unfair and ridiculous to link the minister to the alleged contact scam, when he resigned from the company on February 4, 2019 after he won election into the House of Representatives with a Certified

True Copy of Corporate Affairs Commission as far back as 2019 to prove this.

The statement further reads, "But Tunji-Ojo, who reacted while appearing on Channels TV Politics Today on Monday night, agreed he co-founded the company ten years ago, but resigned from directorship.

"The minister, who described the report as shocking, did say he was not involved in the day-to-day running of New

Planet Project Limited and all that is expected is to confirm the veracity of his claim.

"However, from our investigation, Tunji-Ojo, who in our estimation has been doing well since appointed as minister by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, didn't benefit from Edu's alleged fake N3 billion social register contract.

"We have seen legitimate documents which showed that the interior minister resigned as a director at New Planet Project Limited nearly five years ago.

"Our investigation further revealed that New Planet Project Limited, with registration number 804833, was said to have been registered on March 3, 2009 with a Certified True Copy of the Corporate Affairs Commission documents obtained, dated August 8, the minister had alongside four others resigned as directors on February 1, 2019.

"Section A contained names of "directors ceasing to hold office" from February 1, 2019. They included Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, Abimbola Tunji-Ojo, Okpanachi George Echiye, Idris Shuaibu,

and Hassan Suleiman.

"The document was signed by Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo and Akinmulewo Amos Oladapo as Director and Director/Secretary/Authorised officer, respectively and it was further presented for filing at the CAC by one Abu Dennis, on February 6, 2019.

He confirmed during the interview with Channels that he co-founded the New Planet Project with his wife 15 years ago, but resigned and remained a shareholder in the company.

"Of course, public service rules do not prohibit public officers from being shareholders. What public service rules say is that you cannot be a director of which I had resigned about five years ago."

Recall that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu suspended Edu over corruption allegations on Monday.

Shortly after Edu's suspension, reports emerged that the Minister paid a company owned by the Minister of Interior a total amount of N438.1 million for consultancy services.



# Delta FRCN Worker Accuses FMC Doctor Of Wrong Medication On His Daughter

**By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba**  
 A staff of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), South-South and Secretary, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Asaba Correspondents Chapel, Comrade Oghenero Eghwere, has accused doctors, nurses and other officials at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in Asaba, Delta State capital, for the present health condition of his two-year old daughter due to alleged negligence of health officials on duty.

The Asaba based correspondent said, "my daughter's health deteriorated, causing her to go into a comatose state after administering alleged wrong drugs on her prescribed by doctors when they took her for medical attention".

According to him, "the unprofessional attitude of the doctor and other officials on duty when we arrived the tertiary health facility, caused her health challenge because they delayed in attending to her."

He shared his traumatizing story thus in a post he titled, "How They Almost Killed My Daughter At FMC Asaba Under NHIS Scheme".

"Staff not on seat, epileptic power and network system and wrong drug prescription, almost cost her, her life at the federal establishment in Asaba.

"It was a few days after the New Year celebration (Jan. 5), when my daughter developed fever. Thinking it was one of those minor issues we studied her for some time before I and my wife decided to take her to the Federal Medical Center Asaba, haven't braced up to face the usual stress of accessing the National Health Insurance Scheme NHIS, at the

hospital.

"We got to the facility at a few minutes past 6pm to find the General Outpatients, GOP section in darkness. I provided my phone light to the nurse who took her vital signs and we proceeded to see the doctor.

"After about thirty minutes the doctor on duty started packing his things, telling us that he was about to leave and could not attend to any more patients. He said we should take our baby to the Accidents and Emergency Unit, A/E. After pleading with him to no avail, we went to A/E.

"There we saw a doctor who said my daughter's information from NHIS has not reached them at A/E. But she took notes about her condition on a sheet of paper then recommended a test.

"Meanwhile, without her details from NHIS the test cannot be carried out. Now we had to wait for my daughter's profile that was sent from NHIS to the A/E unit. So we waited.

"During this time we were asked to visit the NHIS desk severally to make complaints, which we did. In fact, from NHIS we were redirected to A/E and back and forth throughout the evening. But that was not all.

"At a point we were asked to visit the Records section to know what was happening. We got there to find an empty chair an empty chair and no officer in sight.

"A worker who sensed my apprehension even made a quick call to the person in charge to hurry up back to his seat that patients were waiting for him.

"When the guy arrived I was relieved that my stress would soon be over as he strained his eyes to look into his system.

"To my surprise he got up from

his desk and said: "The system is still not working, why don't you just go ahead and pay the #7000 for the test, instead of waiting for the hospital network.

"I got pissed at this moment and gave him a bit of my temper, before leaving the section.

"It was now around 10pm. The place was quiet. We had been sent back and forth from NHIS desk to A/E more than five times, still the network issue persisted.

"We were eager to have the test done that evening so we persevered and pleaded with the lady at the NHIS office to have our receipt stamped to enable the lab officer execute the test on my little girl.

"She finally agreed. We took the document to the lab and they took her blood for the procedure. Satisfied with that little progress we left FMC at a few minutes to 11 O'clock that night albeit tired and frustrated.

"We had hoped that at least in the morning the network issue at the facility would be resolved and our daughter would be attended to properly.

"The next day, me and my wife gave FMC some time to put their acts together before returning to the hospital at eleven O' clock in the morning.

"Yet, to our astonishment we got to the lab and were told that there was no information concerning our daughter in their system and we're sent back to NHIS unit. By this time my baby's health had deteriorated further, (so I lost it a little, again).

"I threatened to bring the NHIS office down if my daughter was not attended to immediately, (and I meant it.)

"The guy at the NHIS desk that morning saw the fire in my eyes and went with us to the lab at A/E

to have the issue resolved. And that was how her details suddenly appeared in their system.

"We collected the test and continued the stressful FMC Asaba NHIS process afresh. We saw a doctor, and we were directed to the pharmacy.

"The bill was calculated, we were sent back to NHIS for confirmation, we did and went back to the pharmacy to collect the drugs. As usual, we were only given minor drugs like paracetamol, Canosunate and one other and asked to get the last drug outside the facility. (It cost us #8500.)

"So we went home relieved that finally our daughter had been attended to.

"However, we noticed that the girl could no longer walk after the medication. She could not eat either and slept all day.

"The third day, being a Sunday (today, Jan. 8) we returned to the hospital to express our fears over the new development around 2.30pm.

"The two doctors on duty looked at the drugs given to us and asked among themselves who prescribed the drug combination for us.

"That was how we got to understand that our daughter had been given a wrong and dangerous prescription. She had actually been stoned all along.

"They tried to put the blame on us, which we quickly rebuffed. Instinctively, I took out my phone and did a quick video of the doctors on duty.

"To cut a long story short, we were asked to discontinue administering the drugs to her immediately. And we were sent home just like that. As at this moment, my angel is still a

shadow of herself.

