

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 242

Monday 1st January, 2024

Jamada Al-Thani 19, 1445 AH

Why A
President
Should Not
Be A Minister

Story on Page 19

Alleged Incitement: Coalition
Gathers 100,000 Supporters,
Calls For Arrest Of Ganduje

*Conducts special prayer, peaceful protest

Story on Page 7



Hon. Ekene

Hon. Ekene Harps On
Agriculture, Empowers
100 Kaduna Residents
With N10m

PAGE 6

New Year: Nigerians Expect Better In 2024, National Youth Alliance Tells Tinubu, Governors

- Warn Presidency against influencing Kano, Zamfara, Plateau Guber judgment at Supreme Court
- Insists youth mobilizing to ensure masses friendly leaders emerge in 2027

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

While lamenting the hardship Nigerians endured in the better part of 2023, a frontline group, National Youth Alliance (NYA), has advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, state governors, national and state assemblies to ensure citizens get a better deal in 2024.

NYA expressed this in a statement signed by its National President, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, made available on December 31, 2023.

The group recalled that from the inaugural speech of the president on May 29, it was clear that the interests of majority of Nigerians was not the

priority of the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government.

"It was a dark day for the common Nigerian on May 29, as the newly sworn-in president announced removal of fuel subsidy, which is one of the only benefits being enjoyed by the masses from the government.

"The resultant effect of the subsidy removal is being felt by all Nigerians, mostly the masses, with skyrocketing inflation rocking commodities, transportation, education and even basic services.

"This was a rude shock as Nigerians expected a better deal from a democratically elected government," NYA said.

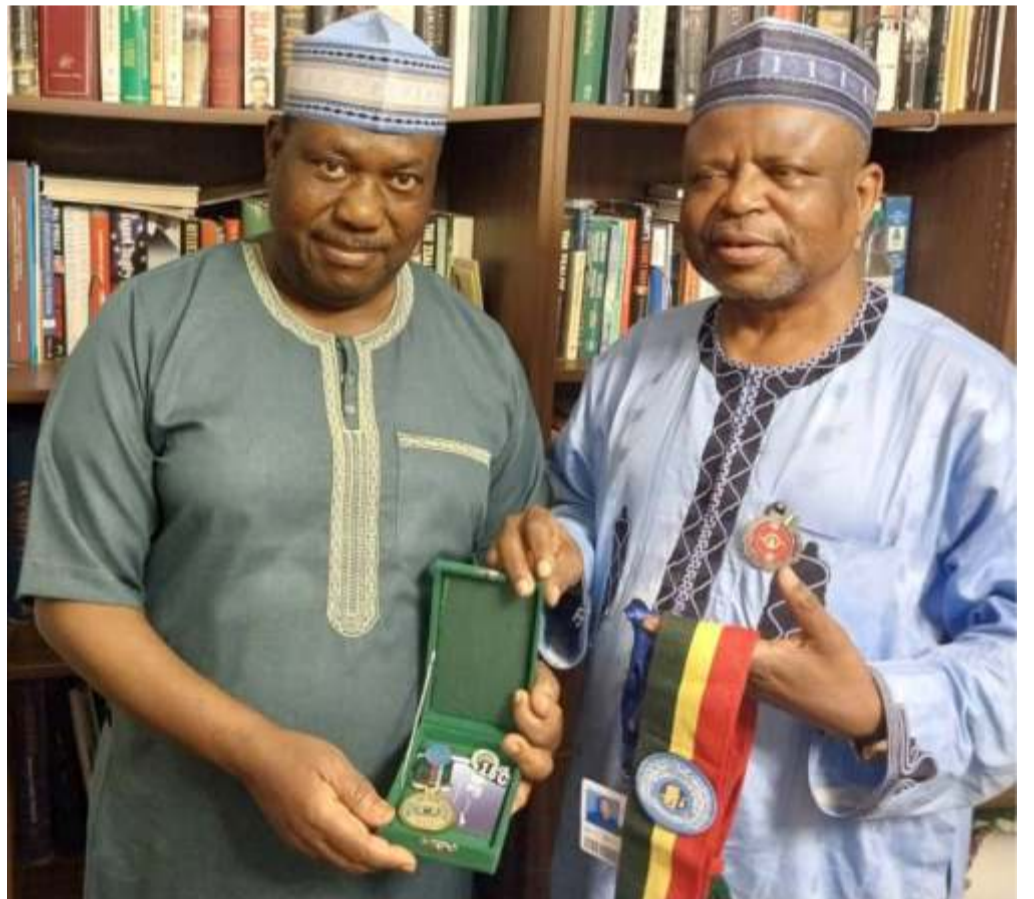
The group warned that with this development,

youth who are mainly affected, are strategizing and thinking outside the box to ensure they don't get another insensitive leader in 2027.

They warned that the present crop of leaders would be shown the way out in 2027 as they have started mobilizing in ensuring that a leader who has sympathy with the masses emerges in 2027.

They also warned the presidency against influencing Supreme Court judgment in gubernatorial elections, citing cases of Kano, Zamfara and Plateau as examples.

They used the opportunity to wish Nigerians a Happy New Year, while saying that all hope is not lost.



Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, at his home town Makurdi, Benue State on December 30, 2023, congratulating Ambassador at Large African Region, International Human Rights Commission (IHRC), Ambassador Dr. Malami Shehu Ma'aji, MFR, for the Medal of Honour conferred on him by World Chairman IHRC, Amb Shahid Amin khan, recently. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS

Story on Page 2

Ease of Doing Business:
Gombe To Establish
Small Claims Courts

*CJ Inaugurates Steering Committee

Story on Page 17

New Year Resolutions:
My Journey Of Becoming
A Vegetarian

Story on Page 2

Overhaul Security
System To Facilitate
Peace, Unity, Retired
Officer Tells Tinubu

AFAN Lauds FG For Subsidizing Dry Season Input To Farmers

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Kaduna State Chapter of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) Chairman, Alh. Nuhu Aminu has lauded the Federal Government for subsidising farm inputs for dry season farming. Aminu was speaking with journalists in Zaria on the federal government's National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS -AP) initiative.

The association urged government to sustain and upscale initiative to strengthen food security and job creation.

According to AFAN Chairman, NAGS-AP targets small holder farmers thereby improve food production in the country.

He noted that the NAGS-AP recently distributed farm inputs to the wheat farmers, indicating promising result in wheat production in the country.

"Under the initiative, the Federal Government subsidies on dry season wheat farming inputs by 50 per cent under its National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP) initiative.

"For dry season wheat farming, a beneficiary is required to deposit N180,500, representing 50 per cent of the total cost of the inputs to qualify for the subsidy.

"Over 90 per cent of the beneficiaries had redeemed their inputs, planted the wheat within as the government's intervention has greatly augmented their personnel efforts," Aminu said.

The chairman appealed for early distribution of the

input to the farmers for the subsequent programmes (rice, maize, and other commodities).

He said the package is for a hectare, therefore, appealing to the government to create additional windows, where a farmer who needs the support for half of a hectare can get the assistance.

This, accordingly he said, will encourage many smallholder farmers to key into the initiative easily.

Aminu urged the federal government to work closely with state governments towards ensuring that genuine farmers are registered as beneficiaries.

He explained there was little mix-up during disbursement of wheat farming input, where names of some members of other commodities associations who did not apply got redemption codes.

"This explains the need for close working between the states and federal government," Aminu said.

