

For Second Time, Bandits Attack Agatu Communities In Benue, Kill Two Persons

**17 houses burnt*

Page 2

ICT Surveillance System Will Provide Security, Free Internet Services To Public Institutions In Ebonyi

- Commissioner

Page 2

Abandoning Police Retirees Fueling Insecurity In Nigeria - CSP Manir

Demands palliatives from Tinubu for retired officers

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

Chairman of the Association of Police Retirees, under Contributory Pension Scheme, Kaduna State Chapter, CSP Manir Lawal Zaria (rtd), has said that the ill treatment of retired police officers is contributing significantly to the insecurity challenges in the country.

CSP Manir who stated this while briefing journalists, said serving police officers

are no longer motivated to do the job and pay the supreme price for their country, if need be, hence there is no good plans for their future after retirement.

Lamenting the plight of his colleagues at the Police Officer's Mess, in Kaduna yesterday, Manir said that they are dying daily from starvation, ill health and other factors due to poor remuneration from the Police Contributory Pension Scheme and as

Continued on Page 3

Story on Page 6

Kaduna Becomes First State In Nigeria To Successfully Integrate Substance Abuse

**Establishes Drop-in Centres*



Members of the Association of Retired Police Officers during a Press Conference yesterday

Work In Synergy, Gombe Min Of Education Charges AGILE Project For Successful Projects Implementation

Story on Page 3

Troops Raid Terrorists Hideout In Kebbi, Rescue 4 Kidnapped Victims

By ; **A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau**
The Troops of 8 Division, Nigerian Army, in conjunction with operatives of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) including local vigilantes on Wednesday, has raided terrorists' camp and

successfully rescued four kidnapped persons and recovered arms and ammunition in Kebbi State.

The Acting Assistant Director Army Public Relations 1 Brigade Gusau, Capt. Yahaya Ibrahim has said in a statement Wednesday.

The statement reads in

part, "The raid operation was conducted in the identified terrorists' hideout at Sabon Gari Village in Shanga LGA of Kebbi State.

During the operation, troops neutralized one of the terrorists and extricated four kidnap victims.

The troops also recovered

3 AK 47 rifles, three Magazines, 142 rounds of 7.62 mm Special ammunition and two pairs of camouflage uniforms". According to the troops, all the rescued victims who are four males have since been reunited with their families, while troops continued to trail the wounded and fleeing



Hon. Uzor Tochukwu

For Second Time, Bandits Attack Agatu Communities In Benue, Kill Two Persons

**17 houses burnt*

By ; **ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi**

Again within a short period, gunmen suspected to be bandits have attacked two communities, Ikpele and Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, killing two persons.

New Nigerian reports that the renewed attack took place around 10 pm on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 when the people have retired to bed.

New Nigerian has reported that barely a week ago, herdsmen unleashed terror on Okokolo community, also in Agatu LGA, killing five persons, including

two soldiers, a personnel of Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, (NSCDC) and two other persons.

One of the community members, Oche Hyacinth, said, "Another attack happened yesterday night. They attacked Ikpele, Okokolo other places throughout the night and we are yet to get the exact number of persons killed so far.

"There was serious battle till around 10pm in the night. Two bodies have so far been recovered. Many houses were burnt. In fact, within the attacked community yesterday in the night, at least 17 burnt

houses were counted".

According to him, people have deserted their homes and seeking for shelter in neighbouring towns and villages.

Speaking to newsmen in Makurdi on phone, former Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism who is from Agatu, Mr Mike Inalegwu said the incident is true and appealed for reinforcement of security agencies in the area.

"The truth is that yesterday the armed herdsmen attacked Okokolo village and killed two persons while the villagers were thinking of their speculative attack on

Ogbai community.

"The tension is high and the seven villages in Kogi border of the local government is deserted. This is authoritative," Inalegwu informed.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer PPRO Benue State Command, SP Catherine Anene, said she does not have the information, but the Special Adviser to Governor Hyacinth Alia on Security and Internal Affairs, Chief Joseph Har, confirmed the attacks, saying however said they were not told that people were killed.

ICT Surveillance System Will Provide Security, Free Internet Services To Public Institutions In Ebonyi - Commissioner

By ; **M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki**

Following the ongoing installing of fiber optics in some strategic places in Ebonyi State, the Commissioner for Information and Communication Technologies, Hon. Uzor Tochukwu has said that one of the objectives of installing ICT facilities is to ensure security surveillance and provide free internet services to most public institutions across the state.

The commissioner who disclosed this in Abakaliki recently, said that having an efficient and effective ICT surveillance system in the state is one of the dreams of Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru in order to have a smart city where lives and property are well secured, which is in line with the People's Charter of Needs agenda of this administration.

He further stated that the ICT facilities have the capacity to capture anybody that engages in crime in any part of the state, adding that it will also provide free internet services to many public institutions in Ebonyi State.

The commissioner

appreciated the efforts of Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru in providing sophisticated ICT facilities for safety of lives and properties as well as free internet services inline with global best practices.

"When you check item 12 of the People's Charter of Needs, you will see ICT and smart city. If you glance through it, you will see the dreams of Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru on ICT.

"Currently, we are installing fiber optics. The main target is to provide free internet services to all the public institutions in the state. We are starting from Ebonyi State University, before every other institution. The fiber optics can be used to carry out security surveillance across the state in order to protect lives and property, which is one of the key factors and cardinal objectives of this government inline with the People's Charter of Needs.

The ICT surveillance system will capture anybody that engages in crime in any part of the state. The governor has many good programmes and Policies, and he is a lover of ICT," he explained.



From left: Chairman, Association of Licensed Telephone Operators of Nigeria, Gbenga Adebayo; Executive Commissioner, Stakeholder Management, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Adeleke Adewolu; Executive Vice Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, NCC, Dr. Aminu Maida; Executive Commissioner, Technical Services, NCC, Ubale Maska and President, Association of Telecom Companies of Nigeria, Tony Emoekpere at the Commission's interactive session with industry stakeholders in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Work In Synergy, Gombe Min Of Education Charges AGILE Project For Successful Projects Implementation



By; **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

The Gombe State Ministry of Education has charged AGILE Project to create a synergy for the successful implementation of the project in the state. The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Alhaji Abubakar Adamu, made the charge, during a review meeting of the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU).

Alhaji Adamu who was Represented by the Director's of Examinations of the ministry, Alhaji Ali Yaya and the Director Administration, Nuhu Usman Reme, commended the SPIU and urged them to work assiduously as a team for the benefit of the people of the state. He said the ministry is always ready to provide the needed guidance on the project to ensure its success in the state.

Earlier, in her remarks the state Project Coordinator, Dr Amina Haruna Abdul said the essence of the meeting is to review activities so far conducted by various components with a view to strategize and ginger the component leads to do more. Dr Amina Abdul, also commented the supervisory role played by the host education ministry which provided a level playing ground for the project. She said part of the major

achievement recorded was acquiring a functional office accommodation for the project and the constant review of the project's work plan by the SPIU. She appealed for continued harmonious working relationship with the members towards the smooth implementation of the project in the state. All the components leads presented summary of activities conducted from inception of the project to date.



Gunmen Defy Curfew, Kill About 20 Persons In Plateau

By; **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

Gunmen defied the 24-hour curfew imposed by the governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mufwang, attacked and killed about 20 persons in the early hours of Wednesday. The attack took place in Kwahaslalek and the surrounding communities, killing and burning some property too. A source explained that the attack that happened in Mangu town paved the way for the attack on the community that is not far from the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Permanent Orientation Camp at Jakatai, Mangu Local Government Area, although the information is yet to be confirmed from official sources. He explained that what happened at Sabon Gari and Mangu on Tuesday, was just a distraction so that people's attention

would be shifted away from the villages. He stated, "For the second time, my village Kwahaslalek (behind the NYSC camp) was attacked at about 12:30, leaving over 25 people, mostly women and children, killed as houses were burned and some persons left with gunshots." He added that at about midnight, there was a sporadic gunshot, and the women ran to one compound for safety, lamenting that the terrorist went there and killed them while the men were keeping vigil outside the community. The victims were killed at a community leader's house, where they ran for refuge. The Mariana, Kinat, and other communities in Mangu Halle District and those on the borders of Mangu and Barkin Ladi local government areas, according to him are deserted now.

2023 Polls: Litigations Outcome Vindicates INEC Chair, Mahmood, Says Ohanaeze Youths

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The youth wing of apex Igbo socio-cultural organisation says the decisions arising from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal on the 2023 general elections have vindicated the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with most of the cases dispensed with by the Supreme Court in which the victory of all the governors were upheld. The Appeal Court also validated the election of most of the National and State Assembly members, with only a few going for a rerun. In a statement made available to journalists, the National President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Council Worldwide, Mazi Okwu Nnabuike, said the INEC chairman, Prof Yakubu Mahmood has proven doubting Thomases wrong. Okwu noted that many expected a mass sack of governors and lawmakers, but that was not to be. "All the judgements delivered so far are clear indications that the INEC to a

very large extent conducted a credible election across the country. "We are not saying the exercise was completely flawless, but one must take into consideration the fact that no country conducts an election that is 100 percent error free. "However, from what has happened so far, the Prof Yakubu Mahmood-led INEC has been vindicated. "We want to commend the INEC helmsman for a job well done; he no doubt conducted one of the best elections in the country. That no governor was removed is a testament to the credible process spearheaded by Prof Mahmood," he said. He added that with the election over, it was now time for Nigerians to pursue major reforms in the electoral act that would block all the loopholes in the existing laws. Okwu said, "what we witnessed in the litigation process is that some of the sections of the electoral act have flaws. This should not in any way be blamed on the INEC.

Abandoning Police Retirees Fueling Insecurity In Nigeria - CSP Manir

■ Demands palliatives from Tinubu for retired officers

such they are in support of the two bills to exit the scheme. He applauded the leadership of the National Assembly led by Senator Godswill Akpabio, while noting that the senators gave them needed attention and promised to proffer lasting solution to their challenge during their visit to launch a formal complain.

Manir, however, said that the press conference is important because they are already afraid in the sense that the leadership of Senate will be having meeting with the IGP who claimed to have been making arrangements to assist them, a promise he said, had resulted to disappointment

from past IGPs. The chairman reiterated that unless the presidency does not want to see any retired police officer alive, they should remove them from the pension fund and pay them their benefits so that they can be able to take care of themselves properly while they are alive and not when they are no more.

He also demanded that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should put up palliatives for them like other Nigerians, make them also to benefit from government increase of salary wages, amongst other benefits. "Everybody is suffering in Nigeria, not only us. So when the

federal government came out with palliative, we thought that we are going to be the first beneficiaries but to our greatest surprise, we did not get anything from anywhere.

"The way our colleagues in service are killed innocently to us is a shame and embarrassing situation for us. The failure of government to pay police very well is a factor contributing to the Nation's insurgency.