"I want to use this medium to inform the general public of the harm done my daughter by the unprofessional personnel at FMC, Asaba. I hope she recovers from this, even as I hold FMC Asaba responsible for any unforeseen consequence of their action.

"As a conclusion, I want to recommend the training of health professionals to correct their attitude towards patients under the NHIS program. They ignorantly treat us like the facility is free of charge, forgetting that huge amount of money is being deducted from our salaries monthly for the scheme.

"Also, there is need to upgrade the NHIS network systems at hospitals. The situation with the NHIS network at FMC Asaba for example can be really frustrating.

"They should also make drugs available for the program. The anti-graft authorities like EFCC, ICPC etc, should look into the issue of unavailability of these drugs for NHIS program at the facilities to ensure no sharp practice is going on.

"Also, the SERVICOM unit at FMC Asaba, is just there for lip service and do not act on complaints.

"Aside the need to train health workers on the professional handling of patients and caregivers, there is also need for them to have their names boldly written on their uniforms as practiced by security agents.

"This way patients will know who they are addressing for reference sake, because indeed, some doctors and nurses at FMC Asaba are truly evil people".

## TB Joshua Legacy Cast In Stone, Has Come To Stay - Arewa Youth Forum

**By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), has criticised the BBC documentary against the late Senior Prophet of Synagogue Church of All Nations (SCOAN), Temitope Balogun Joshua as an unnecessary distraction.

This was expressed in a statement signed by AYF's National President, Ahmed Mohammed Zagi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Wednesday, which said that TB Joshua made a mark while alive and his legacies will forever remain in the good books of history.

"The Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), which is the umbrella body of youth organizations of Northern extraction in Nigeria and diaspora, wish we to use this medium to react to a report made by BBC, alleging that the late Senior Prophet of Synagogue

Church of All Nations (SCOAN), Temitope Balogun Joshua, (TB Joshua) harassed some members of his church and faked miracles.

"The AYF, wishes to put its supportive weight behind various well-wishers in Nigeria and abroad to state that the late sage, TB Joshua, within the period he spent on earth, touched many lives within the length and breadth of the country irrespective of religion or tribal affiliation, as well as built a legacy which made him a blessing not only to the church he served diligently, but to the Christian faith and Nigeria," the group said.

The statement pointed out that available records have it that the SCOAN under the able leadership of the late Prophet and out of his genuine benevolence, empowered so many lives, reconciled many broken homes, foot medical bills of so many and

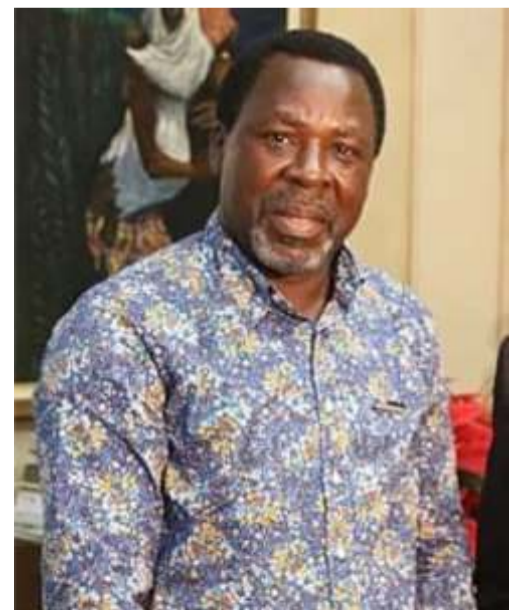
so on.

"This is therefore, a colossal and beautiful legacy that should not be destroyed but rather, appreciated and nurtured.

"As we are calling for calm and decorum on the ongoing issue, the BBC would not have lost anything if it had gone to the church even to disguise as visitors to have direct experience of what was happening in the church instead of relying on sketchy information from disgruntled and manipulated individuals some of whom were never known before in SCOAN.

"Therefore, the news going round at this moment is baseless, especially where it is being targeted at a deceased person.

"The man of God as we all know, has left a legacy of service and sacrifice to God's Kingdom that will live for generations yet unborn."



Late Prophet TB Joshua

# BOGIS ES Calls For Unity Among NATA Members

## \*Warns mechanics to move to designated areas or face wrath of law

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Executive Secretary (ES), of Borno Geographic Information Service (GOGIS), Engr. Adam Bukar Bababe, has urged members of the National Automobile and Technician Association (NATA) to unite for the advancement of the union. The BOGIS boss made this call while addressing them in his office, regarding emerging issues in the union that led to the formation of a new association

called Borno Motor Mechanics and Allied Workers.

A statement issued and signed by Halima Abatcha Jarawa, SA Media to Executive Secretary, BOGIS made available to newsmen on Wednesday, said Engr. Bababe expressed dismay over the leadership crisis in the union, which prompted some members to establish a new union.

He described this development as embarrassing and called on them to set aside differences and personal interests, emphasizing

the importance of reconciliation for the progress of the union.

While reiterating government's commitment to building another mechanic village soon, the Executive Secretary said that the government recognizes only one union, NATA, and urged them to unite to enjoy the benefits of democracy under the leadership of Governor Babagana Umara Zulum.

Engr. Bababe however, issued a warning to the union, stating that if they do not occupy the Mechanic village by Friday,

January 12, 2024, government will take decisive measures against any mechanic seen around the three units of Moduganari Bypass, Tashan Kano, and Damboa Road, pointing out that, they had been served notice to vacate the area to the new mechanic village since last year.

The Grand Patron of the Association, Engr. Sadu Abdullahi expressed sadness over the problems and stressed the urgent need for unity, peace, and tolerance among members.

He emphasized that a harmonious working relationship is essential for the success and progress of the association and urged the union members to come together, resolve their differences amicably, and work towards a common goal.

The ES noted that this measure will ensure the prosperity and reputation of the State Chapter of National Automobile and Technician Association (NATA).





# Ministry Of Environment Moves To Recover Forests From Bandits



**By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna**

Following the need to address the effects of climate change in the country, the Federal Ministry of Environment has reiterated its commitment to recover Nigeria's forest from miscreants across the country.

The commitment was made at the ongoing two days top management retreat, in Kaduna from Thursday January 11 to Friday 12, 2024 organized by the Federal Ministry of Environment for Chief Executives Of Agencies And Directors Of The Federal Ministry Of Environment.

Declaring the 2-day retreat open on the theme: "policy embodiment and prioritization of key action for a renewed hope in environmental management,"

the Honourable Minister of Environment, Hon. Balarabe Abbas Lawal, disclosed that the ministry has serious issues with the forest, lamenting that it has become a den of bandits and kidnappers.

He noted that the only way to save the forest and also save the communities around, is to do something very drastic, meanwhile he disclosed that the ministry is doing its best to get enough force into the forest to clean those miscreants for the good of all.