The chairman said the initiative is in line with the yearnings of the association on empowering small holder farmers who are the largest producers of food in Nigeria.

"The NAGS-AP prevents farmers from becoming debtors and other exploitations experienced during the Anchor Borrowers Scheme," he said.

He added that the initiative links farmers with genuine improved seeds and other input and also a simultaneous relationship between the agro-dealers and farmers.

Ease of Doing Business: Gombe To Establish Small Claims Courts *CJ Inaugurates Steering Committee

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State is to establish Small Claims Courts (SCCs) in a bid to enhance the Ease of Doing Business in the state due to the evolving of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

To this end, the Chief Judge of Gombe State, Hon. Justice Halima S. Mohammed inaugurated the Steering Committee for the establishment of the SCCs.

The CJ, while inaugurating the Steering Committee, explained that the SCCs will enhance access to justice and promote legal inclusiveness.

"The Small Claims Court will enhance access to justice and accord legal inclusiveness to aggrieved persons/small business

owners whose small claims could not get the desired space in the congested dispute resolution platforms. We have collaborated with the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) to see that the Small Claims Court is a reality in Gombe state", the Chief Judge said.

She added that, "the objective of the Small Claim procedure is to provide easy access to an informal, inexpensive and prompt resolution of simple debt and liquidated money demands not exceeding Three Million Naira (N3,000,000) excluding interest and costs".

She however maintained that the cause of action for the claims procedure must arise wholly or in part in Gombe state.

Recall that Gombe has been ranked twice as the No. 1 State in the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria, a development that reflects the desire and commitment of the Inuwa Yahaya led-administration to making Gombe an investment environment of choice to potential investors through implementation of friendly policies and programmes, provision of infrastructure and enhancing security to enable businesses of all forms to thrive.

The Committee which comprises personalities with knowledge and experience in adjudication and conflict management, will be led by the Chief Judge, Gombe State High Court of justice, Justice Halima Sadiya Mohammed.

The members of the

Steering Committee include; Hon. Justice Fatima Musa, Babayo Usamatu Abba, Japhet L. Maida, and Haruna Bello Gelengu, while Alhussaini Ibrahim will serve Secretary.

The inaugural ceremony of the Steering Committee was observed by the Honorable Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development, Muhammad Gambo Magaji, his counterpart in the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Alh. Nasiru Mohammed Aliyuni, the Accountant General of Gombe state, Alh. Aminu Yuguda, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance, Abubakar Dauda Gadam, Musa Muhammad Babaji, Director, Administration and Finance in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development among others.

Overhaul Security System To Facilitate Peace, Unity, Retired Officer Tells Tinubu

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

A retired security personnel, Uba Master has called on president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to overhaul the country's security architecture in order to meet the national demand in terms of peace and unity.

He gave the advice in an interview with our correspondent in Kano on Friday, adding that Nigeria is a big nation and its security system is in need of overhauling to be stronger and able to ensure that peace and unity reigns

under the present democratic dispensation. Uba Master stressed that what is happening in some parts of this country indicates that the security system is really shaking and it is time for the



present administration to act fast because things are taking another dimension that is painful.

"What is now happening in some parts of this nation would not go well with our peace initiatives, making attacks and revenge is an

indication that the security system is very weak which needs some global changes in order to keep our country safer". He said.

Uba Master advised the President and Commander-In-Chief,

Bola Ahmed Tinubu to co-opt sensible retired security officers into a special committee of professionals to provide full version of security process with zero corruption effect.

Nigerian Railway Striving To Beat 2023 Project Deadlines

**Raises alarm over persistent vandalism*

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

As the year 2023 ends, Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has raised alarm over recurring vandalism of its infrastructure as it struggles to complete works on deadline before the year 2023 runs out.

"The only issue we have now is vandalism of the track which is a big problem. It's a big problem that once we replace them, they (vandals) come back to attack them," Engr. Fidat Okhiria, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of Nigerian Railway Corporation said on Thursday at an interactive session with journalists in his office in Lagos.

Okhiria cited a case in point which is the frequency of vandalism that occurs

in Mushin, Lagos State.

He said, "Just before the Christmas there was vandalism and 200 clips were replaced. Three days after the same spot was vandalised. So, we are looking for a way to protect that place. Yesterday, we held a management meeting, and may be we have to engage a special person to guide that spot between Mushin and Oshodi," he stressed on Thursday.

The NRC chief said that the corporation is trying to recommence Lagos-Kano project in order to fulfill the directive of the minister.

"You remember, during the maiden visit of the minister he gave us an assignment to ensure that we are able to run between Lagos and Kano by December, so we're working on it inhouse, and our men are trying their

best to ensure we achieve that," the NRC leader emphasized.

Okhiria pointed out that a locomotive and some wagons have been able to arrive Minna successfully as at Thursday, adding that maybe by the following day it would get to Kaduna.

"We have also moved from Kano to Kaduna," he disclosed, noting that security challenge is the matter.

He hoped that the corporation's workers will complete the track between Minna and Kaduna in the next five days. "Hopefully, luck being on our side, by January we will start skeletal service trying the track to see how it can go while we continue to put security in place," he stated while pointing out that some vandalized

slippers were replaced the day before.

The Port Harcourt to Maidugri reconstruction project is on and the contractor has promised that it will be ready in 10 days time, the NRC chief executive officer disclosed.

While emphasizing that vandalism of Nigerian Railway infrastructure is a serious problem, Okhiria reemphasized his solution: "As I said in one of my media briefings, I think we should look inwards and check the so-called iron companies that are manufacturing iron, that go after the iron, and encouraging and patronizing people who go about stealing tracks."

He advised iron manufacturers to endeavour to get their raw materials from appropriate sources.



Late Akeredolu

Akeredolu Legacy Will Stand As Example In Our Pursuit Of Progress - ALGON Boss

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The immediate past Chairman of Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) in Oyo State, Prince Ayodeji Abass-Aleshinloye has said the death of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) was painful and sad.

Prince Abass Alesinloye stated this in a message to commiserate the family of the late Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu and Ondo State government over the passage of the governor.

According to the former ALGON Chairman, the late Akeredolu was an illustrious son of Ondo State whose phenomenal contributions to his state and country will never be forgotten.

Prince Abass Alesinloye acknowledged late Akeredolu's selfless service and immeasurable contributions to the nation building especially his legacies in Ondo State where he served meritoriously as a governor.

"I had a very cordial and fruitful relationship with Arakunrin Akeredolu. In

all my dealings with him, he was very humble and unassuming. I came across a passionate man who had a burning passion for the country", he said

The former ALGON Chairman added "During his time, he was very committed to the development of the State. He was an activist who became a governor and a governor who always remained an activist. His legacy will stand as an example to all of us to persist in our pursuit of progress".

He maintained that Ondo state would sorely miss Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu whom he described as a selfless, fearless and consistent politician whose impact in security birthed the South-West Security Network Agency codenamed Amotekun and Ondo State in general to the high pedestal of development.

"As we mourn his passage, may Almighty God grant his family, friends, constituents and associates the fortitude to bear the loss," he said, while praying that God should grant his soul eternal repose".

Dungurawa Celebrates APC National Chairman On 74th Birth Anniversary

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The All Progressives Congress (APC) National Chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje has been described as a true democrat who has contributed towards growth of Nigeria's democracy for many years as a politician.