"If government take care of the Police whether retired or serving, we can even join hands and end insecurity in one month, using our experiences and expertise." He said.



FG Lauds Zulum Over 15% Allocation To Health

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Ali Pate, has commended Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, for allocating 15 per cent of the state's budget to the healthcare sector, in compliance with the Abuja Declaration of 2001.

The minister made the commendation on Monday in Maiduguri, while delivering a keynote address at the opening session of the North East Commissioners of Health Forum meeting with the theme, "Addressing Key Health Challenges Affecting Northeastern States of Nigeria."

"I join my voice to thank you, Your Excellency, for the progress being made

despite the challenges. Thank you for the increased allocation to health and thank you for being innovative. I also thank you for your support for health workers in rural areas which is so critical to achieving the gains that we so desire in healthcare," the minister said.

The minister was represented by the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Muyi Aina.

In 2023, resulting from the unprecedented performance by Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, Borno emerged winner of the maiden Primary Healthcare Leadership Award both at the national and regional levels for the year 2022.

The Primary Healthcare Leadership Award was organized by the Nigerian

Governors Forum in collaboration with UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Aliko Dangote Foundation and the National Healthcare Development Agency.

The award was to honour and recognition of states that have achieved noteworthy strides in providing primary healthcare services.

In their separate remarks, the World Health Organization (WHO) country representative, Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo, and the FAO rep to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Koffy Dominique Koucou, commended the governor for the success achieved in five years.

Declaring the meeting open, Governor Zulum highlighted the success he has recorded since 2019, when he assumed

leadership of the state.

The governor noted the efforts on human resources, increased allocation to the health sector, provision of free maternal drugs, reconstruction of destroyed health facilities, construction of new health centres and providing improved working conditions for health workers among others.

Zulum also stated that in order to address the challenges of manpower, his administration will establish two new schools of nursing in the state.

The governor also urged participants at the meeting to come up with a framework that can address challenges faced in the health sector, particularly in rural areas.



Kaduna Becomes First State In Nigeria To Successfully Integrate Substance Abuse

*Establishes Drop-in Centres

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Under the visionary leadership of Governor Uba Sani, Kaduna State continues to set the pace in adopting progressive approaches to address the critical issues of substance abuse and mental health.

With the establishment of Drop-in Centres (DICs), Kaduna becomes the first state in Nigeria to successfully integrate Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services into the primary health care level, aligning with the National Drug Control

MasterPlan and the National MhGap Intervention Plan.

It would be recalled that last year, Governor Uba Sani shared his commitment to having 100 Primary Health Care (PHC) based Drop-In Centers as part of Kaduna State's comprehensive action plan during a meeting with the Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Speaking about this development, the Director General of KADBUSA, Joseph O. Ike, revealed that these Drop-In Centers are the result of close collaboration not only among

various state government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) but also with local government councils, private entities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

At the commissioning ceremony, Hon Mukhtar Baloni, Chairman of Kaduna North Local Government Council, highlighted the upcoming establishment of several more DICs within the Local Government. Additionally, the Local Government is renovating a facility to be used by KADBUSA as a secondary care

facility accessible to residents.

Tamar Nandul, Managing Director of Kaduna Markets Development Company, emphasised the company's role as stakeholders in addressing drug use issues, given the daily challenges faced in Kaduna markets. Dr Aisha Sadiq, representing the Commissioner of Health, noted the significance of the DICs in providing tangible assistance to young people struggling with substance abuse. The Kaduna State Primary Health Care Board expressed enthusiasm about their partnership with KADBUSA,

recognising its potential to enhance the delivery of its core mandates for the benefit of Kaduna State residents.

Professor Aishatu Yusha'u Armiya'u, Managing Director of Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Barnawa Kaduna, extended congratulations to the Kaduna State Government and the Director General of KADBUSA. She emphasised the urgent need for additional centres, acknowledging the significant progress in decentralising and improving access to Mental Health Services.



Katsina Govt Impressed With Empowerment Programmes Introduced By Political Office Holders

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government has expressed satisfaction with the empowerment programmes introduced by elected and political office holders in their various constituencies.

The state Governor Dikko Umaru Radda made disclosure during the launching of empowerment programs by 2 political office holders in Malumfashi local government.

Dikko Radda said the number of beneficiaries indicated that the political officers of the area had been accepted by their communities.

He charged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the programs to improve their living standards, recalling that, his administration in collaboration with the Federal Government have provided various supportive programs to cushion the effects of fuel subsidy removal.

Governor Radda assured that Government would introduce execute various developmental projects and programs for progress of the state.

Speaking differently, the Katsina State Managing Director of the State Water Board Engineer Tukur Tingilin and member of the state house of assembly Alhaji Aminu Acid pointed out that they decided to resolved to introduce the programmes to support Government initiative of allowing people to benefit from dividends of democracy especially women, children, youths and vulnerable people.

They assured further introduction of programs with aim of transforming the lives of the teaming electorate.

In his remarks, the District Head of Malumfashi, Justice Saddiq Abdullahi Mahuta (rtd) commended the twi political office holders for their efforts to improve the living conditions of the people of the area.

Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda Will Take Electricity To Every Nooks, Crannies Of Nigeria - Minister

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu has disclosed that the renewed hope agenda of President Bola Tinubu is to ensure that electricity is taken to every nook and cranny of Nigeria.

Chief Adelabu said this on Wednesday, during an inspection tour of Kashimbilla hydro power plant in Taraba State and the 56 km, 132KV transmission line from Yandev to Makurdi in Benue State

The minister according to a statement by his Special Adviser on Strategic Communications and Media Relations, Mr Bolaji Tunji hinted that more effort is geared towards improving power generating capacity across the power plants.

Chief Adelabu stated that the Kashimbilla hydro power plant in Taraba State and the 56 km, 132KV transmission line from Yandev to Makurdi in Benue State project is in line with the renewed hope agenda of Mr. President in ensuring that electricity is taken to every nook and cranny of the country.

He pointed out that the Kashimbilla Power plant with its state-of- the art technology which includes automated tracking and monitoring system (SCADA), is



Chief Adebayo Adelabu during the visit

working effectively and that the 132/33KV substation in Amua, Gboko local government area, Benue State are working perfectly well and generating 100 per cent of the installed capacity.

"The power plant has an installed capacity of 40 megawatts but only 10 megawatts is presently being evacuated. This inspection visit is to ensure accelerated completion of the facilities in order to ensure the remaining 30 megawatts is evacuated", he said.

Chief Minister added, "We have begun the process

and we have the assurance of the Contractors that this would be completed within the next six months to one year".

The Minister noted that once the evacuation infrastructure is completed, the four turbines would evacuate the 40 megawatts, effectively", adding, "the moment we are done with the evacuation infrastructure the stranded 30 megawatts will be evacuated, the entire four turbines will be working at full capacity of 10 megawatts each to make 40 megawatts and this will

increase the generation capacity that will be evacuated into the national grid".

Expressing displeasure that 30 megawatts is stranded, the Minister said it is not economically good for the country, hence the need to ensure the accelerated completion of the evacuation infrastructure.

The Managing Director of Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Engr. Sule Ahmed Abdulazeez while speaking said that efforts are in top gear to make sure that the 132KV transmission line from

Yandev to Apir in Markudi, is finished, adding, "By the time that transmission line is ready, we can evacuate all the power from the Kashimbilla plant".

The Director, Renewable and Rural Access Department, Engr. Abubarka Ali-Dapshima on his part noted that the scope of the 2nd phase is to evacuate the 40MW completely to the grid, saying, "The beautiful thing about this project is that it is a renewable energy project which has the ability to mitigate the issues of climate change

Katsina Assembly Demands Tandama-Layin Bridge Construction

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State House of Assembly has called on the Executive Arms to construct a bridge along Tandama-Layin Jiba Ward in Danja Local Government area of the State.

The House also appealed to head of security agencies in the state to investigate the alleged extortion being leveled against their staff working along some local governments routes in the state.

On the bridge construction, this followed the adoption of the motion filed by member representing the area

Shamsuddeen Abubakar Dabai.

The lawmaker who is also the House Leader said people of the affected areas submitted the complained to him.

He said that the bridge has broken down due to heavy down pour which made its difficult for people of the surrounding communities to cross their places.

In their separate remarks, members representing Katsina, Mani, Rimi, Sandamu, Kafur, Dandume and Bakori constituencies supported the motion.

On the alleged extortion by security personnel, the Katsina

State House of Assembly requested head of security agencies operating along Safana-Batsari-Katsina and Kaita-Dankama routes to investigate the alleged extortion being level against the staff working along the routes.

The measures followed the unanimous adoption of a motion filed by the Member representing Safana constituency, Alhaji Abduljalal Haruna Runka.

The Deputy Speaker accused the security personnel working along the routes of extortions and threat on people transporting several potatoes.

He informed the House that a complains was tabled before him by the people of Kukar Samu on the serious difficulties they are facing in the hands of security agents on the road conveying the products to Dankama market.

The move of the motion decried that farmers as Nigerians have the right of movement and conduct their businesses in all the nook and crannies across the country.

The Deputy Speaker called on the House to intimate Government draw the attention of relevant security agencies to take action to forestall the menace.

UNICEF, FCDO Implement Emergency Education Programmes, PLANE In Borno

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

United Children Education Funds (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has supported education sector Borno State emergency programmes through Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria under a 4-year education programme for Borno and Yobe states - Education in Emergency Programmes (PLANE-EIE) for 280,500 pupils and students (boys and girls) to benefit as well as 7,200 facilitating teachers of and junior secondary schools

The project is also aimed at enhancing access to safe, inclusive and high quality learning process, methodology and environment for both the pupils, students and teachers in reaching out to even boys and girls who are with disabilities and affected by conflict (vulnerable).

The Senior Education Officer, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, British Commission Abuja, Mr. Ian Atterfield disclosed this while briefing journalists in Maiduguri at Muhammad Aji Goni Laminu (Modu Makaranta) Mega Primary and Junior Secondary school Muna Garage while on assessment/inspection tour of the education programmes UNICEF is coordinating and implementing for 1,035 government officials, 2,235 members of School and Center Based Management Committees (SCBMCs).

According to him, the

programmes have significantly in the last three years of its implementation, contributed tremendously to the development and progress of the education sector recovery in the conflict affected areas, stressing that, it underscores a comprehensive approach to addressing the educational challenges posed by the insurgency, specifically, emphasizing on inclusivity and high quality learning for the vulnerable children

UNICEF, Borno State Education Officer, Mustapha Shehu said the implementation process of the education emergency programmes also include facilitating learning among the school children with a view to taste tracking their learning process and ensuring high quality and standard learning through various methodologies and processes including learner teaching the learners or other teachers of children between 6-17 years with emphasis and focus on three LGAs in Borno State, namely Maiduguri, Jere and Konduga. While in Yobe State, the LGAs include, Damaturu, Nguru and Potiskum with particular focus on supporting the recovery of the education system in Maiduguri, Jere and Konduga in Borno State and Damaturu, Nguru and Potiskum in Yobe State for a total of 45 per cent boys and 55 per cent girls using 7,200 educators or facilitators including 1,035 government officials.