The minister also expressed dismay over the rate at which deforestation has become the order of the day in most of Nigeria's states, reiterating that its negative impacts on the society is overwhelming and as such must be discouraged at all costs.

"There is the need to develop strategies and devise comprehensive and multi-faceted approaches towards developing and increasing the promotion of Sustainable Forest Management practices nationwide.

"The only way we can save the forest and also save the communities around the forest is to do something very drastic and we are starting with that because we need to get enough force into the forest to clean these miscreants that have turned our forest into something else.

"The ministry has signed a performance bond with Mr. President on 18-point deliverables in the priority areas that relate to our mandates. Most of our deliberations would be centered around the 18- point deliverables which is also in line

with the 8-points Agenda of this administration.

"By the end of this retreat, it is hoped that strategies to implement the 18 deliverables of the Ministry would be proffered and implemented by all participants." He said.

He also urged heads of agencies to come up with mentorship approach towards their subordinates, rather than seeing them as rivals, even as it's said that no leader is successful until there is a successor.

Speaking with journalists shortly after the opening ceremony, the Hon. Minister of State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Izaq Salako, said he had personally put up some green resolutions to achieve a healthy environment and urged everyone to do same.

He said, "I am undertaking that on annual basis, I will personally

plant 50 trees, take measures to reduce my air travels, reduce consumption of animal products, I will also be less destructive to nature in my construction. On the average, anytime am doing any construction atleast 30% of the land area will be set aside for nature.

"I am personally going to use renewable energy as alternative to public power supply, I am going to be using more of recyclable items, no more single used bags, So these are messages I believe Nigerians need to imbibe. If you imbibe these messages, the challenge of flooding, desertification, erosion, physical challenge of climate change and environmental pollution will be more comprehensively addressed."





## ISLAM CALLING

# Does Islam Oppress Women? Women in the Quran And The Sunnah

By: Prof. Abdur Rahman I.

In Islam there is absolutely no difference between men and women as far as their relationship to Allah is concerned, as both are promised the same reward for good conduct and the same punishment for evil conduct. The Qur'an says: "And for women are rights over men similar to those of men over women. (2:226)"

The Qur'an, in addressing the believers, often uses the expression, 'believing men and women' to emphasize the equality of men and women in regard to their respective duties, rights, virtues and merits. It says: "For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women,

for men and women who are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah's praise, for them has Allah prepared forgiveness and great reward. (33:35)"

The Qur'an says that women have souls in exactly the same way as men and will enter Paradise if they do good

Enter into Paradise, you and your wives, with delight. (43:70) Who so does that which is right, and believes, whether male or female, him or her will We quicken to happy life. (16:97)

The Qur'an admonishes those men who oppress or ill-treat women:

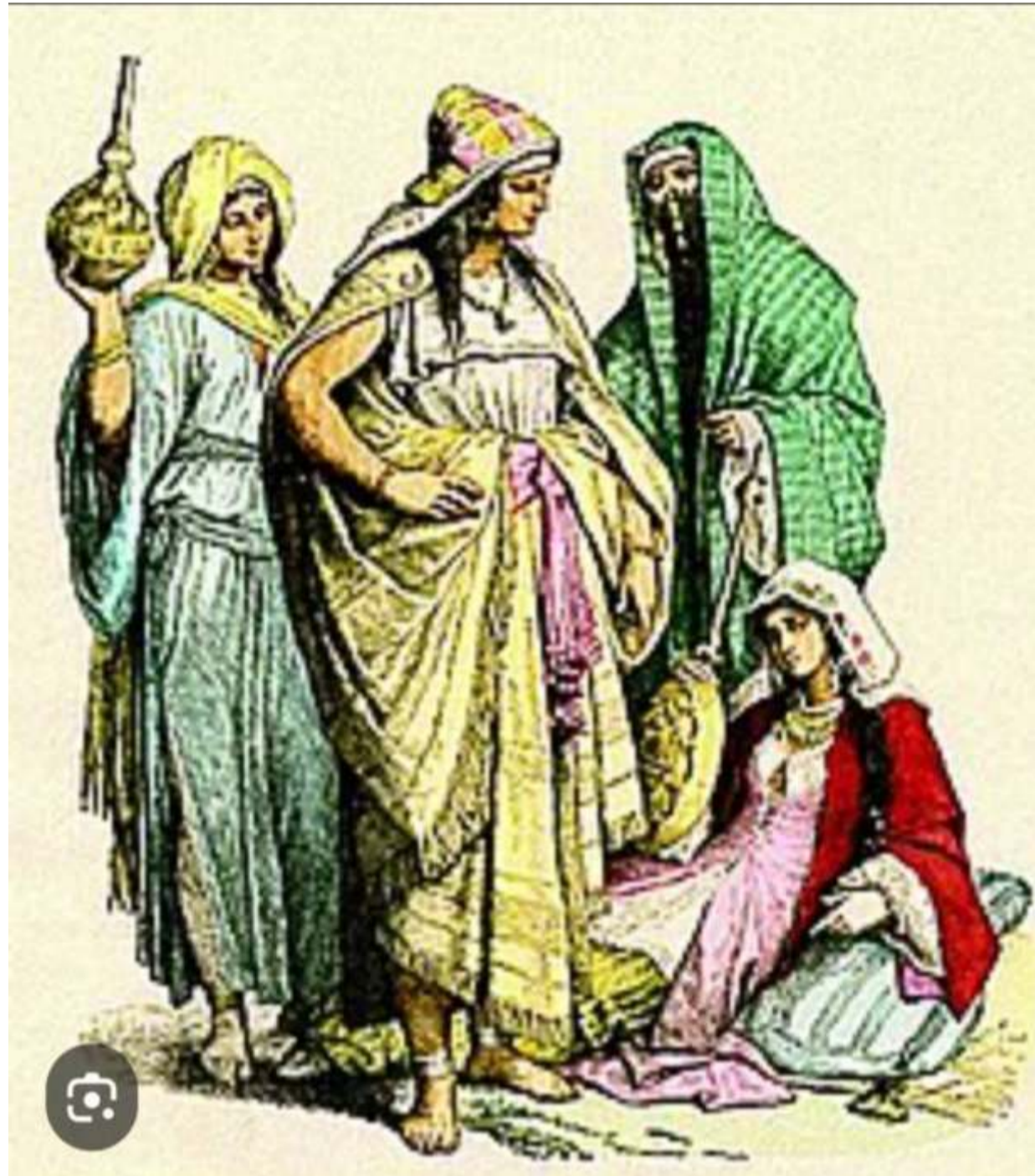
O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them - except when

they have become guilty of open lewdness.

On the contrary live with them on a footing of kindness and equity.