Former Rector, Kano State Polytechnic, Dr. Kabir Bello Dungurawa made this known during a chat with newsmen in Kano, where he congratulated Dr. Ganduje on his 74th birthday anniversary on Friday in Kano.

Dr. Dungurawa added that the APC National chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as an experienced politician, is making efforts to ensuring that Nigeria's democracy survives.

"I am certain that our Mentor and political leader, Dr. Abdullahi



Ganduje

Umar Ganduje will promote APC to an exemplary height as a political party that would be remembered for

transforming our country despite many challenges, and I wish to use your famous newspapers to celebrate with our Icon

and leader in his 74th birthday anniversary on behalf of the members of my family," he said.

Lagos Police Apprehends 3 Over Alleged N3.2m Robbery Of Business Woman



Lagos CP

By ; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

At least, suspected armed robbers are in the net of Police in Lagos over alleged dispossession of a business woman of the sum of N3.2 million.

The suspects were said to have been tracked and arrested by Police operatives attached to the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) of the Command.

Spokesperson for the Lagos State Police Command, SP Benjamin Hundeyin confirmed the arrest to newsmen on Thursday.

He said the gang leader, Sheriff Owolabi had been on the wanted list of the Police as his gang had robbed and killed one Temitope on August 19 at Ojodu Berger, Lagos.

"His confession to the crime, led the police to arrest another gang member, one Ibrahim Gambo at Ibafo area of Ogun State.

"It was revealed that the suspects took the robbed car to Ibadan and disposed it to a suspected receiver who came from Cotonou, Benin Republic.

"The suspect had confessed to series of car snatching in Lagos. He also confessed that the cars were sold to same buyer called Alhaji from

Cotonou," he said.

He added that one Sheriff Olakunle was also arrested in Mushin for helping the suspects to sell the stolen phones in the area. He said the suspects also led the police to the POS operator who assisted the robbers to cash the money transferred from the victim's account. Hundeyin said Owolabi and his gang had allegedly surrounded their victim on November 14, at about 10:00 pm, as she was about to leave her office at Oregon, Ikeja. The image maker said the suspects allegedly dragged the woman into her Toyota car with Reg. No. BWR 49 DE and drove off.

The Police image manager said the suspects allegedly forced the woman to transfer about N3.2 million from her account into another account provided by the suspects, who also robbed her of her phones.

According to Hundeyin, the suspect after collecting her money and other items, drove the victim to Kara Bridge, along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, and pushed her out of the vehicle.

The image maker said investigation was ongoing to arrest the suspected receiver of the stolen goods.

Uba Sani Shares Thoughts On Nigeria's Economy With Finance Minister

By ; **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Thursday, paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Chief Wale Edun.

Senator Uba Sani said he shared thoughts on strategies for revitalizing the Nigerian economy and collaboration between the Kaduna State Government and the Federal Government to address the problem of out of school children, tackle poverty and unemployment, boost

agriculture, revitalize the rural economies, and wage sustained battle against insecurity.

According to him, "our discussions also touched on our government's efforts in equipping Kaduna State citizens, especially youth with technical skills to make them employable through the establishment of three Vocational and Technology Skills Acquisition Cities in Rigachikun, Samarun Kataf and Soba."

The governor noted that, not left out, was the state government's aggressive investment drive which is

already yielding dividends.

"We are currently finalizing our agreement with the Kuwaiti Fund for a 28 million Dollar grant to address the problem of out-of-school children in Kaduna State.

"The Honourable Minister of Finance expressed the commitment of the Federal Government to partner with the Kaduna State Government to address its key developmental and security challenges.

"He commiserated with the government and people of Kaduna State over the unfortunate

Tudun Biri military drone attack and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives and speedy recovery for the injured.

"I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance most sincerely for his show of empathy and support towards the rebuilding of the Tudun Biri Community.

"We shall work with the Honourable Minister as we ramp up the implementation of measures geared towards bringing succour to the distressed people of Tudun Biri Community," he said.



Governor Uba Sani (right) with the Minister of Finance during the visit.

Sen Plang Condemns Attacks, Gruesome Killings Of Bokkos, Mangu Citizens

By ; **BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**

The Senator representing Plateau Central at the National Assembly who is also the Senate Committee Chairman on Employment, Labour and Productivity, has condemned in totality, the recent attacks on the innocent citizens of Mangu and Bokkos on Christmas Eve.

In a statement, the senator empathetically commiserated with the victims and expressed his deepest condolences with

the affected families and communities.

"These innocent victims of the attack were going about their lawful activities while preparing for the Christmas celebrations when the marauders invaded the defenceless communities.

"This unfortunate and tragic act sadly resulted in the loss of lives and the destruction of properties worth millions of Naira," he said.

He described the deliberate and unprovoked attack on innocent and unarmed communities as

devilish and inhumane.

The senator also implored the security forces to step up and double efforts in safeguarding the lives and properties of the people in Plateau Central especially in Mangu and Bokkos LGAs.

He also urged the hurt citizens to remain vigilant and law abiding as those



Sen Plang

responsible will be brought to book accordingly.

Gombe, Yobe Governors, APC National Chairman, Sultan, Others Attend Closing Of Qur'anic Recitation Competition In Damaturu

By; JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

Gombe State Governor and Chairman of Northern Governors' Forum, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, on Saturday, attended the closing ceremony of the 38th National Qur'anic Recitation Competition in Damaturu, Yobe State.

The programme was organised by the Musabaqah Foundation for Qur'anic Recitation in Nigeria, Centre for Islamic Studies, Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto and Yobe State Government with the

objective to mobilize muslim youths to learn proper recitation and memorization of the holy Quran; foster unity and peaceful coexistence amongst muslims and non muslims by inculcating in the ummah, true and practical teachings of the Quran.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu was represented at the occasion by the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr. Abdullahi

Umar Ganduje.

The host Governor, Hon. Mai Mala Buni, Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar and others who spoke at the event stressed the importance of the Quran in the lives of Muslims and the guidance it serves, which they said are the major take-aways from the just concluded competition.

Ibrahim Mohammed Nasir from Bauchi state and Zainab Aliyu Mohammed from Kano state emerged the overall winners in male and female categories and were decorated by the Sultan as

'Gwarzo' and 'Gwarzuwar Shekara' respectively. The both of them were presented with Cars, Hajj Seats and N5m cash among other prizes.

Gombe State contingent at the competition also put a good showing, winning top positions in different categories, including 7th position in the main category (memorization with Tafsie and different Qira'at).

Governor Inuwa took time to visit the Gombe tent at the arena where he exchanged pleasantries with the participants and their guides, and also dolled out 3

million naira cash to them.

The Gombe Governor was accompanied by Hon. Members of Gombe State House of Assembly; Hon. Siddi Buba, Hon. Musa Buba, Hon. Musa Manaja Zambuk, Commissioners of Finance and Economic Development, Muhammad Gambo Magaji, Budget and Economic Planning, Salisu Baba Alkali; Water, Environment and Forest Resources, Mohammed Saidu Mohammed Fawu and Executive Secretary of the Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Sa'adu Hassan.



Hon. Ekene Harps On Agriculture, Empowers 100 Kaduna Residents With N10m

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

Hundreds of persons from Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency have benefited from the sum of ten million Naira, (N10m) in Kaduna State, after a three-day empowerment programme.

The gesture is an initiative of the Honourable Member representing the people of Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency, on the platform of Labour Party, (LP) Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams.