Mohammed Zubairu, Education Officer, Norwegian Refugees Council (NRC), at Chad Basin Primary and Junior Secondary School Muna Garage area, also



said that the project is successfully advancing towards its goals, focusing on improving teaching and learning approaches for conflict affected children.

He added that the six teachers or trainers facilitating 320 pupils and students in the afternoon session, are also currently on track with substantial advancements in foundational learning skills and creation of a secure learning environment through inclusive, crisis responsive planning, resulting in a significant reduction in the percentage of pupils and students at beginners level in both numeracy and literacy.

Abel Ajaalla, Community Mobilization Officer,

Restoration of Hope Initiative (ROHI) at Muna IDPs Camp Primary and Junior Secondary school also emphasized that with the life skills and entrepreneurship, many girls have been empowered to overcome academic and social challenges, enhance immediate learning, complete primary school and transition to junior secondary school where over 32,000 girls are expected from the programme to developed crucial skills in analysing psychosocial and interpersonal skills.

According to him, these skills not only help in their continued learning but empower them with resilience and adaptability towards enabling them to thrive academically in the long run, stressing that, the project has contributed to improving a sense of safety and protection among the conflict affected learners.

The Headmaster of Modu Makaranta, Barrister Ngare Alhahi Bukar further explained that with the series of trainings carried out by UNICEF in the last three years in the school for both pupils of primary 4,5 and 6 alongside the trainings organized for the 41 teachers out of 53 teachers that the school had before

He noted that however, Quality and Programme Assessment (DPQA) indexes have shown that the project contributed in improving a sense of safety and protection among the conflict affected learners as 95% reported feeling safe within the

school environment while recommending the need for refine procedures, guidelines and data collection instruments pertinent to evaluating the issues in ground towards improving the assessment of child safety and security of the over 3,996 pupils and students of the school.

Headmaster of Muna IDPs Camp Primary and Junior Secondary school, Mr. Fali Shuaibu also said the school has everything but only lack in source of water which need repairs for being rounded, electricity, renovation of classrooms and furnitures as well as instructional materials and teachers to improve in learning and skills training of the pupils and students.

He noted that all the LGAs have developed conflict responsive and gender inclusive education sector plans to move forwards with the plans to continue to focus on ensuring disability-inclusivity in the programmes where UNICEF is expected to leverage on its ongoing partnership with UNESCO to help the selected or targeted LGAs develop disability-inclusive sector plans.

While assuring that the overall tangible improvements in educational outcome for conflicted affected children have been achieved in areas highlighted for improvement in present valuable opportunities for refining methodologies, strengthening data collection mechanisms and further expanding inclusivity within the educational planning.



Kaduna Health Budget Cash Backing: We Are Discussing With Relevant Ministries Says Commissioner



By; ALEX UANGBAOJE, Kaduna

Kaduna State Commissioner of Health, Umma Ahmed, has expressed confidence that cash backing of funds meant for the implementation of health budget for 2024, won't be a problem.

The Commissioner, stated this on Wednesday at a Breakfast Meeting for High Level Stakeholders on Health Sector Budget Advocacy tagged: Driving Evidence-based Advocacy for Improved Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent, Elderly Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAEH+N) Services in Kaduna State organized by the Kaduna Maternal Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM), with support from Evidence for Action (E4A) MamaYe.

She disclosed that her ministry is already reaching out to all key ministries in charge of approvals, releases and cash backing and that with the level of discussions she is confident that cash backing of funds would be far better than the past years.

Umma, noted that, "despite the competing demands on our resources, I want to emphasize our commitment to prioritize maternal, newborn, and child health."

"The challenges we face are numerous, especially in the area of cash backing, but our dedication remains steadfast. We must find innovative ways to navigate these challenges and ensure that the health of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable among us, remains a top priority."

She added that, "budget is a vital investment in the health and well-being of our people, particularly our mothers, newborns, and children. The commitment to allocate 15 percent of the Kaduna State budget to the health sector is a testament to our resolve to provide accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services to every citizen of Kaduna State."

The Commissioner, appreciated KADMAM for its dedication to the

cause of maternal, newborn, and child health, saying "as an indigenous Civil Society Organization, your partnership with the Kaduna State Government has played a crucial role in promoting and implementing health interventions that have significantly impacted the lives of our citizens."

"I want to express my gratitude to all present here, and I am confident that our collaboration will pave the way for a healthier and more prosperous future for the mothers, newborns, and children of Kaduna State."

In his goodwill message on behalf of Donor Partners, State Lead of Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL), Abel Adejor, said the meeting was timely and that it will go a long way in the implementation of the 2024 health sector budget.

Adejor, thanked KADMAM for putting the meeting together and bringing the key ministries, agencies and other stakeholders to discuss the way forward in cash backing funds budgeted for the health sector.

Earlier in his remarks, Co-chair of the Mechanism, Isa Gidado, said the essence of the meet was to solicit the commitment and assurance of the ministries in releases and cash backing of 2024 health sector budget.

Among demands made by the mechanism are for government to sustain the minimum 15% budgetary allocation and timely cash backing to the health sector in line with the Abuja Declaration.

That Ministry of Finance should ensure timely cash backing (actual) to the health sector budget for improved health services.

And that Government should ensure timely release and cash backing of the 1% Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) and 25% counterpart funding to the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) gateways to enhance more informal sector and vulnerable population enrollment in the contributory health scheme in the state.

Private Schools To Become Unattractive To Parents In Benue - BEGA DG

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

On the occasion of this year's International day of Education, which has as its theme as; "The Crucial Role Education and Teachers Play in Countering Hate Speech", the Director General of the Benue State Education Quality Assurance Agency (BEQA), Dr. Terna Francis has declared that private schools will soon become unattractive to parents in Benue state.

The BEQA DG made this statement whilst appearing on the Benue TV talk show; "Benue at Dawn" where he was speaking on the topic: "Educational Reforms in Benue State."

The DG gave a preamble as to the sorry State of Education in Benue State which prompted the current administration of Rev Fr Dr Hyacinth Alia to take concerted and proactive measures to

salvage the education sector.

This was more so, with public schools as there seem to be some sort of exodus to private schools who were now in turn exploiting parents whilst still not keeping to the approved standards of operating such institutions.

According to him, on assumption of office, Governor Hyacinth Alia saw the deplorable level of the Benue and as both a quick and long-term fix of the issues, the educational standards within the state needed upgrading.

The governor, therefore, mandated the creation of an agency saddled with the responsibility of re-evaluating educational standards in the state.

He further explained that the Agency is saddled with the recertification of all institutions below tertiary level. This recertification includes gathering data on

all matters relating to the curricular, learning environment, school management, quality of educators, learning materials, and motivation for both teachers and learners...

Speaking on the journey so far, the Director General who has taken time to understudy the issues in the educational standards of the state, noticed some unwholesome practices engaged in by some proprietors and managers of both public and private schools which includes misappropriation of both equipment and funds provided by the government to public schools, and worse still, with a general abuse of privilege through exploitation of students.

New Nigerian gathered that records show that both educators and managers of public and private schools have largely been uninspiring in

their job of providing development based education. A seeming lackadaisical attitude of nonconformity with standards, as well as a poor work ethics, has summarily led to a general decay in the quality of education in the state.

Taking a cue from the UNESCO theme of this year's International Day of Education, he affirmed that "...if hatred starts with words, peace starts with education..."

According to the Tom Akor, Head, Communication and Strategy the DG's outing on Benue TV, he immediately proceeded for his routine and daily monitoring exercises at LGEA Pilot Central Nursery and Primary school, UBE Junior secondary school, Holy Ghost Nursery and primary and Government Girls College, all in Makurdi.

Mass Housing Will Provide World Class Infrastructure - Uba Sani



By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Sequel to Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani's inspection of the ongoing construction of mass housing for the less privileged at Millennium City, Kaduna under the Qatar Sanabil Project.

Governor Uba Sani had a meeting with the Country Director of Qatar Charity, Mr.

Abdu Hamdi to share thoughts with him on the progress so far made and preparations for the commencement of the other projects.

Mr. Abdul Hamdi expressed the commitment of Qatar Charity to the full implementation of the Qatar Sanabil Project.

He also assured that the pace of work will

be quickened.

Under the Qatar Sanabil Project, a Mass Housing Project for the Less Privileged is being undertaken. Apart from houses, there will also be clinics, shops, poultry farms, and farmlands for rainy season and irrigation farming.

The flagship project under the Qatar Sanabil Project however is the Kaduna

Economic City.

Governor Uba said, when completed, the economic city will provide world class infrastructure and make Kaduna a reference point in modern accommodation, adequate security and conducive atmosphere for business activities.



Iware: Ruling House Sends SOS To Gov Makinde Over Alleged Land Grabbing

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyerinade Ruling House of Iware in Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State on Wednesday, asked Gov Seyi Makinde and people of the state to caution Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji, parading himself as Oniware of Iware.

A statement signed by 11 members of the Ruling House of Oniware of Iware, alleged him of attempting to sell 200 acres of land and also accusing him of attempting to sell the whole of Iware.

The statement was signed by 11 members of Oyerinade Ruling House of Oniware of Iware namely, Pa Akinade Adejare Ifekunle, Princes Babatunde Adegboye, Adeyemi Adedibu Olumide, Ajibade Oladimeji, Ajibade Olutayo, and Aderibigbe Olufemi.

The list also comprised, Miss Adedigba Ronke, Mr. Ademola Muiyiwa as well as Princesses Akinola Oyenike, Ajibade Folashade, and Ajibade Mojisola.

In the statement, the Iware Community warned the public to stop buying Iware land from Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji and his chiefs, because they have no right to sell the common patrimony of iware people and that whoever buys such land, does so at his or her

own risk.

According to the ruling house, that was, "the sole aim of his parading himself as the Oniware of Iware since his purported installation by some servants from the late Alaafin of Oyo in March, 2020 during the COVID 19 Pandemic when everywhere was under lock down.

"People of Iware Community, a town in Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State are crying out to His Excellency, Engr. Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, the Executive Governor of Oyo State and good people of Oyo State to save our Soul from Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji who has been parading himself as Oniware of Iware for selling 200 acres of land which is the property and common patrimony of Iware people for a sum of N70 million and he is attempting to sell the whole of Iware which is the sole aim of his parading himself as the Oniware of Iware since his purported installation by some servants from the late Alaafin of Oyo in March, 2020 during the COVID 19 Pandemic when everywhere was under lock down", it said.