If you take a dislike to them, it may be that you dislike something and Allah will bring about through it

a great deal of good. (4:19) Considering the fact that before



the advent of Islam the pagan Arabs used to bury their female children alive, make women dance naked in the vicinity of the Ka'aba during their annual fairs, and treat women as mere chattels and objects of sexual pleasure possessing no rights or position whatsoever, these teachings of the Noble Qur'an were revolutionary. Unlike other religions, which regarded women as being possessed of inherent sin and wickedness and men as being possessed of inherent virtue and nobility, Islam regards men and women as being of the same essence created from a single soul. The Qur'an declares: O mankind! Reverence your Guardian-Lord, who created you from a single person, created, of

like nature, his mate, and from this pair scattered (like seeds) countless men and women. Reverence Allah, through Whom you demand your mutual (rights), and reverence the wombs (that bore you); for Allah ever watches over you. (4:1)

The Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) said, "Women are the twin halves of men." The Qur'an emphasizes the essential unity of men and women in a most beautiful simile:

They (your wives) are your garment and you are a garment for them. (2:187)

Just as a garment hides our nakedness, so do husband and wife, by entering into the relationship of marriage, secure each other's chastity. The garment gives comfort to the

body; so does the husband find comfort in his wife's company and she in his. "The garment is the grace, the beauty, the embellishment of the body, so too are wives to their husbands as their husbands are to them."

Islam does not consider woman "an instrument of the Devil", but rather the Qur'an calls her muhsana - a fortress against Satan because a good woman, by marrying a man, helps him keep to the path of rectitude in his life. It is for this reason that marriage was considered by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a most virtuous act. He said: "When a man marries, he has completed one half of his religion."

He enjoined matrimony on Muslims by saying: "Marriage is

part of my way and whoever keeps away from my way is not from me (i.e. is not my follower)." The Qur'an has given the reason of marriage in the following words:

And among His signs is this, that He has created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquillity with them; and He has put love and mercy between you. Verily in that are signs for those who reflect. (30:21)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was full of praise for virtuous and chaste women. He said:

"The world and all things in the world are precious but the most precious thing in the world is a virtuous woman. He once told the future khalif, 'Umar: "Shall I not inform you about the best treasure a man can hoard? It is a virtuous wife who pleases him whenever he looks towards her, and who guards herself when he is absent from her."

On other occasions the Prophet said:

"The best property a man can have is a remembering tongue (about Allah), a grateful heart and a believing wife who helps him in his faith." And again: "The world, the whole of it, is a commodity and the best of the commodities of the world is a virtuous wife."

Before the advent of Islam women were often treated worse than animals. The Prophet wanted to put a stop to all cruelties to women. He preached kindness towards them. He told the Muslims: "Fear Allah in respect of women." And: "The best of you are they who behave best to their wives." And: "A Muslim must not hate his wife, and if he be displeased with one bad quality in her, let him be pleased with one that is good." And: "The more civil and kind a Muslim is to his wife, the more perfect in faith he is."

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was most emphatic in enjoining Muslims to be kind to their women when he delivered his famous khutba on the Mount of Mercy at Arafat in the presence of one hundred and

# Does Islam Oppress Women? Women in the Quran And The Sunnah

twenty-four thousand of his companions who had gathered there for the Hajj al-Wada (Farewell Pilgrimage). In it he ordered those present, and through them all those Muslims who were to come later, to be respectful and kind towards women. He said:

"Fear Allah regarding women. Verily you have married them with the trust of Allah, and made their bodies lawful with the word of Allah. You have got (rights) over them, and they have got (rights) over you in respect of their food and clothing according to your means."

In Islam a woman is a completely independent personality. She can make any contract or bequest in her own name. She is entitled to inherit in her position as mother, as wife, as sister and as daughter. She has perfect liberty to choose her husband. The pagan society of pre-Islamic Arabia had an irrational prejudice against their female children whom they used to bury alive. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was totally opposed to this practice. He showed them that supporting their female children would act as a screen for them against the fire of Hell:

It is narrated by the Prophet's wife, 'A'isha, that a woman entered her house with two of her daughters. She asked for charity but 'A'isha could not find anything except a date, which was given to her. The woman divided it between her two daughters and did not eat any herself. Then she got up and left. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) came to the house, 'A'isha told him about what had happened and he declared that when the woman was brought to account (on the Day of Judgment) about her two daughters they would act as a screen for her from the fires of Hell.

The worst calamity for a woman is when her husband passes away and, as a widow, the responsibility of maintaining the children falls upon her. In the Eastern World, where a woman does not always go out to earn her living, the problems of widowhood are indescribable. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) upheld the cause of widows. Most of his wives were widows. In an age when widows were rarely permitted to remarry, the Prophet encouraged his followers to marry them. He was always ready to help widows and exhorted his followers to do the same. Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet said: "One who makes efforts (to help) the widow or a poor person is like a mujahid (warrior) in the path of Allah, or like one who stands up for prayers in the night and fasts in the day."

Woman as mother commands great respect in Islam. The Noble Qur'an speaks of the rights of the mother in a number of verses. It enjoins Muslims to show respect to their mothers and serve them well even if they are still unbelievers. The Prophet states emphatically that the rights of the mother are paramount. Abu Hurairah reported that a man came to the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and asked: "O Messenger of Allah, who is the person who has the greatest right on me with regards to kindness and attention?" He replied, "Your mother." "Then who?" He replied, "Your mother." "Then who?" He replied, "Your mother." "Then who?" He replied, "Your father." In another tradition, the Prophet advised a believer not to join the war against the Quraish in defense of Islam, but to look after his mother, saying that his service to his mother would be a cause of his salvation. Mu'awiyah, the son of Jahimah,

reported that Jahimah came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and said, "Messenger of Allah! I want to join the fighting (in the path of Allah) and I have come to seek your advice." He said, "Then remain in your mother's service, because Paradise is under her feet."

The Prophet's followers accepted his teachings and brought about a revolution in their social attitude towards women. They no longer considered women as a mere chattels, but as an integral part of society. For the first time women were given the right to have a share in inheritance. In the new social climate, women rediscovered themselves and became highly active members of society rendering useful service during the wars which the pagan Arabs forced on the emerging Muslim umma. They carried provisions for the soldiers, nursed them, and even fought alongside them if it was necessary. It became a common sight to see women helping their husbands in the fields, carrying on trade and business independently, and going out of their homes to satisfy their needs.

'A'isha reported that Saudah bint Zam'ah went out one night. 'Umar saw her and recognized her and said, "By God, O Saudah, why do you not hide yourself from us?" She went back to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and told him about it while he was having supper in her room, and he said, "It is permitted by Allah for you to go out for your needs." The predominant idea in the teachings of Islam with regard to men and women is that a husband and wife should be full-fledged partners in making their home a happy and prosperous place, that they should be loyal and faithful to one another, and

genuinely interested in each other's welfare and the welfare of their children. A woman is expected to exercise a humanizing influence over her husband and to soften the sternness inherent in his nature. A man is enjoined to educate the women in his care so that they cultivate the qualities in which they, by their very nature, excel. These aspects were much emphasized by the Prophet (peace be upon him). He exhorted men to marry women of piety and women to be faithful to their husbands and kind to their children. He said:

"Among my followers the best of men are those who are best to their wives, and the best of women are those who are best to their husbands. To each of such women is set down a reward equivalent to the reward of a thousand martyrs. Among my followers, again, the best of women are those who assist their husbands in their work, and love them dearly for everything, save what is a transgression of Allah's laws."