Hon. Ekene, who also doubles as the Chairman, House Committee on Sports, House of Representatives, noted that the empowerment programme is to improve agricultural output in the quest to reduce unemployment and enhance food security in his constituency.

It would be recalled that the lawmaker, barely a week ago, doled out over N17m on drinks, food and cash respectively to 863

persons of his constituency as Christmas gift.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the workshop at the weekend, the lawmaker emphasized that he remains committed to his campaign promises to alleviate the plight of the citizenry, taking the dividends of democracy to the grassroots without any form of discrimination on religion and political affiliation.

Hon. Adams, represented by his Director General, (DG) Constituency Office in Kaduna, Deacon Ezekiel Samuel, disclosed that the 100 participants at the workshop have been empowered with the sum of N100,000 each to boost their respective businesses.

He added that the lawmaker, as an exemplary leader, is determined to transform the fortunes of Chikun/Kajuru, and urged the beneficiaries to leverage the acquired knowledge to turn Chikun/Kajuru into a thriving

business hub for selfreliance.

Deacon Ezekiel also assured those yet to benefit from the scheme to remain calm and hopeful, even as he noted that more opportunities would come their way soon.

Speaking with newsmen shortly after the event, one of the beneficiaries, Fatima Abdullahi, said that the training was highly impactful and encouraging, promising to utilize the fund judiciously into a profitable business venture.

Another beneficiary, John Mark said, "while I am not a member of Labour Party, I am delighted to be here. Honourable Ekene Adams has done an excellent job of including everyone. It's exciting to witness members from all major political parties benefiting from this empowerment programme. Despite some of us not voting for him based on party differences, we cannot deny that he is a commendable leader. Wishing him more grace."



Hon. Ekene



Alleged Incitement: Coalition Gathers 100,000 Supporters, Calls For Arrest Of Ganduje

*Conducts special prayer, peaceful protest

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Stakeholders Against Injustice have urged the security agencies to promptly apprehend the National Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, for public incitement.

This call was made during a peaceful protest and special prayer seeking Allah's intervention organized by the stakeholders against injustice, presided by Dr. Idris Salisu Rogo, in the Rogo Local Government Area of Kano State.

The coalition expressed concerns over the ongoing legal tussle surrounding the Kano State governorship election, casting doubt on the impartiality and neutrality of the judiciary.

They highlighted instances where APC leaders, including the National Chairman Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, had made statements about the outcomes of court rulings which later appeared to align with the actual court decisions.

The coalition also raised apprehensions about purported plans within the APC to influence the Kano gubernatorial litigation through the judiciary, allegedly to facilitate President Tinubu's re-election in 2027.

They emphasized the need for the Supreme Court of Nigeria to uphold justice by ensuring that the rightful winner of the Kano State 2023 gubernatorial election, Abba Kabir Yusuf, is granted his mandate.

Furthermore, they urged the judiciary to safeguard its hard-earned reputation by not allowing individuals associated with corruption to compromise its integrity.

The coalition stressed that President Bola Ahmad Tinubu can only gain the support of the people of Kano by adhering to justice and remaining impartial in the Supreme Court's decisions regarding Kano.

They expressed confidence in President Bola Tinubu's commitment to democracy and urged him to uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and justice.

Additionally, they warned that any attempt to subvert the mandate of Abba Kabir Yusuf could jeopardize national security, a situation that patriotic Nigerians should strive to avoid.

The gathering of over a hundred thousand people at the Rogo Eid ground conducted a special prayer and peaceful demonstration to show support for Kano state governor Abba Kabir Yusuf ahead of the Supreme Court judgment.



Delta Govt Approves Land For Federal Medical Varsity, Kwale

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori has approved provision of take off site for the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Kwale in Ndokwa West Local Government Area of the state.

The State Commissioner for Lands, Surveys and Urban Development, Chief Emamusi Obiodeh announced the governor's approval to journalists in Asaba on Friday.

According to the commissioner, the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences take-off site is the place previously used by the School of Marine Technology, Kwale.

The governor has approved 15 hectares of land, including all facilities and infrastructure previously used by the Delta State School

Marine Technology, Kwale campus which has moved to their permanent site.

The new university will operate from this take-off site pending when they move to their permanent site of 100 hectares at Umuseti-Kwale.

The commissioner said Governor Oborewori appreciated the Federal Government for the choice of Delta State for this all important specialised university.

He expressed the state government's preparedness to partner with the Federal Government, and any other serious investors with capacity that are ready to invest in the state.

The commissioner said that Governor Oborewori has directed him to provide land to investors who are ready to partner with the state with viable developments that will impact positively on the lives of Deltans and other Nigerians.



Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori

Welfare: Governor Lawal Pays Zamfara Workers 13th Month Salary

By ; I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal has paid 13th month salaries to government workers in Zamfara State.

On Thursday, the Zamfara State Government announced the decision to settle the 13th month salary in a circular communicated by the Head of Service, Ahmed Aliyu Liman.

A statement by the spokesperson of the governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, said the remarkable payment of a 13th-month salary is the first of its kind in the State's history.

According to him, the decision aligns with the state government's commitment to the welfare of workers and to motivate the workforce to high performance.

"Today, Governor Dauda Lawal has approved the swift payment of end-of-the-year bonuses for public and civil servants in Zamfara State.

"This kind gesture is meant to boost the workers' morale and provide them financial support during the holiday season.

"It's worth noting that this is the first time in Zamfara's history that the state government is paying workers a 13th-month salary.

"This move is a testament to Governor Lawal's desire to implement policies that enhance working conditions, increase salaries, and provide career advancement opportunities for government workers.

"The payment of the 13th-month salary is just one of



Gov Dauda Lawal, Zamfara Governor

many initiatives aimed at empowering workers and promoting economic growth in Zamfara State."

Yoruba Youths Urge Tinubu To Put Zamfara State Governor On Watch

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Yoruba Youth Council has deplored what it described as worrisome underdevelopment of Zamfara State, coupled with insecurity since the exit of former Governor Bello Matawalle.

"We observed that since the nullification by appeal court of results from the three local governments that produced Governor of Zamfara State, the state have been going through challenges".

In a statement signed by its National President, Comrade Eric Oluwole, the council, which is an umbrella body of the Yoruba youths noted particularly that the state has been going through challenges since the Court of Appeal on November 27 ordered a rerun by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, of the March 18 election which produced the incumbent Governor Dauda Lawal of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as the winner.

The statement said that based on its overview, "the Council observed that the current state of underdevelopment in the state is due to alleged fear and uncertainty being entertained by the governor on whether he would win or lose the three Local Government Areas in the incoming rerun."

Oluwole said: "We called on the Mr President to put Governor Dauda Lawal under watch and checking, there is need for the Governor to concentrate his full energy on

delivering meaningful governance to the good people of Zamfara State who are looking up to their leaders full hope, while patiently awaiting the final decision of the Supreme Court on his pending appeal against the nullification of his election by the lower Court and the Appeal Court.

"We also observe then that his part of the people that showed much interest in Mr President on Toronto certificate issue".

Yoruba youth also said they learnt that Mr Governor has been financing some groups in order to carry out protest and therefore, called on security agencies to be on alert to arrest any person that want to cause problem in the state.

"Already, the current state of underdevelopment in Zamfara State is disturbing enough, Mr Governor should not do anything to further jeopardize the interest and especially the much-needed overall socioeconomic development of the state."