Iware Community added, "Following the death of the immediate past Oniware of Iware - Oba Emmanuel Osuolale Ajibade Ifekunle, the Oniware stool of Oniware of iware became vacant. It should be

noted that the Oniware Ruling House which is Oyeriande (but wrongly written in the 1957 Oniware declaration as Oyerinde comprises of four (4) Sections viz: Adetunji Section, Ifekunle Section, Adeife Section and 4. Opafunmilayo Section.

"There were attempts to fill the vacant stool through back door which led to the filing of suit number HOY/16/2018 - Chief Kayode Sangotoki v Governor of Oyo & 9 Others which is still pending in High Court Oyo Judicial Division. That during COVID 19 pandemic in March 2020, Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji claimed he was installed as Oniware of Iware by some servants of the late Alaafin of Oyo.

"The purported installation led to institution of another case which is Suit No HOY/8/2020 Prince Babatunde Adeife & Anor v Governor Oyo State & 5 Ors which is also pending in High Court No 1, Oyo Judicial Division. That despite the pendency of the above name cases Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji has been parading himself as the Oniware of Iware".

The statement stressed:

"That it has just come to attention of people of Iware community that Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji has sold 200 Acres of Iware land for

the sum N70 Million Naira (see the attached Land Agreement executed by him) and that he is making further attempt to sell more land. That Three (3) Sections - Ifekunle section, Adeife Section and 4. Opafunmilayo Section out of the Four Sections of Oniware Chieftaincy family are not in support of any sales of Land;

"That it has become manifest and obvious that the aim of Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji for parading himself as Oniware of Iware is to sell the common Patrimony of Iware People

That Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji has been creating non-existent Baale chieftaincy titles to assist him in selling Iware Land.

"That he has recently created and installed many people as Baale in Iware contrary to the custom and Tradition of iware and without the approval of the Governor of Oyo State solely to assist him in selling Iware land. That he has installed Lukman Anwo as Baale Ayedade Iware, Alh. Rauf Shittu (Sangosanra) as Baale Araromi Iware, Gbade Akinwale as Baale Papa, Iware and just few days ago he installed Sikiru Alausa as Baale Ajegunle, Iware just to get people that will be assisting him in selling Iware Land. To buttress this assertion, See No 2 witness in the attached Land agreement where Alh. Rauf Shittu - Baale

Araromi served as witness in the sales of the 200 Acres of land for 70 Million - A case HOY/1/2024 has been instituted in the High Court to determine whether Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji has power to install those people as Baale

"It is our belief that Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji and his newly installed Chiefs (Baales and Honourary Chiefs) colluded together to sell Iware land and share the money, adding, "the whole Iware land is under the imminent danger of being sold off by Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji and his Baale & Honourary Chiefs thereby leaving Iware and his people without any land which is our common patrimony handed down to us by our fore fathers

"That Iware people had written many letters to the Governor of Oyo State, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters as well as the Chairman of AFIJIO Local Government to stop recognising Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji as Oniware of Iware and presented so many facts before the court in the pending cases but Rasheed Adeniyi Owoade Adetunji is still parading himself as Oniware of iware and selling Iware land despite the ongoing cases in the Court of Law."

Enugu Natives, AGU- Umabor, Cry Out To Gov Mbah Over Heavy Gully Erosion Threatening Community

By: KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

People of Agu-Umabor Community in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, have sent a passionate message to the state governor, Dr. Peter Mbah over a heavy gully erosion that is at the verge of cutting off the only road that links the locality with other areas.

A group in the locality under the banner of Agu- Umabor Elites, which recently held its Annual

General Meeting (AGM)/Get together, made the appeal on Tuesday via a statement made available to New Nigerian, issued by its public Relations officer (PRO), Mr. Ugwuanyi Boniface.

The statement said, the group after inspection of the critical infrastructure in the area, discovered that the only road in the community, Agu Umabor - Breme- Eha- Alumona road that was almost completed by the last administration, was abandoned,

and the community shall be completely cut off in a matter of months, because of heavy gully erosion created by the abandoned road project.

It added: "The road is so crucial to the people as it connects Agu-Umabor - Mbu- Ikem and Enugu" adding that the community is agrarian with a population of over 100,000.

"The only primary school in the area also in a dilapidated form as pictures shown, stressing that the rural electrification of the

Community was also abandoned, despite the community's efforts and individual contributions of three standard brand new transformers.

According to the statement, "we the Agu Umabor Elites Group, therefore, appeal to the forward looking Governor of Enugu State to intervene and save the community from the inherent ecological dangers when the rain comes.

Hiwever, the AGM saw the

election of new officials of the elites group with Gil Emeka Abonyi as President, Josephat Onah as Vice President, Engr Chris Ogbu returned as Secretary General and Boniface Ugwuanyi as PRO.

The organization thanked the Parish Priest of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Breme, Rev. Fr. Edward C. Okeke and Agu-Umabor Town Union President, Chris Odo and Igwe Kelvin Mamah for their efforts in solving the problems of the

CSO Urges Quality Services To Pilgrims, Lauds Formation Of Hajj Service Providers Group

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Independent Hajj Reporters (IHR), a civil society organization that monitors and advocates workable Hajj policies, has thrown its weight in support of the coming together of Saudi based accommodation and feeding providers under one umbrella.

The service providers recently decided to form a group and work together to ensure prompt and efficient service is rendered to pilgrims during Hajj.

The formation of the group according to IHR, is timely considering the challenges of insufficient tents and feeding experienced by pilgrims in Mina during the 2023 Hajj.

IHR in a statement on Tuesday, signed by its national coordinator Ibrahim Mohammed, said it particularly commends the group for adopting a merit-based approach by selecting the Chairman/CEO of Shuraka'a Alkhair Group, Musa Hamid Jibril as its leader.

"With record successes of serving Nigerian pilgrims for

decades during Hajj and with the associated supports he has rendered to many of his clients, we believe Alh. Musa Hamid has the capacity and experience to lead the group in serving Nigerian pilgrims effectively and efficiently," IHR said.

The CSO added that having been providing series of Hajj services to the guests of Al Rahman from Nigeria and many African countries, "it is our belief that Musa Hamid will deploy his vast expertise in leading other companies within the group to provide commensurate services to our dear pilgrims and ensure that they provides a conducive and memorable environment to our pilgrims in the Holy Land".

IHR also said the formation of the group will make it easier for the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to coordinate and supervise services rendered to Nigerian pilgrims during Hajj operations.

"Interacting and interfacing with multiple service providers at the same time creates human resources and logistics challenges to NAHCON



especially during off shore operations.

"About 15 to 20 different Hajj service providers are serving 36 states from the same country and NAHCON is obligated to meet with all of them thus creating serious challenges in oversight and supervisory issues.

"With this group in place, NAHCON only needs to interface with the leadership and communicate effectively".

IHR said monitoring Hajj service providers requires close contacts with pilgrims to extract feedbacks and draw attention of service providers whenever there is shortage or shortfall in the standards agreed upon in the contractual agreements.

It also said such process should be conducted in a seamless manner using an on-the-spot problem solving approach. "That is why NAHCON creates

different committees to coordinate and manage different services like Feeding, accommodation, Airlifts, movement of pilgrims to and from Masha'ir, health services, inspectorate evaluation and compliance and other administrative duties.

"Just like AHUON, NAHCON can now communicate to the Saudi based service providers via their leadership especially in

NATCOM-UNESCO Secretary General Hails Appointment Of Ajiboye As CEO NICO

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Secretary General, National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (NATCOM-UNESCO) in Nigeria, Dr. Olagunju Idowu has hailed the appointment of Otunba Biodun Ajiboye as Executive Secretary/CEO of the National Institute for cultural Orientation (NICO), saying it is a ray of hope for Nigeria when it comes to culture and the creative economy.

Dr. Olagunju expressed this in Abuja on Thursday, January 25, 2024, while receiving the Executive Secretary who was in his office on a courtesy visit to seek NATCOM's support, knowledge and direction towards achieving the mandate of the Institute.

According to him, the kind of energy the new ES has already brought on board within a short period towards repositioning the Institute will go a long way to change the narratives for the good of the culture and creative sector and the Nigerian economy in general.

While assuring him of the needed support to achieve his vision, Olagunji reiterated that NATCOM-UNESCO remains duty bound to ensure that no agency of government in Nigeria will miss any benefit emanating from UNESCO.

His words, "UNESCO believes in



More than three sports pages sent earlier, you didn't see them?

collaboration, especially in the area of rubbing minds together to achieve a set goal and our special duty is to get benefits from UNESCO as much as possible. While I am here, Nigeria will not lose anything anymore. I will do my best for posterity to remember. We will continue to do our best to get available information from UNESCO and send it to the appropriate quarters for them to implement while we avail ourselves for

technical support if the need arises.

"For instance, anything that has to do with intangible culture matters, we forward it to NICO while those that has to do with tangible culture is forwarded to the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM). Where there are things that cuts across, both Institutions are called upon to collaborate".

Speaking earlier, the Executive Secretary of NICO, Otunba Biodun Ajiboye

maintained that his basic interest is to drive the Institute's core mandate and reposition it to take its right responsibility within the dictate of the act that created it.

He maintained that the meeting was to give him the opportunity to make intentional inquiries and see how NATCOM-UNESCO can support the Institute in accessing funding opportunities for cultural development in the country.

"When I came on board, I realized that we need a little bit of energy to drive the core mandate of NICO to a recognized conclusion because the conversation between NICO and government has not been deep enough to make government give it what is due by recognizing what they are supposed to be".

According to him, culture plays a very important role in human development and there is every need to properly redefine our cultural understanding as a nation towards incorporating it in our governance system.

The Executive Secretary was accompanied by the Director, Orientation and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Segun Adegbaaju and Head, Cultural Affairs, Hajiya Basirat Muse-Ajumobi among other support staff.



Oyo Assembly Confirms Appointments Of Adeniran, AbdulRaheem As Board Chairmen

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State House of Assembly on Tuesday, confirmed the appointment of Dr. Nureni Aderemi Adeniran as the Executive Chairman, Oyo State Basic Education Board (OYOSUBEB). The House also confirmed the appointment of a former Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Barr. Abdulrahman Abiodun AbdulRaheem as chairman of a board. The confirmation of the

duo followed the presentation of the reports of the House Committee on Education (Basic & Secondary) and that of Education, Tertiary Institutions, Science and Technology. In the report read by the House Committee Chairman on Education (Basic & Secondary), Hon. Johnson Ogunde described Dr. Nureni Aderemi Adeniran as a seasoned administrator who performed excellently well during his tenure as the immediate past Chairman of SUBEB.