Once Mu'awiyah asked the Prophet (peace be upon him), "What are the rights that a wife has over her husband?" The Prophet replied, "Feed her when you take your food, give her clothes to wear when you wear clothes, refrain from giving her a slap on the face or abusing her, and do not separate from your wife, except within the house." Once a woman came to the Prophet with a complaint against her husband. He told her: "There is no woman who removes something to replace it in its proper place, with a view to tidying her husband's house, but that Allah sets it down as a virtue for her. Nor is there a man who walks with his wife hand-in-hand, but that Allah sets it down as a virtue for him; and if he puts his arm round her shoulder in love, his virtue is increased tenfold." Once he was heard

praising the women of the tribe of Quraish, "...because they are the kindest to their children while they are infants and because they keep a careful watch over the belongings of their husbands."

The Shari'ah regards women as the spiritual and intellectual equals of men. The main distinction it makes between them is in the physical realm based on the equitable principle of fair division of labor. It allots the more strenuous work to the man and makes him responsible for the maintenance of the family. It allots the work of managing the home and the upbringing and training of children to the woman, work which has the greatest importance in the task of building a healthy and prosperous society.

It is a fact, however, that sound administration within the domestic field is impossible without a unified policy. For this reason the Shari'ah requires a man, as head of the family, to consult with his family and then to have the final say in decisions concerning it. In doing so he must not abuse his prerogative to cause any injury to his wife. Any transgression of this principle involves for him the risk of losing the favor of Allah, because his wife is not his subordinate but she is, to use the words of the Prophet (peace be upon him), 'the queen of her house', and this is the position a true believer is expected to give his wife. In contrast to these enlightened teachings of Islam in respect of women, Western talk of women's liberation or emancipation is actually a disguised form of exploitation of her body, deprivation of her honor, and degradation of her soul!

**Prof. Abdur Rahman I. is a Professor and Director, Center for Islamic Legal Studies, Ahmadu Bello University,**

## Odu'a Investment Company GMD To Retire May Ending - Management

appointment".

"I have no doubt in my mind that he will take Odu'a Investment to another level of growth, especially with the foundations laid over the past few years".

Speaking, the outgoing GMD, Mr. Adewale Raji said it has been a great honour to have been entrusted by the Group's Shareholders and the Board to superintend over the affairs of the business from June 2014, adding that the period "witnessed remarkable changes in the financial performance and corporate governance standing of the Group".

"I am delighted that the modest successes recorded in portfolio rebalancing and asset optimization in our notable chosen sectors of Real Estate, Hospitality, Financial Services, Agriculture, Energy, etc are going to receive accelerated transformation under my worthy successor (Mr Yinusa) and the excellent crop of talent that the Group has attracted under the support of the Board in

these past few years".

Mr. Adewale Raji's retirement follows ten (10) years of dedicated service as Group Managing Director of the forty-seven (47) year old conglomerate. As Group Managing Director, he oversaw the Group's return to a growth and profitability trajectory through strategic restructuring of the operating structure of the group to improve efficiency. During his two (2) tenures, the company grew Profit Before Tax (PBT) from N378 million (2013) to a high of N2.2 billion (2021), paid a total of N2.56 billion in dividends so far.

The Company diversified into Agribusiness, Oil and Gas and other sectors through strategic partnerships, and repositioned the group's key subsidiaries and assets. He also helped improve the group's corporate governance framework, and culture of accountability and transparency amongst management and

staff. Prior to his appointment at Odu'a Investment, Mr. Raji was the Managing Director, Distribution Services at PZ Cussons Nigeria Plc where he served for 8 years on the Board.

Mr. Abdulrahman Yinusa currently serves as Executive Director, and the Group Chief Financial Officer of Odu'a Investment. He is a thoroughbred finance professional with over three (3) decades in-depth experience in the Financial Services Industry. He will be responsible for implementing the Group Board's shared vision and plan, as well as ensure continued execution of existing strategic projects. Prior to joining Odu'a Investment, he retired from Diamond Bank (now part of Access Bank) as an Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Yinusa graduated with a B.Sc. Accounting from the Ahmadu Bello University, and holds both M.Sc. Economics and MBA (Finance) degrees

from the University of Lagos. He is also an alumnus of the University of Cambridge, IMD, Switzerland and INSEAD, France where he attended top management programmes.

The new Executive Director, and Group Chief Investment and Business Development Officer, Mr Yemi Ajao has over twenty (20) years' extensive experience in oil and gas operations (engineering), strategy, corporate finance, real estate, venture capital and private equity.

He graduated with a B.Sc. Chemical Engineering from the Obafemi Awolowo University, and holds an M.Sc. Petroleum Engineering from the University of Houston, and an MBA from the Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University, Houston, USA.

# NASENI CEO: Halilu, Round Peg In Round Hole

By; **BUHARI SA'ADU DAURA**

A heartfelt tribute to His Excellency Alhaji Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who made an extraordinary decision by selecting an exceptional leader as the Executive Vice Chairman of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure.

The EVC/CEO of NASENI, Mr. Khalil Suleiman Halilu, is an unstoppable force to be reckoned with. He possesses an unwavering spirit and an inexhaustible energy that make him an outstanding leader. It seems as though he was born with a powerful drive to succeed, and this drive is evident in everything he does.

His dedication to NASENI is unparalleled, and he approaches each day with the same determination and passion as he did when he first started. His work ethic is an intrinsic part of him, like his ribs, kidneys, liver, and heart. It's not surprising that he has achieved so much, and the staff of the Agency are fortunate to have such a driven and inspiring leader at the helm.

Your Excellency Sir, you have made an excellent decision by choosing a selfless leader for NASENI. This is a leader who always leads by example, a versatile initiator, an intellectual of a rare breed, and an icon whom Nigerian youth look up to.

In less than a month in office, Mr. Halilu mapped out several projects and designed clear paths and means of actualizing them. He signed many memoranda of understanding both at home and abroad for the betterment of Nigerians and also provided the staff of the Agency with a welfare package through which they shall find succour and enjoy the fruits of their labour.

The Executive Vice Chairman of NASENI has made it his mission to transform the agency into a powerhouse of science, technology, and innovation.



**President Tinubu**



**Khalil Suleiman**

Since his appointment, he has been unwavering in his commitment to building a cutting-edge institution that is founded on collaboration, creation, and commercialization. With his bold reforms, he has paved the way for NASENI to become a modern science and engineering organization that is primed for success in the 21st century. Now, there is rapid collaboration, rapid innovation, local materials leverage, and commercialization.