The youth leader then urged Governor Lawal to, pending the verdict of the Supreme Court on his appeal, he should vigorously follow the footsteps of his predecessor and now Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle "with his brilliant record of achievements as the immediate former Governor of Zamfara State."

It would be recalled that in a unanimous decision by its three-member panel led by Justice Oyeibisi Fodayemi, including Justice Cordelia Ifeoma Jombo-Ofo, and Justice Sybil Nwaka Gbagi, the

appellate court had declared the March 18 Zamfara State Governorship Election as inconclusive and nullified Lawal's return.

It further ordered INEC to conduct a fresh election in three Local Government Areas of the state including Maradun, Birnin-Magaji and Bukkuyum, where elections had not been held previously or where results from various polling units were not counted.

Also, the court held that it was wrong for INEC to rely on information it obtained from its INEC Result Viewing (IREV) portal to collate the final result of the governorship election.

The judgment was on an appeal brought before the court by the immediate former governor of the state, Bello Matawalle, who was the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the March 18 election

Oluwole noted that the Independent National Electoral Commission did not include about 98,000 votes meant for Bello Matawalle in its tally, called on the Supreme Court to simply add it up and decide in Matawalle's favor without the need for a rerun and declare him winner.

"We advise Mr Governor to wait for the Supreme Court ruling, the state should not jeopardize its efforts, so far, Nigeria belong to all of us, there is need for everyone to obey the Court ruling. The state needs to be stable for development and security.

Sokoto Governor Signs Bill On Community Guards Corps Establishment

**Vows to secure state*

By; I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

In an effort to have a lasting solution to the issue of insecurity, Sokoto State Governor, Dr Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto has signed into law, a Bill for the Establishment of the State Community Guards Corps, stressing that all hands must be on deck for a crime free state.

He then appealed to the Police and other agencies to dispassionately embrace the corps in order to address insecurity in the state.

He noted that Sokoto State

is among the frontline states especially in the North West, facing security challenges occasioned by banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling and other sundry crimes.

While signing the bill at the Government House Executive Chamber, Dr Aliyu Sokoto said the corps will serve as a support drive in complementing the efforts of conventional security agencies through providing useful intelligence from across communities of their operations.

"We have been destabilised by the activities of bandits and criminals against the peaceful nature of our dear state."

He therefore, pointed out that security agencies should not see the corps as rival but a link to enable better and responsive synergy in order to secure the state.

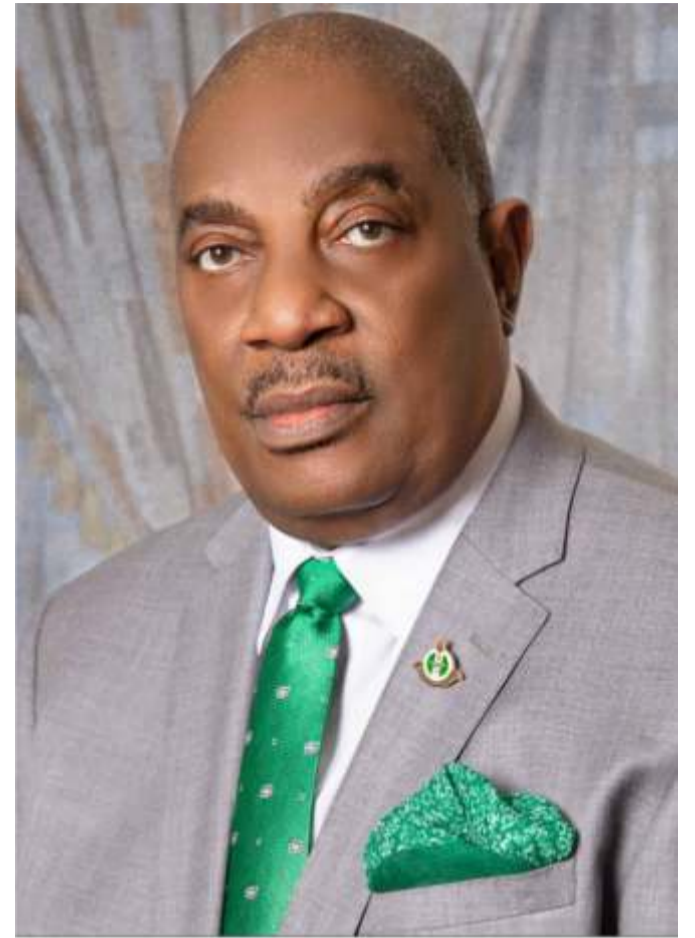
"We have put in place all necessary mechanisms for the peaceful take off of the corps."

"Let me say here that, we are committed to the course of protecting lives

and property of citizens in the state.

"Our efforts need to be supported by the people of the state to realise a crime free Sokoto", he emphasised.

The Deputy Governor, Idris Muhammad Gobir, Speaker, Sokoto House of Assembly, Hon. Tukur Bala Bodinga, APC state Chairman, Sadik Isah Achida, Acting Chairman Committee on the establishment of the Guards Corps, Yusha'u Ahmed Kebbe were among top officials who witnessed the brief signing ceremony.



Solomon Arase

PSC Boss Arase Calls For Distinction Between Police, Special Constabulary

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Chairman, Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase, has called for urgent steps to differentiate the Special Constabulary from regular police officers.

Arase, a retired Inspector-General of Police, made the call in a statement issued on Thursday by the commission's spokesperson, Mr. Ikechukwu Ani.

He said that there should be clear definition of their operations, including uniforms and rules of engagement.

According to Arase, the Police Service Commission is no longer comfortable with the organisation and operations of the Special Police Constabulary nationwide.

He said that the commission was already in contact with the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Kayode Egbetokun, on the need to overhaul the organisation and operations of the outfit.

The chairman said that there had been several reports of unprofessional conduct by officers of the outfit, (a quasi Police formation created to assist

in community policing).

"Reports of their unprofessional conduct ranges from high handedness in dealing with citizens and barefaced extortion on our roads and communities.

"The Commission calls for an entirely different set of uniforms for officers of the outfit that should be easily differentiated from that of the regular police officers.

"This will help to track appropriately the conduct of men of the outfit and that of the regular police officers and free the Nigeria Police Force from blames associated with the misconduct of men of the outfit," he said.

Arase called for the disbandment of the outfit in states where they are not salary and taken care of.

He pointed out that it was dangerous to arm a group of people and license them to provide security, maintain law and order in states and communities across the country without basic financial remuneration.

The retired IGP noted that such set of men often resorted to extortion and intimidation which is not good for the image of the Nigeria police force and the country.



Amotekun': Immortalize Late Gov Akeredolu, Oyo NUJ Tells SW Governors

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Oyo State Council on Thursday tasked the South West (SW) Governors to immortalise the late governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) by upholding his legacies, especially on the formation of Amotekun Corps.

Oyo NUJ gave the task in a communique issued at the end of its December monthly congress held at its Iyaganku Press centre in Ibadan on Wednesday.

The union at the congress presided over by its state chairman, Chief Ademola Babalola, paid glowing tributes to the late immediate past governor of Ondo State

It emphasized that the late Ondo State governor played a significant role in the conceptualisation and formation of Western Nigeria Security Network, otherwise known as Amotekun Corps, which has cascaded down to state security

networks in the South West, thereby serving as local police in the geopolitical zone with a view to improving the security architecture of the zone.