"Having satisfactorily answered questions put to him by the Committee, Dr. Nureni Aderemi Adeniran is found appointable" Also, the report of the House Committee on Education, Tertiary Institutions, Science and Technology, read by the Committee Chairman, Hon. Oluwafemi Adebayo Oluwafowokanmi found Barr. Abdulrahman AbdulRaheem worthy of the appointment and recommended him for confirmation by the House. "Having satisfactorily

answered questions put to him by the Committee and considering his sterling and unprecedented performance to education sector in the State especially as former Commissioner for Education, the nominee was found appointable and the Committee hereby recommends that pursuant to section 12 of Oyo State Education Trust Fund, the House confirms the appointment of Barr. Abdulrahman Abiodun AbdulRaheem as Chairman, Oyo State Education Trust Fund"

24 Suspected Internet Fraudsters In EFCC Net In Uyo

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

No fewer than 24 persons, suspected to have been undergoing training in internet fraud have been arrested by operatives of Uyo Zonal Command of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Akwa Ibom State. A statement by the EFCC spokesperson, Dele Oyewale on Monday, said that the suspects were arrested on Monday, following an intelligence tracing them to a storey building, suspected to be a criminal hideout for the training at Ewet Housing Estate and Nelson Mandela respectively. He said the suspects would be charged to court at the conclusion of investigations.

The statement in parts, "The all- male suspects were arrested in two locations in an intelligence sting operation at D-Line Ewet Housing Estate and Nelson Mandela area both in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. "Items recovered from the premises and the suspects include: five exotic cars; 18 laptops; 17 mobile phones and one internet router. "The EFCC had, on November 28, 2019 arrested 23 trainers and trainees at a "Yahoo Academy" at Essien Essien Street, Ikot Ibiok village in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. "The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded."



Dr Adeniran

Akwa Ibom Govt Moves To Reducing Costs of Running Private Jet

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Worried by the volatile exchange rate in Nigeria leading to high cost of maintaining a private jet, Akwa Ibom State Government has taken steps to ensure lucrative use of the aircraft. The aircraft which was acquired during the tenure of Godswill Akpabio as governor as official jet, will remain an asset of the state government. Ini Ememobong, Commissioner for information made this known in a statement after the state executive council presided over

by Governor Umo Eno.

"Council granted permission for the office of the Secretary to the State Government to undertake a cost reduction management structure for the state official private jet. "This decision is predicated on the need for a drastic reduction in the cost of governance, the volatile exchange rate, and the corresponding increase in the cost of maintenance of the private jet. "While the aircraft will remain the state's asset, it will be put to more lucrative use." The commissioner said.

He disclosed that a report on the Akwa Ibom State Social Register was presented adding that the state government and the Chairmen of Local Government Councils we're collaborating to engage vulnerable persons in the different Local Government councils According to the commissioner, the register now has a total of 671,410 entries. He said the state executive council also received a report on the proposed dialysis and renal centers, highlighting the sites, buildings, and equipment needed for centers adding that Governor

demanded for the final report to enable him approve the project for prompt execution. An update on the production of educational items for pupils in Public Primary Schools in the state. She informed that the production was reported to be nearing completion.while a report on the effective way to manage state owned enterprises to endure profitability was also presented, according to the statement. Similarly, a report on the Akwa Ibom-United Kingdom Education Exchange Programme explaining that

students from secondary schools in rural areas from all local government councils in the state took examinations from which successful candidates emerged as the governor reiterated his preparedness to give the selected students an experience of a lifetime. "On infrastructure, the council ratified recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) on the approval for release of funds for additional works at the airport and ongoing road contracts in the state, "the statement added.

Stay Away From South West, Kwara, Kogi, Edo, Delta States, Yoruba Regional Alliance tells Nomad Vigilante

**Says Nomad Vigilante is recipe for anarchy*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Yoruba Regional Alliance of Self Determination groups on Wednesday asked the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore (Nomad Vigilante) to stay away from the South West Yoruba speaking states. Addressing a press conference at the Oyo State NUJ Press centre in Ibadan, through the Secretary of the group Architect Akinola George said the creation of the vigilante group by the Miyetti Allah "is a recipe for anarchy". According to the Yoruba Regional Alliance of Self Determination groups "Any ethnic group in Nigeria is free to train and deploy vigilantes to

protect their lives and properties insofar as they keep such operatives within their recognized community borders, states or homelands, and do not constitute a threat to their neighbours".

"The federal government of Nigeria is hereby put on notice that this is a recipe for anarchy as we shall not accept it under any guise. The result, of course will be predictable anarchy", it said.

The group added, "If members of this nomadic vigilant group are deployed to any part of Yorubaland, be it Kogi, Kwara, Delta or Edo, or to any part of South-West, in Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Oyo or Ekiti, they will be regarded as an alien, invading force, and will be

treated as such.

"Anyone who is interested in the security of their livestock should buy a piece of land and build a ranch to quarantine their animals within a defined space, and organize their security within those boundaries".

It stressed, "The federal government of Nigeria is hereby put on notice that this is a recipe for anarchy as we shall not accept it under any guise. The result, of course will be predictable anarchy."

The group maintained "All parts of Yorubaland are advised accordingly. Under no circumstances will they be welcome or accepted anywhere in Yorubaland. Whoever is toying with that thought of deploying them to

Yorubaland should immediately perish the thought!

Condemning the Bodija explosions, the group said "how did the supposed miners acquire such impunity and latitude to act above the law, which has resulted in such devastating consequences?"

"Going back to the Ibadan explosion, and the unlikely explanation that licensed miners were stockpiling explosives needed for their work. What kind of mining requires you to use an incendiary device that could level a whole neighborhood? Why would such explosives be stored or kept in a residential area?"



Yoruba Regional Alliance members at the Press conference in Ibadan

Emir Of Zazzau Launches Indorama Agricultural Development Center In Zaria

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmad Bamaalli has launched Indorama Agricultural Development Center (IADC) with a call on farmers to make use of the center to increase their food production. Represented by the Wakilin Fulanin Zazzau, Alhaji Mohammed Buhari, he said that the center will solve a lot of farmers problems with regards to fertilizer application and soil

problems.

Bamalli noted that the fertilizer company has over the years, contributed much to the smallholder farmers in boosting their production.

According to him, the center is a landmark as Zaria has smallholder and large scale farmers in Zazzau Emirate.

In his remarks, the General Manager of Indorama Fertilizer Company, Mr. Avijit Sinha said, the center will attend to farmers problems free of

charge.

Mr. Sinha added that the facilities in the centre are world standard and already, they have such centers in six states.

Also, he informed that the company has started producing NPK of different varieties as well Urea.

The general manager assured farmers of continuous support towards providing quality fertilizer that will boost their farming.

The All Farmers

Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Kaduna State Chairman, Alhaji Nuhu Aminu assured farmers that Indorama products are good for all crops.

Nuhu Aminu said Indorama is complementing government's policies on agricultural transformation in Nigeria.

Commenting on the centre, Alhaji Sani Ibrahim Dan Marke who is their marketer in Zaria, congratulated Indorama Fertilizer for the

NYSC: Coordinator Canvasses Members' Welfare, Security During Bye Elections In Enugu

By; KELVIN OKPARA

The Coordinator, National Youths Service Corps (NYSC), Enugu State, Mrs Christiana Salmwang, has canvassed for the safety and welfare of corps members in the state during the forthcoming re-run election.

She made the appeal on Tuesday in Enugu, during the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) meeting for the forthcoming re-run election scheduled to be held February 3, 2024.

The coordinator pleaded with the security agencies to give high priority to the security of corps members who would play critical roles during the re-run election as electoral officers.

She emphasised the importance of the welfare

of corps members with regards to prompt payment of their election allowances so as to encourage and motivate them to put in their best and participate in future election assignments.

Our correspondent reports that the meeting was called to update participants of preparation for the court-ordered Federal and State constituency elections in Udenu/Igbo-Eze North Federal Constituency and Enugu South 1 State constituency elections as well as the strategy to make the election successful.

The meeting, which was held at INEC headquarters in Enugu had in attendance the Resident Electoral Commissioner, Enugu State, Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu, heads of security agencies in the state, among other stakeholders.

International Day Of Education: UNICEF, Media, Other Stakeholders Demand Stop To Attacks On Learning Facilities In Nigeria



healthy, hygienic, and protective learning environment.

The participants equally advocated for tightened security in and around the schools as well as encouraged schools in the rural areas to have access to up-to-date learning materials.

The communique condemned discrimination against physically challenged children on school admission and advocated inclusivity in the education system in that

regard.

It also canvassed for skill-based learning system resulting in self-reliance on graduation and also called for promotion of workability and efficacy of the Nigeria Learning Passport, NLP.

The communique called for urgent and effective attention by government and all stakeholders in the education sector in making necessary contributions towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number.

Alleged Scholarship Non-payment: Hon Gabriel Saleh Debunks Allegations Raised By Students

*Says it's concocted lies to tarnish his image

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Former House of Representatives member, Hon. Gabriel Saleh has debunked stories making rounds in the media about some students, who claimed they were promised scholarships and not paid at the end.

The lawmaker described the allegations raised by the students in the "sponsored" write-up as not only frivolous, but also concocted lies to tarnish his hard earned political image.

In the published story, some medical students and other science students from Kachia Kagarko Federal Constituency cried out over, 'Political gimmick' of the former member and vowed to vote him out.

Reacting in a statement personally signed by Hon. Gabriel Saleh, he said he never made any promise of sorts and failed during the course during his stay as House of Reps member and entire political career.

He further explained, "I was popularly voted by the good people of Kachia/Kagarko to represent them in the House of Representatives and I did my very best to do so, while my tenure lasted.

"For the records, they should cross check again in Kaduna State University (KASU), my team went to pay scholarships for students that were captured, located and paid accordingly. Anyone in doubt should go to KASU and ask the Student Captured if they got it or not.

"All that I did were documented and there was no time that I promised and failed our people.

"Those that were captured for scholarships by the team were shortlisted and paid to KASU. Before going to press, I expected those who carried such frivolous stories to confirm whether those captured got it or not."

The lawmaker who expressed displeasure over the story, noted, "I have four years tenure, how would I promise to take off tuition fees for medical students who will be in school after my four years tenure".

While describing the story as the handiwork of political enemies, who are threatened by his popularity, he said, "It's a matter of time, God will vindicate me and expose their evil



machinations."

Speaking about the petition with claims that he supported Labour Party presidential candidate during the elections, Hon. Saleh simply referred the detractors to Hon. Faleke.

He however, stressed, "Anyone in doubt about my contributions to Asiwaju's campaign and election victory should ask my colleague Faleke, who was then the Secretary of the Presidential Campaign Council of Asiwaju." According to him, the public should know that the faceless group which wrote the petition under guise of 'Concerned APC Members Kaduna State' (Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency) was sponsored to de-campaign him.

He added that If there was a need for a petition, it should come from the party chairman of the polling unit, ward or even the state office.