Your Excellency, Sir, within the first 100 days of Mr. Halilu in office as the EVC/CEO of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, he achieved what other CEOs could not achieve in 100 years. He has demonstrated that leadership is not solely determined by age, but by experience encapsulated in strategically defined vision, well-directed proactiveness, and collectivity.

Mr Halilu achieved several milestones in two months. To mention but a few, he signed six landmark MOUs worth \$2 billion with Chinese companies, which led to over 50 global companies interested in collaborating with NASENI. At COP-28, NASENI and REA sealed a \$150M lithium battery manufacturing deal with a Chinese investor.

Additionally, the Delta-2 Program was initiated as a bilateral collaboration between Nigeria and the Czech Republic, where the partnership between NASENI and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TACR) was poised to fund innovative projects across the 3 focal areas of Agriculture, Mining and SME development, and for every one Naira that NASENI will be investing to support these projects, it expects to see six Naira in commercial returns. However, Mr Haliru signed a production license

agreement with SAPUTRA Global Harvest, an Indonesian company, for the establishment of a coal-based fertilizer manufacturing factory in Nigeria as Food Security is one of the priority areas on your Renewed Hope agenda, Your Excellency.

Also, he signed a Production License Agreement with PT Saputra Global Harvest, for the establishment of a Coal-based Fertilizer factory in Nigeria.

The Executive Vice Chairman/CEO actively participated in various media programs and interviews. During his appearance on the Good Morning Nigeria show at NTA News, he discussed the importance of "Homegrown Technology Towards Nigeria's Development". Furthermore, he spoke about the role of NASENI in an interview with BBC Hausa. Additionally, he hosted numerous organizations and expressed NASENI's

willingness to utilize and leverage home-grown e-commerce platforms for marketing the agency's finished products.

On behalf of Nigerians, I express our gratitude to you, Mr President, for selecting Mr Haliru for the esteemed position of Executive Vice Chairman of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure. Your decision is highly appreciated and we are certain that Mr. Haliru's leadership will prove to be invaluable to the agency. We have full confidence in his abilities and we look forward to witnessing more of his remarkable contributions to the growth and development of homegrown products. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our country.

**Buhari Sa'adu Daura can be reached via, [Jagabanmatasa@gmail.com](mailto:Jagabanmatasa@gmail.com)**

# 2024 AGM: BSFA Okays Annual Awards For January, Wants Alia To Honour Ordega



By: JACOB ONJEWUDICKSON

The Benue State Football Association (BSFA) has approved January as a month for its annual Merit Award and Fundraising Ceremony, an event scheduled for Makurdi, the state capital.

For 2024, the prestigious event is already slated for January 26.

Also, BSFA endorsed the hosting of the BCC Lions re-union programme to be staged between January 26 and 27, 2024.

These were among the far-reaching decisions of the association captured in an 18-paragraph communiqué issued at the end of its well-attended 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), anchored by the Chairman, Barr. Paul Edeh, in Makurdi.

According to the communiqué, the essence of the scheduled re-union is to encourage the promotion of a new football team that would revamp the BCC Lions through the utilisation of selected players discovered during the BSFA Chairman's Cup.

Part of BSFA's major programmes approved and lined up for the year include Benue State Governor's Cup, Benue State Governor's U17 Football Tournament, State Speaker's Soccer Cup, Rt. Hon. Margaret Icheen Benue State Football League and BSFA Chairman's Cup.

Others are coaches and referees training and retraining programme, Private sponsored tournaments in the three senatorial districts of Benue State.

Among the association's activities, the AGM equally approved the inclusion of women's edition of the BSFA Chairman's Cup Competition with the women's teams expected to receive the same prizes as the men. "The AGM approved the proposed collaboration between the BSFA and the NFF, LaLiga, National Institute for Sports, Cross Cultures Project Association, Denmark and Ratels Sports Development Foundation, towards the training of Coaches and Referees in Benue State.

"The AGM requested for a piece of land from

the Benue State Government and support to build the BSFA Secretariat. The AGM also charged the Local Government Football Councils to liaise with their Council Chairmen for the identification and allocation of land in their localities for football pitches.

"The AGM approved the Edu-Ball programme of the BSFA and authorised its implementation in Primary schools, Secondary schools and tertiary institutions in Benue State in partnership with the Benue State University, Makurdi, where footballers are expected to combine education with football for total development.

"The AGM approved the use of football as an avenue towards promoting Benue State as the food basket of the nation and its rich agricultural heritage," part of the communiqué reads.

While commending Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, "for his incredible support and commitment to the growth and development of football in Benue State especially at the grassroots, the BSFA AGM however, appealed to him "to honour Miss Francisca Ordega by naming a street after her in the State for making the State proud by her exceptional contributions in her football career."

On being the first State to host the current President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), the Association, "applauded the giant strides of His Excellency through the Benue State Ministry of Youths, Sports and Creativity in creating an enabling environment for the BSFA to thrive in its quest to make Benue State a leading light in the football ecosystem in Nigeria. The AGM also appreciated His Excellency for according the President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau a befitting and warm reception during his recent state visit to Benue State."

The AGM attended by all affiliate bodies of the Association mandated the BSFA Board to pay a courtesy visit to the governor and

present the BSFA roadmap for the development of football in Benue State.

BSFA then affirmed "its unalloyed loyalty and support for the Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau led NFF Executive Committee and thanked the NFF President and his entourage for choosing Benue State as the first State to visit in his scheduled nationwide tour of State FAs. It also pledged the BSFA support to the Super Eagles of Nigeria in its quest to conquer Africa again in the AFCON."

On Disciplinary issues and unauthorised activities of some people who constitute themselves as Stakeholders outside the duly constituted football body in the state, BSFA in its communiqué stated that "the AGM approved the recommendations of the disciplinary Committee to suspend the Chairman, Ohimini Local Government Football Council and the Sports Secretary Okpokwu Local Government Football Council for a period of three (3) months for breaching various articles of the BSFA guidelines and framework, thereby bringing the game of football in the State to disrepute.

"The AGM observed and frowned at the illegal formation of football unions in Benue State by some individuals under the guise of football stakeholders and directed that all Football unions not affiliated with the State Association must cease to operate henceforth until the right procedure is followed.

"The AGM noted that Articles 9 and 10 of the NFF Statutes 2010, which deals with membership and admission is clear on how members are admitted as members of football bodies and warned those parading themselves as football stakeholders to desist from doing so or risk being sanctioned.

"The AGM advised the Benue State Government, corporate entities, well-meaning individuals and the general public to be circumspect in dealing with any individual or group of persons parading themselves as football stakeholders or under any name as such body or groups are not affiliated with the

BSFA. It noted further that the only body recognised by NFF, WAFU, CAF and FIFA in respect of football matters in Benue State is the BSFA which has 29 affiliate members which comprise of the 23 Local Council FAs, Benue State Coaches Association, Benue State Referees Council, Benue State Players Union, Representatives of Clubs in the NPFL, NLO and NWFL."