Oyo state NUJ in the communique stressed that the late Arakunrin Akeredolu as the Chairman South West Governors' Forum before his demise "was very articulate and battled with the Federal Government till the formation of Amotekun Corps was finally settled in favour of the zone'.

The union pointed out that the late Gov Akeredolu spent major part of his life in Ibadan and also invested in the city, which made him a rare gem to both Oyo State and Ondo State, his home state.

Congratulating the new governor of Ondo State, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, who was sworn in as the seventh civilian governor of the state on Wednesday December 27, 2023. Oyo NUJ urged him to have a large heart in the onerous task of moving the Sunshine

state forward.

On the security situation in Oyo state, the union commended Governor Seyi Makinde for leading by example, saying: "He is leading from the front, not from the rear".

"We note with delight that Governor Makinde led the security team in the state to give support to security agencies by combing forests on Oke-Ogun axis of the state in the night of Thursday December 21, 2023", it said.

Oyo NUJ added, "This shows that he is concerned and bordered about elements of insecurity in the forest that spreads across eight among the 10 local government areas in Oke-Ogun zone of the state.."

It also commended personnel of security agencies that have been putting their lives on the line to secure the lives and property of residents of the state, stressing that: "Nevertheless, there are still more grounds to be covered."

Zaria Mosque Reconstruction: Reps Members Redeem Pledge Of N670m

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
A cheque of six hundred and seventy million (N670,000,000) Naira personal donations pledged by members of the House of Representatives, friends and associates of Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajuddeen, Iyan Zazzau towards the reconstruction of the collapsed Zaria Central Mosque has been redeemed.

Presenting the cheques to His Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli in his Palace on Friday, the Chairman House Committee on Business, Hon. Daniel Amos who led the delegation in presenting the cheques to the emir, commended the leadership qualities of the Speaker for

carrying along all members of the House. Hon. Daniel Amos told the emir that Honorable members resolved to cooperate with the Speaker for the peaceful coexistence and development of the nation. Responding, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, expressed appreciation to the members of the House of Representatives for redeeming their pledge and friends and associates for their donations. Emir Bamalli assured members of the National Assembly that under his watch, he will ensure the judicious utilisation of the donations towards the reconstruction of the historic Zaria Central Mosque.



S'West Govs Will Accord Befitting State Burial To Late Gov Akeredolu – Gov Abiodun

**Says they will set up joint committee with family*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan
Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun on Friday, disclosed that South West Governors Forum will give a befitting state burial to the late Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN)

Speaking with journalists during a condolence visit by the South West Governors to the family of late Governor Akeredolu at his Ibadan residence, Gov Abiodun said, the forum will accord Akeredolu a burial that will be befitting of a great statesman and one of the leading lights of the South West region.

The governor stressed that the South West Governors Forum is committed to ensuring a befitting burial to the late Chairman of the Southwest Governors Forum and that towards this, plans are on the way to set up a committee that will ensure that a befitting state burial for the late Governor Akeredolu as a mark of respect and honour that he deserves.

"We are all here, the governors of the Southwestern states. Lagos State Governor will soon be here; he has some flight issues.

We are here to commiserate with the family of His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu who the Lord has called to his side. Without a doubt, we are all still in a state of shock and disbelief", he said.

The Ogun State Governor added,

"Governor Akeredolu was the Chairman of South West Governors' Forum and Southern Governors' Forum which he held and led courageously. He was a learned Senior Advocate and successful second term governor of Ondo State.

"All of us are here on behalf of our families and respective states to commiserate with the family and people of Ondo State. We pray that Almighty God will forgive his sins and repose his soul and grant the wife, the children, family members and

the people and government of Ondo State the heart to bear this shocking, sad and painful exit". Prince Abiodun noted, "he was an advocate for the Southern Presidency. We recall vividly the reinvigorated Southern Governors' Forum meeting in Delta State two –and-a-half years ago – that cause the presidency must come to the South.

"He championed the cause that the presidency must come to the South and he stayed with it; among several causes he championed.

Gov Akeredolu will be sorely missed by all of us. The void left will be difficult to fill.

"Collectively, we will be partially, majorly responsible for the funeral rite in according him the farewell that he deserves. We will work with the family to give him a deserving farewell. We have spoken with the family. We will be setting up a joint committee of Southwest states to work with the family and the government of Ondo State to make sure we give him a deserving farewell".



Gov Dapo Abiodun in an interview with journalists in Ibadan during South West Governors Forum visit to late Gov Akeredolu's residence in Ibadan

Governor Inuwa Presents 17 Brand New Vehicles To Gombe Commissioners To Bolster Efficiency In Public Service



By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has presented 17 brand new GAC GS4 model SUVs to members of the State Executive Council. Presenting the vehicles to the Commissioners in a brief ceremony at the Government House, Governor Inuwa Yahaya explained that they are meant to facilitate the execution of their duties while serving as a compliment to the prestige attached to their respective

offices.

The Governor remarked that his administration has also extended similar gesture to members of the Gombe State House of Assembly in order to enable them carry out their oversight functions and effectively participate in governance.

He observed that the current trend of inflation and depreciation in the value of the naira presuppose the need for the government to be prudent through the reduction in the cost of governance but with maximum performance in the art

of governance.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, Governor Inuwa Yahaya underscored the importance of government ministries, departments, and agencies having utility vehicles for them to function effectively and efficiently.

"This time around, we must take extra care. These are public assets, and we must handle them as we handle our own property.

We have to show leadership by example. It is when you lead that others follow, and you must lead from the front. So I urge you to look after the vehicles properly, manage them properly, and ensure that you utilise them for public service."

The Governor warned that the state government reserves the right to withdraw and return to the ministry any vehicle found to be engaged in activities other than the ones it was originally meant to serve.

Responding on behalf of the

Commissioners, the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Zubair Muhammad Umar expressed gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for presenting them with the vehicles, noting that the gesture will go a long way towards assisting them in the discharge of their duties.

The Commissioner assured the Governor that members of the State Executive Council will manage the vehicles in a manner that they will stand the test of time.

Governor Mutfwang Urges Enhanced Security Intelligence, Commends IGP For Tackling Challenges

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

Plateau State Governor, Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has commended the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun and security agencies for their relentless efforts in addressing the security challenges that have befallen the state.

Governor Mutfwang, who called for more efforts, also solicited improved intelligence gathering and sharing to facilitate prompt intervention, emphasizing the need to change the narrative of policing in Nigeria.

Governor Mutfwang expressed trust in the police and urged them to protect citizens while creating a conducive atmosphere for lawful duties.

He cautioned against overzealous security personnel turning victims into suspects and emphasized the importance of unmasking sponsors of criminal activities in the state.

"Not about ethnic profiling, let's demonstrate that this monster can be tamed," Governor Mutfwang stated, urging thorough



investigations into both perpetrators and their sponsors to address the root causes of the problems.

"Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Egbetokun, announced a Special Operation to counter the resurging violence, with AIG Zone 4, Haladu Musa, temporarily relocating to

Plateau State for effective coordination.

"President Bola Tinubu has ordered the perpetrators be brought to justice," said IGP Egbetokun, urging collaboration between police and the military," he said.

He called on Plateau citizens to support the fight against criminal

elements, emphasizing unity against lawlessness.

Governor Mutfwang also received PDP Stakeholders from Plateau South Senatorial District, led by AVM Napoleon Bali, expressing condolences to the affected families.

Bali assured communities of Plateau South's support for a peaceful and united Plateau.