He explained further, "There are 22 wards, why is it that there are no signatures from the wards? That is to show that the whole idea is a lie and calculated attempt to reduce my popularity

ahead of the by-election.

Meanwhile, he disclosed, "My campaign is going on and will continue until the D-Day of the by-election."

On his achievements, Hon. Saleh said, "We provided 36 major projects, ranging from hospitals; schools boreholes and also sponsored a bill to create a Federal College of Agriculture, Kagarko, which has gone through the second reading and ready for public hearing.

He also revealed, "We touched lives of so many people, including widows, orphans, youths, students traditional and religious leaders.

"We organized an annual programme tagged, "Peace Conference" where lectures on peace and conflict resolution are taught while at the end fertilizers and rice were shared to farmers and the less privileged with cash donations to indigent families. Over 110 motorcycles and some vehicles were distributed and good number of our youths employed in critical positions.

"And these good works, we have

promised to continue to do if re-elected."

In a reaction to the issue of petition against Hon. Saleh via telephone, the Chairman of All Progressives Congress (APC), Kachia Local Government Area, explained, "In the first place, most of those who signed the petition are not our party members. How did they arrive at the conclusion that Hon. Gabriel Saleh Har was engaged in anti party activities at any time, when they not members of the party?"

"One name we saw on the so called petition, Junaidu is a suspended member of the party. He was caught red-handed on video, working against our lawmaker for the upcoming rerun election. Another person who signed, was the former party secretary, Mr. Daniel Ibrahim, who has debunked signing the petition and the other persons are not our members. The petition does not hold water as far as we are concerned, thus should be disregarded.

"On the the forthcoming rerun election for Kachia/Kagarko

Federal Constituency, the Chairman said, "APC is battle ready for landslide victory. All we know is that Hon Gabriel Saleh Har is a loyal party member, who has always sponsored the party and its activities without looking back. We know him as one who takes care of the party. Of course, if you're in power, you will have more enemies, more so, that he's widely known for giving to people and helping the less privileged.

"Ahead of the rerun the party, we are more determined and working tirelessly to ensure overwhelming victory God willing."

Similarly, the APC Chairman Kagarko Local Government Area, Mr. Christopher Mailafiya discredited the petition and described it as a "Fiction of imagination" of the writers.

"We can't allow such shenanigans to distract us from winning the forthcoming rerun election. Hon. remains the candidate to beat and the party is leaving no stone unturned to make sure Hon. is again

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Wins New Telegraph Newspaper Governor of the Year 2023

**Gombe Governor's giant strides in education, integrity, transparency recognized'*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, has been nominated by the New Telegraph Newspaper for the award of Governor of the Year 2023 on Education.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli made available yesterday.

In a letter signed by the newspaper's Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief, Ayodele Aminu, and addressed to the Governor, the New Telegraph explained that Governor Inuwa Yahaya's giant strides in Education couple with his determination to chart a new course in public service, built on integrity, transparency and the strong desire to improve the livelihoods of the people, informed his choice for the prestigious award.

"As Governor of Gombe State, you have improved on the state's rating in nearly all indices of human development and standard of living. It is on record that under your watch, Gombe State

has witnessed giant strides in Education. Since your foray into politics, you have left no one in doubt of your determination to chart a new course in public

service, built on integrity, transparency and the strong desire to improve the livelihoods of the people", the paper explained.

The paper particularly noted the following achievements of the Governor in the education sector: construction and renovation of over 1440 classrooms across the State; mopping up of over 350,000 out-of-school children; upgrade of 5 secondary schools to mega-school standards and construction of 4 special schools (to take care of special needs); recruitment of 1,000 teachers, and strengthening of vocational and technical education through various partnerships like the IDEAS (Innovation in Development and Effectiveness in Acquisition of Skills), which is a World Bank-assisted project. According to the New Telegraph, these and many other efforts, led to a number of positive outcomes in the education sector, including a sharp increase in the percentage of candidates in public schools who passed WASSCE with 5 credits or above including Maths and English from 28% in 2019 to 73% in 2021 and 78% in 2022, noting that the Governor's performance has become a reference point to his contemporaries across the North East region and Nigeria at large.

While accepting the nomination, Governor Inuwa Yahaya said this recognition will inspire him and his team to continue with the significant strides in shaping a brighter future for the upcoming generation in the state through provision of quality and affordable education to citizens in Gombe state.

"I am deeply honored to accept my nomination by the New Telegraph Newspaper as Governor of the Year 2023 on Education. This recognition underscores our collective commitment as government to advancing education in our state. I want to reassure our citizens in Gombe state that my administration will continue to ensure the growth and prosperity of our educational system. This award will inspire us to continue to make significant strides in shaping a brighter future for the upcoming generation through provision of quality and affordable education", Governor Inuwa said.

"This recognition also holds great significance for both myself and my government. It serves as a validation of our modest efforts to drive progress and prosperity in Gombe state. The acknowledgment from a reputable newspaper like New Telegraph, specifically in evaluating our accomplishments in the education sector, affirms our commitment to



Gombe Governor

excellence. This honor motivates us to continue our work for even greater achievements for the well-being of our citizens", the Governor added.

Recall that recently, Governor Inuwa was recently voted by another national daily, The Sun Newspaper as its Governor of the year 2023. Also, Vanguard and Leadership Newspapers had earlier conferred on Governor Inuwa Yahaya 'Best Governor of

the Year' awards in recognition of his excellent contributions to the economic growth of Gombe state and welfare of the citizens of the state.

The Governor will be presented with the prestigious New Telegraph award at a ceremony slated for Friday, February 2, 2024, at Balmoral Hall, Federal Palace Hotels, Victoria Island, Lagos.



Gov AbdulRazaq Names New Governing Council For KWASU

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdRazaq has appointed a new Governing Council for the state-owned Kwara State University (KWASU), Malete.

Former Vice Chancellor of University of Ilorin Prof Abdul Ganiyu Ambali is the chairman of the council, which has five others as members.

The other members are Professor Ibrahim Jawondo; Professor Aishetu Abdulkadir; Barrister

Teju Oguntoye; Abdullahi Biogera; and Daudu Funmilayo Maryam (host community and the youth constituency).

The appointments are to take immediate effect.

Breaking The Chains Of Insecurity: The 4D Strategy For Safer North

By: MUHAMMADU INUWA YAHAYA, CON

It is with deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you to address this important roundtable on Multidimensional Approach to Tackling Insecurity in Northern Nigeria.

Insecurity in northern Nigeria (and indeed Nigeria generally) is a matter of great concern to all of us. Northern Nigeria, once regarded as a beacon of peace and stability, is today grappling with numerous security challenges: religious crises, Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herders clashes, cattle rustling, rural banditry, kidnap-for-ransom, etc. These challenges pit our people against each other, thereby severing the bonds of brotherhood that hold our communities together.

As leaders, we must all take responsibility and join hands to reverse this ugly trend. We must recognize the urgency of the situation and make strong commitment towards the safety and wellbeing of our people. It is a challenge that affects us all. It acknowledges neither tribe nor religion. No one (rich or poor, high or low, young or old) is immune from its consequences. During our meeting of the Northern States Governors Forum in December last year, I made it clear that confronting these challenges will require a united and comprehensive effort. We must work towards addressing its root causes in order to find sustainable solutions. The nature and complexities of those challenges necessitate a multidimensional approach that goes beyond traditional measures. As the wise saying goes: "we cannot keep repeating the same thing and expect a different result."



In order to develop a multi-dimensional approach to tackling our security challenges, I'm advocating the 4D approach: Development, Defence, Dialogue and Diplomacy. Development: Today, Northern Nigeria ranks lowest across all indices of human development. This provides a fertile ground for terrorism and all forms of insecurity. To address this, we must put all hands on deck to address the root causes of underdevelopment in northern Nigeria. These include poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, population explosion and environmental degradation. We must invest in infrastructure,

human capital, agriculture, renewable energy, digital economy and the restoration of our environment.

Defence: Through investment in security, we must strengthen the capabilities of our security agencies to adequately respond to emerging security threats. This requires investment in manpower, training and capacity building, equipment and logistics, enhanced intelligence capabilities, legal reforms, improved welfare, and sustained local collaboration.

Dialogue: Through dialogue, we must seek to foster a culture of trust and accountability. We must deny divisive elements and

conflict merchants the opportunity to divide us. As the late Sir Ahmadu Bello eloquently expressed, we are a "People of many different races, tribes and religion who are knit together to common history, common interest and common ideas, the things that unite us are stronger than the things that divide us." We must therefore work with civil society groups, religious leaders, traditional rulers, and all relevant

stakeholders in order to foster dialogue and understanding among our diverse communities. Diplomacy: Northern Nigeria shares borders with 4 countries (Benin Republic, Niger, Chad and Cameroon). While this presents an opportunity for commerce and trade through the movement of goods and people, it also comes with tremendous risks posed by the trafficking of weapons and drugs and the movement of international criminals through our porous border. For the sake of our collective security, we must collaborate with our neighbours in order to tackle those challenges.

The issue of drug abuse, and its role in fuelling insecurity, is one that is not receiving the desired attention. It is a major threat to both the present and the future of our youth. We must combat this menace and take our youth off the streets, lest they become a ticking time-bomb of socioeconomic discontents, with severe consequences on social stability and internal cohesion.

This roundtable is a testament to our collective determination to find innovative and lasting solutions to our security challenges. I therefore urge all of you to use this opportunity to share ideas, ensure

collaborations and build partnerships that will contribute to the restoration of peace and stability to our northern region. I have no doubt that together, we can pave the way for a more secure and prosperous future for northern Nigeria.

I would like to thank the organizers of this roundtable for bringing together seasoned security experts, public policy practitioners and other stakeholders to brainstorm on the solutions to tackle our security challenges. Over the years, we have seen various roundtables discussions and conferences on insecurity in northern Nigeria, with policy recommendations begging for implementation. I urge us all to match our words with action, and contribute our quota to a safer and more prosperous northern Nigeria.

Thank you for listening and God bless you all.

Being remarks delivered by His Excellency, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, Governor of Gombe State and Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum, on the occasion of the Roundtable on Security in Northern Nigeria, organized by the Coalition of Northern Groups on Wednesday, 24th January, 2024 in Abuja.



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ADVERT RATE

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

6 COLUMNS			
Depth	38.1 (CM)	Depth -	15 (Inches)
Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

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

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

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

The Katsina State Government yesterday organized a send-forth event for the maiden set of its indigenous students awarded foreign academic scholarships to study in Egypt, the ceremony, held at the Katsina State's Presidential Banquet Hall. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Imperative Of A Return To Policing Nigeria

By Jibrin Ibrahim

NIGERIA has not been policed for decades and the evidence to prove it is everywhere. Rural Nigeria and increasingly, urban Nigeria, are not governed spaces but are continuously rampaged by terrorists, criminals, bandits, kidnapers, secessionists and insurrectionists.