The communiqué drafted by a Committee including Barr. (Mrs) Onwanyi Ulegede and Dr. Iorngulum Malu as Chairman and Secretary respectively, with Mr. Moses Lubem Ukpo, Miss Judith Benson as members also noted that, "The AGM commended the BSFA Board led by Paul Edeh Esq, for providing a transparent and accountable leadership and creating an enabling environment for the development of football both at the state and grassroots levels.

"The AGM equally appreciated the BSFA Chairman for his laudable initiatives which included the award of scholarship to grassroots coaches in Benue State who recently graduated from the National Institute for Sports, sponsorship of the BSFA Chairman's cup which was played at 3 levels comprising the Local FA Chairman's cup, Board members cup and the BSFA Chairman's Cup which 10 Local Government Councils competed with Ukum Local Council emerging as winner of the tournament. The AGM also commended the BSFA Chairman's commitment to the welfare of all affiliate members and his consistent financial support for the BSFA.

"The AGM commended the current form of Lobi Stars FC and thanked the management of the club led by Dominic Iorfa for remaining steadfast and committed to the goal of coming tops in the 2023/2024 league season. The AGM pledged its full support to the club and assured that the BSFA will continue to provide an enabling environment for the Club to thrive.

"The AGM passed a vote of confidence on the Board of the BSFA led by Paul Edeh Esq."

# Ebonyi Deputy Speaker Football Tournament Ends With Funfair, Awards Winners

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The 2023 Ngboejeogu Unity Cup Tournament sponsored by the Ojichiaga Foundation and funded by the Deputy Speaker and member representing Ohaukwu South in the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Hon Chinedu Ogba Onah has been concluded with Umuezeaka Community football team emerging winner after beating their Okposhieheku Community football team by two goals to one.

The competition that ran through the past two weeks saw OkposhiEshi coming third out of the ten communities that participated in the tournament.

Speaking immediately after crowning the champions, the Chief Executive Officer of Ojichiaga Foundation and the Deputy Speaker in the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Hon Chief Chinedu Onah commended the participating teams for the show of sportsmanship throughout the tournament and explained that the foundation is charity based, to help the windows, indigents and less privileged People'.

He said the foundation which sarterd far back has been able to give out Scholarship to many students and then called on other philanthropy organization to come together in order to have a formidable force in the overall development of Ngboejeogu.

Also Speaking, the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Hon Richard Idike said the tournament was impressive and those talented players noticed shall be invited to showcase thier talent in February 2024 when Ebonyi Angels Football Club shall be reinvigorated. In their separate responses, the



Commissioner for Information and State Orientation Hon Jude Chikadibia Okpor said the tournament has actually provided

a unifying atmosphere and at the same time went in line with the developmental programmes of the State Government as

regards the youths while the Commissioner for Environment Hon Victor Chukwu maintained that sports especially football gives health to enhance our economical level and commended the organizer for the foresight in gainfully engaging youths

The member representing Ishielu South and the Deputy Whip in the Ebonyi State House of Assembly Hon Lucas Arinze Chukwu who was marvelled at the display of talents by the participants while Rev Fr Peter Omogo, who kicked off the final match said that he intended to collaborate with Ojichiaga Foundation in the areas of human development in Ngbo land

Earlier, the Chairman of the occasion and Executive Chairman of Onicha Local Government Area, Hon Chidiebere Uzor (Obosi) said the Deputy Speaker, Hon Chinedu Onah has really showed his affection for his constituents and commended the participating teams for thier display of excellence.

Other dignitaries that watched the final match include, the member representing Ohaukwu/Ebonyi Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon Pastor Eze Nwachukwu Eze, his counterparts from Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency Rt Hon Comrade Chinedu Ogah represented by Hon Chinedu Nwali, the member representing Ohaukwu North State Constituency Hon Mrs Esther Chidiebere Agwu, the Chairman Afikpo North Hon Uchenna Ibiam, the Director General of Ojichiaga Foundation Chief Odanwu Kenneth represented by Mr Nduka Uba among others.

# Abdul Babes Proprietor Honoured By Ex Players

By; VINCENT AKINBAMI, Kaduna

The proprietor of Abdul Babes FC Kaduna, one of the most visible grassroots teams in 80s and 90s in Kaduna, Alhaji Abdulmumin Salau was honoured by some of the boys he managed with a friendly match between Abdul Babes players of the 90s and the 90's players of Juventus of Kaduna.

The match which was played at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, saw Abdul Babes beat Juventus 3-2.

The match featured the likes of Sunday Adole former Golden Eaglet, who also played for Ranchers Bees Football Club of Kaduna, VIP Insurance of Lagos, Nigerdocks of Lagos, Jasper FC, NiTEL FC, Wadi Degla and Wisla in Poland, Nuhu Thomas who

played for Grays International, Jasper FC and Kaduna United, Oludare Ezekiel who played for Grays International, Nasarawa United, ASko De Kara of Togo and El Merak of Sudan and Abdulrahman Ahmed who stared for clubs like NIPOST Kaduna, Mighty Works Kaduna, Eagle Cement, Dolphins and presently the secretary of Rivers United.

It also featured Olufemi Adehinle in action. Femi played for Kaduna Rocks, NUB, Stationary Stores and Zamfara United, not forgetting Shehu Musa who from Abdul Babes, played for Kaduna Academicals and later Trade Bombers Abuja.

The novelty match brought together old friends to celebrate their benefactor.

After the match, some of the players

eulogized their mentor, Alh Abdulmumin Salau.

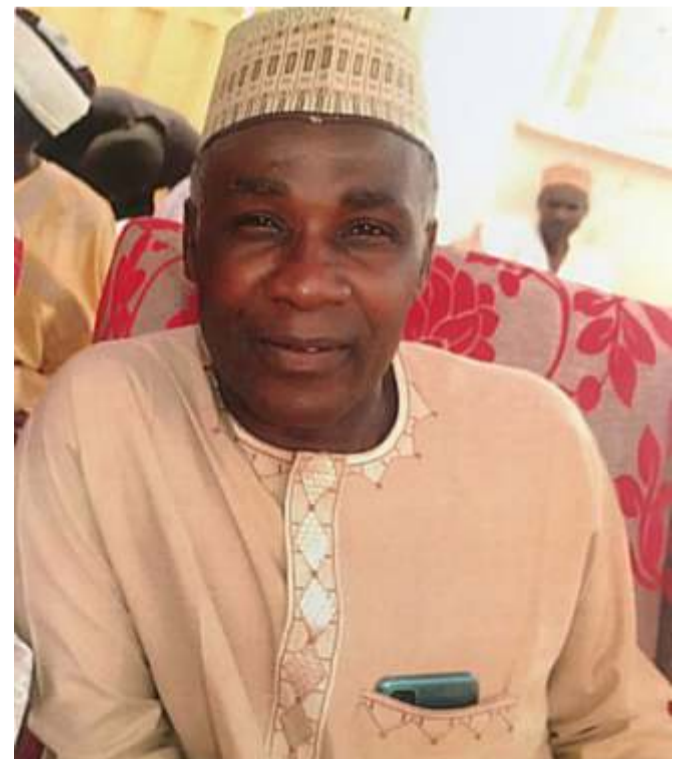
Sunday Adole described him as an angel. According to Adole, "he ensured our kits were in order, he practically took us from our parents and built a tomorrow for us".