Aiyedatiwa Signs 2024 Budget, Vows To Complete Ongoing Projects

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Governor of Ondo State, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, on Friday, signed into law the 2024 Appropriation Bill of N395.257 billion, christened Budget of Economic Resilience.

The governor, who assented to the bill shortly after it was passed by the State House of Assembly, said the budget will focus on economic growth and development of the state.

In his speech, Governor Aiyedatiwa highlighted the budget's focus on human capital development, environmental sustainability, rural development, and completing ongoing infrastructural projects initiated by the late former Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu.

The governor said that "the size of the approved Budget for 2024 stands at Three Hundred and Ninety-Five Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Million Naira (N395,257,000,000.00). Out of this amount, a sum of Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (N222,259,827,500.00) only, representing 56.23% is for Capital Expenditure while a sum of One Hundred and Seventy-Two Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (N172,997,172,500.00) only, representing 43.77% is to cover the Recurrent Expenditure."

He added that "the focus of this Budget is human capital development... we would keep meeting salary, pension and gratuity obligations... Emphasis would also be placed on climate change, clean and sustainable environment,

rural development, and food security."

The Governor expressed gratitude to members of the State Assembly for their swift passage of the bill and emphasized the need for transparency in implementing the budget, stressing that "the Executive Arm of Government will put its shoulder to the wheel to implement the 2024 Budget with the required probity and transparency it deserves."

Acknowledging the recent petrol subsidy removal's impact, Governor Aiyedatiwa assured the people of the State on measures to mitigate effects, affirming: "this administration would continue to put measures in place to cushion the effects until we are able to weather through the storm, hopefully shortly."

The signing of the N395.25 billion 2024 Budget marks a significant step towards advancing Ondo State's economic agenda, prioritizing human development, and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

In his remarks, Mr. Emmanuel Igbasan, the Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning in Ondo State, said the budget will offer much-needed relief and economic prospects to the people of Ondo State, adding that "this budget of economic resilience aims to provide the people with the succor and economic hope they deserve."

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji, led members of the Assembly to the event while the Secretary to the State Government, Princess Oladuni Odu, the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Chief Olugbenga Ale, Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Wale Akinterinwa and other members of the State Executive Council were present.

Nigeria Has Lost A Patriotic Civil Crusader With Death Of Gov Akereolu - Senator Iyiola Omisore

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The immediate past National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Iyiola Omisore has said that the late Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Akereolu (SAN) did his best as the governor of the state.

Senator Omisore expressed this in his condolence message on Thursday to the family and the people of Ondo State on the death of Arakunrin Akereolu (SAN).

The former Deputy Governor of Osun State, described the late Governor of Ondo State, as an exceptional comrade and as a "giant who came, saw, and conquered".

"I am devastated and quite saddened as I pen this tribute for a departed friend and an exceptional comrade who paid more than a due price in the Nation Civil struggle that characterized a dark turbulent phase of our nationhood at a point in time when even the seeming valiants either



betrayed the struggles or chickened out", he said. The former Deputy Governor added, "Arakunrin Rotimi Akereolu, you stood out among the patriots who stood firmly for the Nation causes during your lifetime; you were a loud voice at Nigerian Bar: rose to the Zenith therein as a

Senior Advocate and a National President of NBA; I can as well confidently state that you did your best as the Governor of Ondo State". "I condole with Mrs Betty Anyanwu-Akereolu, the widow, the children of the deceased, the good people of Ondo State, the Nigeria Governors' Forum

especially the Southwest wing where Arakunrin Akereolu held sway as the Chairman in his lifetime, the APC Family and the whole Nigerians over the loss of this giant who came, saw, and conquered. May Almighty God grant his soul mercies.

Lack Of Severe Punishment Influencing Financial Crimes - Group

By; JABIRU A.
HASSAN, Kano

Better Nigeria Support Group (NSG) has called on all anti graft agencies to ensure that severe punishment is handed to financial crimes perpetrators in order to make Nigeria great and progressive.

The call was made in a press statement issued by

the group's national chairman, Sheikh Mustapha Adamu in Kano, where he opined that ensuring severe punishment to offenders in financial management should be enforced without fear or mercy to serve as a lesson to others. "Nigeria is a wealthy country, but our leaders have failed us in financial crimes, where many

elected officers are being indicted for looting and other financial mismanagement, but at the end of the prosecution, nothing is done which is a great set back to the war against corruption". Mustapha Adamu said that NSG is canvassing full support for severe punishment to all financial crimes because from what is going on, the war

against corruption is being sabotaged by anti graft agencies which comprises, EFCC, ICPC and states anti corruption agencies established by governors. Sheikh Mustapha advised the present administration to ensure that all appointees that are under probe are suspended until the end of the judgment, to ensure full prosecution is done.

With Akereolu's Death, Nigeria Has Lost A Great Man - First Lady

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The Wife of the President, Senator Mrs Oluremi Tinubu on Saturday, described the late Governor Rotimi Akereolu (SAN) of Ondo State as a great man.

Speaking in Ibadan during a condolence visit to the family of the late governor at his Ibadan residence, the first lady declared that the late governor would be missed.

Describing late Governor Akereolu as a great man loved by her family, and many Nigerians, Senator Tinubu noted that with his death, Nigeria has lost a great man and that the former governor has done

his best.

"We can only wish that his legacies he left behind can continue and it endures, I wish his wife, his children, grand children and the family that God will comfort them and also ease their pains," she said.

The first lady added, "They should live with the fact that the man has done well, he has done well to people, he will be sorely missed and may his soul rest in perfect peace."

"I keep asking when somebody ask people if somebody is alright or is he sick, I said who is well? We all have one ailment or the other, and it is only God that gives us each day to live by."

Court Restraining Kano Govt From Using LG Funds A Welcome Idea - Ex Lawmaker

By; JABIRU A.
HASSAN, Kano

An ex-lawmaker and current affairs commentator, Alhaji Muhammad Sarkin Yaki has stressed that the recent court order halting Kano State Government from using local councils funds in the construction of some flyovers in Kano metropolitan is a welcome verdict.

He disclosed this in an interview with newsmen in Kano, adding that it is injustice for a state governor to take local government money for projects execution, leaving the councils stranded without any capital projects in their respective domains.

Sarkin Yaki said that what Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir intends to do is unconstitutional because

the issue of joint accounts between states and local government councils has brought backwardness to the local councils projects execution, which is unfair.

"I condemn the issue of joint accounts and it is pure injustice to the local government areas especially at present, when democracy is attracting more success in Nigeria. I commend the 44 local government councils for reporting the matter to court, which is constitutional and better". Muhammad Sarkin Yaki called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Nigeria's parliament to bring to an end, joint accounts, which becomes a challenge to the development of local government areas, which remain closer to the general public.

Mega Projects : Kano Governor Lays Foundation of Multi-Billion Naira Overpass, Underpass

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf has laid the foundation of 27 billion Naira worth of three layer interchange bridge at Dan'agundi Junction, and Clover Leaf Overpass Bridge at Tal'udu Roundabout, all in Kano metropolis.

A statement signed by the Director General Media and Publicity Government House, Kano, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, said that at laying foundation sites, the governor said the major projects were initiated to reduce traffic congestion, ease travel, beautify the city, control pollution, and develop infrastructure and assent based in the ancient city.

While laying the foundation, the Governor reiterated commitments of his administration in infrastructure development in the state and determined to deliver more dividends of democracy especially to the downtrodden.