No one in this country is safe as even a presidential convoy has been attacked on the road under President Buhari. The one good thing happening currently is that these criminals are encircling and moving into the nation's capital, Abuja, and members of the ruling class are beginning to notice that they too are no longer safe. We thank God for his mercies.

I have heard the former Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Solomon Arase, lament on many occasions about the dysfunctionality of the Nigerian Police Force, which is not fit for purpose. He always makes the point that the Danmadami Police Reform Committee of 2006 had made extensive recommendations that would have made the police more efficient and functional. Government in its Whitepaper had accepted the key recommendations but nothing has happened in terms of their implementation almost twenty years later.

Nigeria is not policed because the size of the police has not increased as the population has grown over the decades. About 150,000 out of the 350,000 police personnel in Nigeria are on VIP guard duty and most of them work on the basis of outside payments made to the organisation. The VIPs the police work for include businessmen, politicians (in or out of office) and indeed anyone with money who can pay.

When you add the personnel on commercial guard duty to those legitimately guarding public officials, there are very few police officers available to carry out routine security, law and order work. It is for this reason that the army is deployed to virtually all the states in Nigeria to carry out security work that the police are not available to do.

Since 1999, attempts by successive governments to significantly increase the numbers have failed due to corruption, institutional in-fighting between the Nigerian Police Force and the Police Service Commission, plus whether there is a Ministry of Police Affairs or not to join the quarrel.

The Nigeria Police, under normal circumstances, has the primary responsibility of maintaining law and order in the country. The expected norm is that before trouble rears its head, the

police would have discovered what is happening and nipped it in the bud. The police investigation department should be aware of all nefarious activities of individuals and or groups in the society and be ready to address them. The reality is that the police have a long history of institutional decline. They never recovered from the cannibalisation of its intelligence department to establish the National Security Organisation (NSO) in 1976 and subsequently, the State Security Service (SSS) in 1986. If bandits and terrorists can act with impunity in so many localities for years, its precisely because that capacity for intelligence-gathering and investigation has been lost for a long time.

The core problem has been that the role of the Inspector General of Police is standards and quality control but as more operational duties are centred in the police headquarters, we cannot expect things to work efficiently. The available resources of the police are largely consumed in the office of the IGP and very little is left for operations in the states. It is because governors know this to be true that they all invest massively to fund minimal police functions in their states. The problem however is that since Oga-at-the-top consumes the most resources, the police stations remain un-resourced.

I had the privilege of serving on the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the clash between the Nigerian Army and the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN). We heard a series of complaints of the seeming helplessness of the Nigeria Police Force, which for years simply did not police the activities of the group.

For example, we received a memorandum from the Gyallesu Community in Zaria where they highlighted the refusal or inability of the police to arrest the members of the IMN, even in situations where serious cases of the breach of peace or commission of crimes, such as murder, arson and destruction of property, were committed.

The police were reported to have severally sent back the complainants with the advice that they should go and defend themselves. The police in their own testimony accepted that they had not entered Gyallesu for a decade to address complaints from the community because the IMN group had political protection.

Police systems that work are based on the existence of effective local police stations that are well-equipped and resourced. That is exactly what we do not have in Nigeria. Police resources never percolate to the level of the station as virtually the entire budget is concentrated and used up in the headquarters.

Currently, there is a recruitment process



Jibrin Ibrahim

into the police and there are concerns that the process would again be compromised by massive corruption and inter-institutional squabbles. The police authorities should ensure that recruitment into the Force should be done on merit, suitability and character as the Nigeria Police of today contains all manner of shady characters.

I have heard the former Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Solomon Arase, lament on many occasions about the dysfunctionality of the Nigerian Police Force, which is not fit for purpose. He always makes the point that the Danmadami Police Reform Committee of 2006 had made extensive recommendations that would have made the police more efficient and functional. Government in its Whitepaper had accepted the key recommendations but nothing has happened in terms of their implementation almost twenty years later.

The core problem has been that the role of the Inspector General of Police is standards and quality control but as more operational duties are centred in the police headquarters, we cannot expect things to work efficiently. The available resources of the police are largely consumed in the office of the IGP and very little is left for operations in the states. It is because governors know this to be true that they all invest massively to fund minimal police functions in their states. The problem however is that since

Oga-at-the-top consumes the most resources, the police stations remain un-resourced.

Moving forward, the government should ensure the presence of the Nigeria Police in every community and other flashpoint areas for effective maintenance of law and order. The army is not trained for dealing with criminality and civil tensions, so an immediate effort is required to implement broad police reforms. In addition, with growing communal tension and violence, the police authorities should revisit the system of Nigeria Mobile Police Force Unit, as it was in yesteryears, so that the involvement of the military in the management of civil disorder would be minimised.

Currently, there is a recruitment process into the police and there are concerns that the process would again be compromised by massive corruption and inter-institutional squabbles. The police authorities should ensure that recruitment into the Force should be done on merit, suitability and character as the Nigeria Police of today contains all manner of shady characters.

In line with the above, it should ensue professionalising the Nigeria Police through capacity-building, procurement of crime and civil disorder management equipment and the improved welfare of ordinary police men and women.

AFCON 2023: History Favours Super Eagles As Cameroon's Lions Arrive Abidjan

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

History, pedigree, current form and turf familiarity are factors weighing heavily in favour of the Super Eagles as they confront the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon in the Round of 16 at the 34th Africa Cup of Nations tomorrow.

Five-time champions Cameroon prosecuted their group phase games in Yamoussoukro, and have now arrived in Cote d'Ivoire's commercial and industrial capital for Saturday's potentially-explosive encounter with three-time champions Nigeria.

In effect, Nigeria and Cameroon have clashed in 17 competitive matches since their first of such matches in the Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah Cup on 8th December 1962, which Nigeria won 3-1. Of those 17 matches, Cameroon have won only 4 – three of these in the Final matches of the Africa Cup of Nations in 1984, 1988 and 2000. The only other time Cameroon have beaten Nigeria in a competitive match was on 27th August 1989, when Francois Omam Biyick scored the only goal in Yaounde that eliminated Nigeria from the race to the 1990 FIFA World Cup finals in Italy.

Nigeria have won nine of the other 13 matches, including a 2-1 defeat of Cameroon in the bronze medal-match of the 1992 AFCON; a 2-0 triumph in a 1990 FIFA World Cup qualifier in Ibadan; a 3-2 win in Yaounde in a 1970 World Cup qualifier; a 2-1 win in Monastir in a 2004 AFCON quarter-final; a 4-0 win in Uyo in a 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier and; a 3-2 win in Alexandria in a 2019 AFCON Round of 16 clash.

More than the above, the Super Eagles presently boast the Africa Player of the Year in Victor Osimhen, and the Super Eagles have more familiarity with the Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny, where they pipped Guinea Bissau 1-0 on Monday to make sure of their place in this



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CÔTE D'IVOIRE 23

competition's Round of 16.

Nigeria have reached the Round of 16 after scooping seven points, unbeaten in their three matches; Cameroon were battered 3-1 by Cup holders Senegal and fought hard to overcome The Gambia in added time to make sure of a place in the knock-out rounds.

As both teams prepare for the big day, thenff.com takes a cursory look at the SEVEN previous clashes involving Nigeria and Cameroon at the Africa Cup of Nations – the continent's flagship football championship:

1) 1984 AFCON FINAL MATCH: Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan
Coach Adegboye Onigbinde brought in Patrick Okala for Peter Rufai, who was injured in a bruising semi-final encounter with Egypt, which went to penalties in Bouake four days earlier. Bala Ali, who

got the equalizer in that match, started in place of Chibuzor Ehilegbu. Rapid winger Clement Temile, two-goal hero against Malawi in the group phase, also started from the bench, with Stephen Keshi, Kingsley Paul, Paul Okoku, Muda Lawal, Humphrey Edozor, Yisa Sofoluwe and James Etokebe among the starters.

Etokebe sprinted to a through pass by Edozor and made a pull-out that Antoine-Bell fumbled for Muda Lawal to lash in for Nigeria's goal. A free-kick late in the first half brushed Keshi's head to fly past Okala for the equalizer, and Abega put Cameroon in front before Eugene Ekoule's winner. The Lions deployed their huge experience and exposure at the 1982 FIFA World Cup in Spain, where they exited at group phase without losing any of their matches against Poland, Peru and eventual winners Italy.

2) 1988 AFCON GROUP PHASE MATCH: Stade Prince Moulay Abdallah, Rabat

Samuel Okwaraji, who only joined the team the previous year, scored with a scorching left-footed shot after only two minutes, but Cameroon equalized 20 minutes later with a header by Roger Milla, with the Nigeria defence thinking they had kept him offside. The draw followed a 3-0 defeat of Kenya, and meant Nigeria only needed a draw in their next match against Egypt (which they got) to reach the semi finals.

Goalkeeper Peter Rufai, defenders Yisa Sofoluwe, Andrew Uwe, Sunday Eboigbe and Bright Omokaro, midfielders Henry Nwosu and Ademola Adeshina, and forwards Okwaraji and Rashidi Yekini were among those involved.

3) 1988 AFCON FINAL MATCH: Stade King Mohamed V, Casablanca

Nigeria, who had survived another bruising semi-final, in which they went to penalty shootout with Algeria after a 1-1 draw after regulation and extra time, started brightly with Ndubuisi Okosieme installed on the right, Humphrey Edozor on the left and livewire Henry Nwosu all over the place.

Henry Nwosu's powerful header from Sam Okwaraji's pull-out on the right sailed past Antoine-Bell, but referee Idrissa Sarr from Mauritania ruled off the strike. Cameroon scored with 10 minutes into the second half, when Eboigbe impeded Roger Milla and Emmanuel Kunde fired past Peter Rufai from the spot.

3) 1992 AFCON BRONZE MEDAL MATCH: Stade de l'Amitie, Dakar

Both teams needed to self-motivate after losing their semi-final matches, with the Eagles bumped by Ghana and Cameroon ejected after a penalty shootout by eventual winners Cote d'Ivoire. Coach Philippe Redon had dropped goalkeeper Antoine-Bell, who lost the crucial penalty against the Ivorians, and brought in Jacques Song'o. The Lions' squad also included Emile Mbouh, Benjamin Massing, Cyril Makanaky, Jean-Claude Pagal and Kessack Maboang.

Nigeria had Alloy Agu in goal, and also included Emeka Ezeugo, Isaac Semitoje, Nduka Ugbade, Reuben Agboola, Victor Ikpeba, Friday Ekpo, Mutiu Adepoku, Finidi George and Rashidi Yekini. Ekpo fired home from a 22-yard free-kick to give Nigeria the lead with 15 minutes to go, but the Lions equalized in the 85th minute through Bahoang. Yekini, who had scored three goals earlier in the tournament (two against Kenya and one against Zaire), got the winner from an acute angle with two minutes left.