In his remarks, Oludare Ezekiel said when people talk about destiny helpers, Alh Abdulmumin Salau is one.

"Some of us would have been a menace to the society, but he ensured he captured our attention with football.

He was a good man, he used his team Abdul babes to produce a lot of stars for the Nigeria league," he said.

Meanwhile, all the players agreed to come together every year to celebrate him for the role he played in moulding a bright future for them.



Alhaji Abdulmumin Salau

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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**2024 AGM: BSFA**  
**Okays Annual Awards**  
**For January, Wants**  
**Alia To Honour Ordega**

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## Edo Judiciary Establishes Platforms For Litigants - Chief Judge

By; RAPHAELO OKHIRIA, Benin City

The Chief Judge of Edo State, Justice Daniel Okungbowa, has established two channels for communication with litigants, lawyers and other people or groups doing business with the state judiciary.

The platforms include dedicated SMS and WhatsApp channel for members of the public to send complaints and suggestions directly to the Chief Judge of the state. Okungbowa said the dedicated information platforms are aimed at tackling the perennial problems of delays, absenteeism and extortion which undermine access to timely justice.

No fewer than 10

anomalies, including "court not sitting, staff not on seat, demands for money not covered by government treasury receipts, delay in obtaining judgements, orders and certified true copies of court processes". Others include "delays in compiling records of appeals, non-service of court processes, demands for money for bail or to perfect bail conditions, touting within the court premises, any other complaints and suggestions."

In order to have a "better Edo State Judiciary", as



Justice Daniel Okungbowa

well as promoting transparency and accountability, interested persons and groups can reach the Honourable Chief Judge of Edo State through SMS and WhatsApp on 09061865678.

These direct feedback

mechanisms for court users to hold judicial staff and officials accountable, could be viewed as revolutionary and a potential game changer in cleaning up the judicial system if properly implemented by all those concerned.

## Odu'a Investment Company GMD To Retire May Ending - Management

\*Names Yinusa New GMD effective June 1

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Odu'a Investment Company limited yesterday, disclosed that the company's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Adewale Raji is to retire by May ending 2024.

The company in a statement by its Media Relations, Mr Victor Ayetoro, named Mr Abdulrahman Yinusa as the new Group Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer effective 1st of June, 2024 and Mr. Yemi Ajao as Executive Director, and Group Chief Investment and Business Development Officer to assume office on January 15, 2024.

The Group Chairman of the Board, Odu'a Investment Company

Limited, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru while speaking on the leadership changes noted, "Today we announce the retirement of a Group Managing Director who superintended over a pivotal period in Odu'a Investment's evolution into a world class conglomerate"

"On behalf of the Board, I will like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Adewale Raji for his exceptional leadership, and for steering the ship with such vision, courage and professionalism during his tenure" he said. Otunba Ashiru added, "We are also delighted about the smooth leadership transition, and I will like to congratulate the Shareholders and the Board on Mr. Abdulrahman Yinusa's

Continued on Page 20

## Concerned Northern Forum Calls On Tunde Ojo To Remain Focused, Disregard Distractors

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Following what they described as his giant strides in consolidating the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led administration, a group, Concerned Northern Forum (CNF) has called for the Minister of Interior, Honourable Olubunmi Tunde Ojo. disregard distractors.

This was contained in a statement signed by Secretary, CNF, Amodu D. Philip, made available yesterday.

"The Honourable Minister of Interior has proven to be one of the shining lights of this administration. Nigeria has been historically bedeviled by a laborious and time-wasting passport application process that has become a cesspool of corruption for some individuals to greedily fill their pockets while Nigerians lament.

"Thus, Olubunmi Tunji Ojo's

stride at modernizing and digitalizing our passport application process is a step in the right direction," the statement said.

They explained that his commitment to keeping with his promise is also to be commended.

"The honourable minister on assuming office gave a time frame and calendar for when his reforms will start taking place and he has kept to this time set excellently. In a country where we have been accustomed to promise and fail leadership, Honourable Olubunmi Tunji Ojo has shown himself as a rare breed and trailblazer, a young mind whose energetic, focused and patriotism to the nation is admirable.

"As a progressive organisation committed to our dear nation's development, a better life and stable economy, translating to a better livelihood to all citizenry,

Concerned Northern Forum in it's wisdom thinks The following are SOME OF THE OFFENCES of Honourable Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo's @BTOofficial

"Passport Automation"

- Clearance of 204,332 passport backlogs and over 50,000 new passports in three weeks.

-Clearance of 2.5 million NiN modification backlogs

- Prison Decongestion: Release of 4,068 inmates; comprising persons sentenced to various terms of imprisonment with the option of fine and compensation in custodial status nationwide. N585M was raised by corporate bodies as Corporate Social Responsibility for that purpose.

- Re-Launching Safe School Initiative

-Improved emergency and fire Response time by commissioning new fire engines and rapid intervention vehicles.

-Establishment of enhanced e-passport facilities at select Nigerian Embassies in Italy, Spain, Greece, Austria and Switzerland.

- Making passport applications and collection processes easier and faster.

-HM Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo chaired the 5th Meeting of the Civil Defence, Correctional, Fire, and Immigration Services Board (CDCFIB). The board approved the promotion of 4498 personnel from the Nigerian Correctional Service, 4598 from the Nigeria Immigration Service, 1680 from Federal Fire Service, and 21385 from Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, totaling 32,361 personnel across board this is not just commendable but a landmark achievement that has not been recorded in a while.

- Hon Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo commissioned the Arrival "E" of

Murtala Mohammed International Airport, and moved to commission the remodeled main entrance/exit gate and Quarter Guard at the Zone 'A' Headquarters of the Nigeria Immigration Service in Ikeja, Lagos State.

"While we also want to emphasize again that Minister Ojo's efforts in the Ministry of Interior should be evaluated independently of any associations or companies he might be affiliated with, in adherence to the principle of corporate personality.

"We wish to thank President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for giving us BTO to champion your #RenewedHope Agenda. We would support any willing Nigerian devoted and committed to advancing the course of Nigeria and Nigerians. #RenewedHopeWithBTO," the statement said.