Aruna Raises Alarm Over Clash In African Games, Singapore Smash

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

African no 1 Table Tennis player, Quadri Aruna has raised concerns over the clash in the schedule of the 2023 African Games and the 2024 Singapore Smash Event.

The 13th African Games is scheduled for 8th to 23rd March 2024 in Ghana while the Singapore Smash Event is billed for 7th to 17th March 2024.

Aruna appealed to the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and World Table Tennis (WTT) to prevail on the African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF) in order to play the Table Tennis event at the African Games between 15th to 23rd March.

The Commonwealth Silver medallist said, "The African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF) has made the move to play during Singapore smash

events and this means that several African players that qualified for Singapore smash won't be able to participate.

"African players are begging the ITTF and WTT to look into this issue and help convince the ATTF to appeal to the organisers of the African Games to move the Table Tennis event from the planned date to 15th to 23rd March.

The Singapore Smash Event is as big as the World Championships and everyone is always excited to participate. The players do not want to get injured with the tight schedule and miss Singapore events at the same time. We want to play at the Singapore Smash Event first before heading to the African Games".

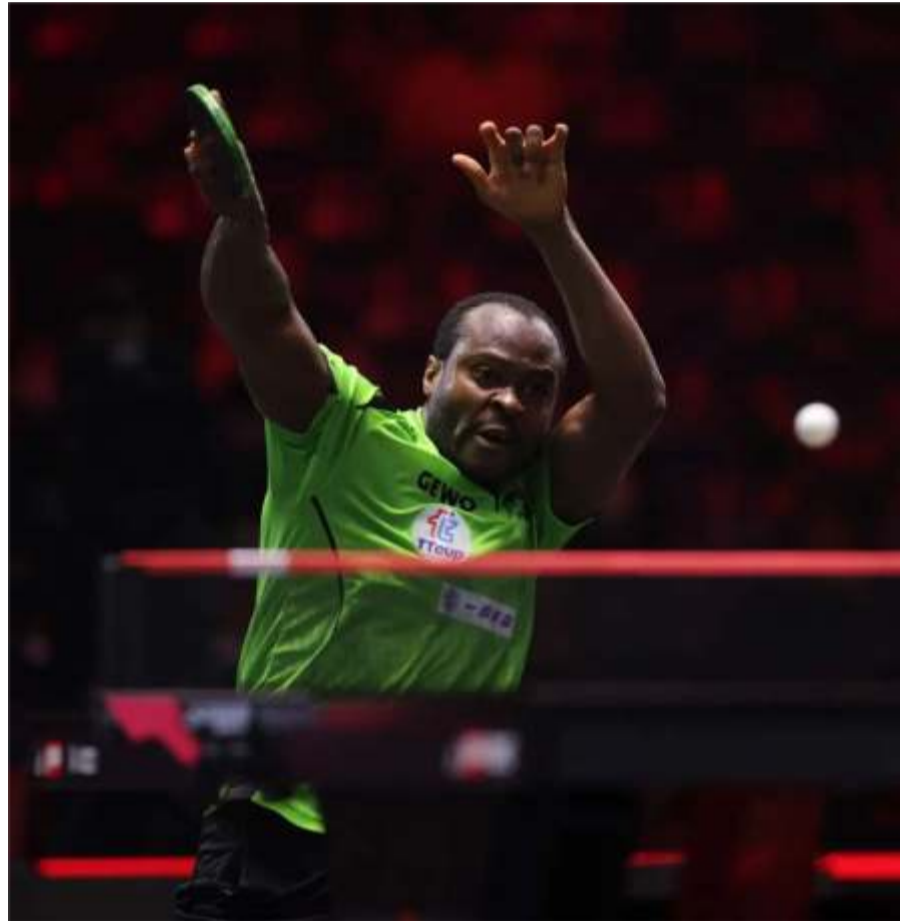
"It will definitely look so bad for our sports if no player from Africa participates in this year's Singapore smash".

The African champion

revealed that the schedule of the African Games will cause injuries to several African players who are aiming to participate in this year's Olympic Games in Paris.

He said, "The schedule of African games will cause injuries to several African players and we are in the Olympic year which is super important for all athletes to stay without injuries. This is because there are seven events in African games and all of these events are scheduled to be played in just seven days.

"There is an option to play on other dates but the excuse is that there will be four sports in just one venue. The African Games was postponed last year because facilities were not ready and having four sports in just one venue still means facilities are not fully ready. It is very possible to play from 15th to 23rd March because African games is from early



Kaduna Govt Takes Over Prestigious Ahmadu Bello Stadium

*Uba Sani approves N2bn for renovation



Ahmadu Bello Stadium

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Kaduna State Government has been awarded the full custodian of the prestigious Ahmadu Bello stadium for full supervision and maintenance.

It would be recalled that, the stadium was officially handed over to the state government on January 27, 2023 during the past administration of ex Governor Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai to foster a vibrant sport culture, enriching lives of the citizenry aimed at positioning Kaduna State as a

premium hub for national and international sporting events.

The Kaduna State Ministry of Sport Development Commissioner, Professor Benjamin Kumai-Gugon said, the physical takeover of the Ahmadu Bello Stadium signifies the unwavering commitment of the state governor, Senator Uba Sani's commitment to sports and infrastructural development in the state.

He said, the ministry would soon swing in to the full renovation of the facility to revive it into a world class edifice for the

hosting of local, national and international events.

Professor Benjamin Kumai-Gugon assured that the state governor has approved two billion Naira in the 2024 state budget for the first of the renovation of the edifice.

The commissioner during the takeover of the stadium keys and documents from the stadium manager, Tukur Dan-Mallam, rallied for the people's support and patriotism to safeguard and ensure security within and around the facility.

He also stressed the fact that for

the sustainability of the stadium, new policies and measures would be put in place to generate revenue for the maintenance of the stadium.

Professor Gugong appreciated all sports stakeholders in the state for their tireless efforts to sustain sports in Kaduna, which is in line with Senator Uba Sani's Sustain Manifesto to put the state sports back on the global map as obtained in the past.

Responding, the Special Adviser to the Kaduna State Governor on Sports Matters, Shehu Idris Dibis, cleared the air on a

questions from members of the press, that the Ahmadu Bello Stadium is not among the properties of the NNDC but that of the Federal Government.

The takeover was carried out in the presence of federal and state government officials, sports stakeholders, members of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), led by its state chapter chairman, Shehu Abdullahi and spirited sport enthusiasts in the state.

Kaduna Govt Takes Over Prestigious Ahmadu Bello Stadium

***Uba Sani approves N2bn for renovation**

Story on Page 23

Gov Bello Presents Staff Of Office To Ohimegye Of Koto

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello has presented the Staff of Office to the 27th Ohimegye Igu of Koton-Karfe Kingdom, HRM. Saidu Akawu Salihu midweek.

The paramount ruler doubles as the Chairman, Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfe Traditional Council received the baton of authority in His Koton-Karfe Palace adorned with loud ovation by well wishers.

An elated Governor Bello thanked the good poeple of Koton-Karfe for standing by the truth and allowing due process in the selection of the Ohimeghe of Koton-Karfe.

Responding, the Ohimege Igu of Koton-Karfe thanked Governor Bello for standing by the truth and making way for justice.

His words, "I thank Allah for seeing this day and thank the government of Kogi State under the able leadership of His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello for the boldness in righting a monumental wrong. By this singular action he has saved our well cherished age long traditional institution from public ridicule and prevented the rubbishing of the decision of our

kingmakers. "I call on every son and daughter of the kingdom, at home and in diaspora, to be united and promote our collective values and cultural antecedents to ensure the continuous growth of our kingdom".

He advised the people of his kingdom to eschew bitterness, crime and other vices that are alien to the culture of the people and inimical to the development of the kingdom.

He promised to work with all well-meaning sons and daughters of the kingdom to promote the welfare of the people.

"I shall promote justice and fairness in all ramifications as these are the basic ingredients for peace and progress in our communities. Koton-Karfe kingdom has direct border with the Federal Capital Territory yet, has a near zero federal presence.

"I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Federal government to take advantage of the peace, security and the physical location of Koton-karfe Kingdom to locate prominent parastatyls and institutions in the Kingdom.

"I also appeal to both the federal and state governments to



consider sons and daughters of Koton-Karfe in distribution of appointments both at federal and state levels".

He promised to serve with Humility, Integrity and Dedication and to uphold the traditions and values of our kingdom.

"I will be a listening ear, a strong advocate and a bridge builder. My doors will always be open

and your voices will always be heard. With your support and the grace of Allah, I am confident that we will create a future filled with pride, harmony and boundless opportunities".

Dr. Saidu Akawu Salihu was born on 11th March, 1964 to the family of Late Chief Salihu Umar Danmadaki of Odaki-Koton-Karfe in Kogi Local Government Area of Kogi State.

His Royal Majesty started his Primary School Education in Kogi L.S.B Koton-Karfe between 1970-1976.

In 2012, HRM Salihu contested the position of Ohimege and the Kingmakers endorsed him but the dethroned Ohimege got the support of the previous administration and was installed on the 12th of October, 2012.

International Day Of Education: UNICEF, Media, Other Stakeholders Demand Stop To Attacks On Learning Facilities In Nigeria

By: IGNATIUS OKPARA, Enugu

As Nigeria joins the world to mark the 2024 International Day of Education, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has stressed the need for all relevant key stakeholders, including the media to join hands in addressing the issue of attacks on education facilities in the country.

It said, "we stand united in protecting learning environments from attacks and mitigating the negative impacts of conflicts."

Speaking on Wednesday in Enugu during

a one day multi zonal press conference organized by the UNICEF Field Office Enugu, in collaboration with the Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State (BCA), the international children friendly organization, noted that the incidences in some parts of Nigeria such as Borno and Yobe in 2023 underscore the urgency of her mission.

The Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Enugu, Mrs. Juliet Chiluwe, in her remarks, said "we gather not only to celebrate the vital role education in fostering lasting peace, but also to

acknowledge the profound challenges that confront our world and impact the lives of those most vulnerable amongst us."

According to her, the international day of education serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of education in building peaceful society.

It also underscores the critical need for accessible and equitable quality education, especially during times of crisis, as we strive to uplift the hearts and minds of all individuals.

Mrs. Chiluwe, emphasized that the theme for this year's celebration which is

"Learning for Lasting Peace" carries a weighty significance, adding that it speaks to the enduring power of education as a tool for preventing, building, and sustaining peace.

Meanwhile, participants mostly journalists drawn from the eleven states that makes up of the UNICEF Enugu field office, stressed the need for inclusive education for all children of school age.

In a Communique issued at the end of one-day Multi-Zonal Press Conference, they urged government to ensure qualitative learning in all schools as well as safe,

Continued on Page 14