He said Kano as a mega city deserves massive infrastructural transformation to cater for the need of the over ten million urban dwellers and improve the socio-economic well-being of residents of the city.

His Excellency further stated that the 2024 budget he already signed into law were given priority on capital projects taking the lion share of 60%.

Alh Abba Kabir Yusuf called on the contractor handling the project to ensure timely completion, adhere to



the contract provisions, use of quality materials as the government wouldn't condone sub-standard work.

The governor clear the air on the financing of the projects saying that it has been the tradition from his predecessors to finance such gigantic projects through the joint-account manage by the State and local governments.

He appealed to the people using the project routes and those close to the sites to exercise patience for the inconveniences the projects might have caused assuring that plans are underway to create alternative routes for easy traffic flow.



Akeredolu's Death Profound Loss To Yoruba Race, Nigeria - Power Minister

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu has described the late governor of Ondo state, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu as a profound loss not only to Ondo State, but also to the Yoruba race and Nigeria.

Chief Adelabu expressed this on Thursday, in a personally signed

statement to condole the immediate family and the entire people of Ondo State over the passing of the governor, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu.

The minister stressed that Gov Akeredolu during his lifetime stands as Yoruba and Nigerian hero of democracy, saying, the late Gov was "a distinguished legal practitioner and an active

participant in politics who significantly contributed to the establishment and sustenance of democracy in Nigeria".

According to the Minister, the late governor was a gallant Yoruba Omoluabi, and that his pivotal role in both the legal and political realms, ensuring that democracy reaches and benefits ordinary citizens.

Lauding late Gov Akeredolu's dual commitment to the legal profession and practical governance, Chief Adelabu praised his efforts in providing relief and multiple democratic benefits during his two-term governorship from 2017 until his sudden demise.

He commended the late governor's dedication to

protecting the Southwest's territorial integrity from external threats and his role in the emergence of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as President of Nigeria, Chief Adelabu prayed for the repose of the late governor's soul and encouraged Akeredolu's family, the people of Ondo State, and all Nigerians to find solace in the impactful life he lived.

Oborevwoiri Urges Strict Adherence To Standards In Project Delivery

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwoiri, has charged mandate officers in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure strict adherence to standards before clearance certificates are issued to contractors for projects done.

The governor gave the charge on Friday, while receiving the College of Permanent Secretaries led by the state Head of Service, Mr. Reginald Bayoko, on a Christmas and New Year visit to him in Government House, Asaba.

The governor, who said that Permanent Secretaries were very key to his administration, commended them for their commitment and support to his government as they effectively held the ministries before commissioners were appointed in line with constitutional requirements.

He noted that his administration was very focused on consolidating on the foundations already laid in the past few months in 2024, adding that his government would remain committed to its MORE agenda to deliver the gains of democracy to the people of the state.

He said the administration had been running smoothly without borrowing because of its prudent management of the state's resources, adding that if there would ever be any reason to do so, such facility must be tied to tangible and beneficial projects.

"I am happy to receive you people today because Permanent Secretaries are very important to this administration.

"When I assumed office, I ran the state with you people before Commissioners were appointed. I must say that you people did extremely well.

"Most of the achievements we have today, you people laid the foundation. We planned ahead before the Commissioners came. I want to say that you contributed to the commendation we receive today in the country.

"We give God the glory for the achievements we have had and I advise that we continue to sustain it in the coming year.

"We are among the few states that have not borrowed money since we came on board seven months ago. If we must borrow, we must borrow money that would be tied to projects and we will be very sure of the projects.

"Another advice I want to give to the Permanent Secretaries is that you discuss with your Directors to ensure that they issue certificates to contractors for only completed jobs.

"This is because a lot is going on and we won't take it in 2024. Your certificate will not guarantee payment except when the jobs have been verified as completed.

"If this government succeeds, we



have all succeeded. I believe that 2024 will be better than 2023," Oborevwoiri added.

Continuing, he said; "we must thank God for the achievements so far; we have engaged a construction giant, Julius Berger to build flyovers, cloverleaf, pedestrian bridges and expand roads in Warri and Effurun. We have also inaugurated several projects, while other projects are being constructed across the state."

Earlier, Bayoko who led the delegation of the College of Permanent Secretaries, made up of 45 Permanent Secretaries and 15 Heads of Extra Ministerial Departments, commended the Governor for granting them audience.

He extended the felicitation of the College of Permanent Secretaries and the entire state Civil Service to the Governor on Yuletide and commended him for his visionary leadership style since he took the mantle of leadership of the state.

"We represent a group of dedicated public servants committed to the noble cause of serving our beloved state under your guidance and vision.

"We extend our heart-felt felicitation to you and your immediate family. We say that within this short time that you have been on the saddle as the head, you have provided visionary leadership.

"We have seen unprecedented development and your

commitment towards the public service and your drive in ushering a new era of prosperity has been inspirational.

"As Civil Servants, we are the backbone of public administration and it is our solemn duty to implement your vision effectively and efficiently.

"So, we stand here today, not just as your team, but also as committed individuals ready to take on the challenges that would come our way because we are inspired by your leadership.

"So, as we face the new year, we know that there would be challenges but be rest assured that we are ready to turn any challenge that comes our way into stepping stones for a better future for our state," Bayoko said.



Kaduna State: Advocacy For Establishment Of Children's Parliament

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

In Kaduna State, according to the National Bureau of Statistics 2022 MPI Survey, multidimensional poverty by age group between 0 to 17 years is 4.3 million. The State is also among the four States in Nigeria with over one-quarter of poor children under 5. Currently, there are about 660,000 out-of-school children in the State.

UNICEF during a recent visit to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, said 60% of children suffer from acute malnutrition in the State. Not to forget children that suffer from insecurity and sexual violence.

The above data should cause sleepless nights for any well-meaning administration. More so, for a State that has a high dependency rate with 49% of its population below 14 years old. Also, despite the passage of the Child Welfare and Protection Law, 2018, there is much to be achieved in terms of its implementation.

To address the myriad of challenges confronting children in the State and accelerate the implementation of the law, it is imperative to give those that are directly affected a formal platform that empowers and amplifies their voices. A platform that will ensure that they are not just beneficiaries but stakeholders in the decision making process. The most viable safe space to actualize this is the children's parliament.

The previous administration under former Governor, Malam Nasir El-rufai, made a commitment that a children's parliament will be inaugurated before he leaves office and will enshrine it in the State laws to become part of the legal system. This statement was made when he received a delegation of pupils, supported by Save The Children International, from Kaduna State public schools in commemoration of Children's Day Celebration in 2022.

Unfortunately, even with a budgetary allocation of N12.7 million this year, that commitment was not fulfilled up



until when he left office on May 29th, 2023. In line with his continuity mantra during the gubernatorial election campaigns, we hope that the incumbent Governor will translate this important commitment made to children from mere rhetoric to reality, in this case the accelerated establishment of a children's parliament in the State. In addition, the current administration in its SUSTAIN

blueprint committed to a social contract to ensure that every child in the state continues to enjoy free Primary and Secondary Education. In addition, reduce child mortality, ramp up enrollment in contributory health insurance and thereby sustain care for pregnant women and children in public hospitals.

In its 2024 budget, the administration has allocated N24.6 million for the

establishment of a children's parliament in the 2024 budget. Other children-specific budget line items under the Ministry of Human Services & Social Development are the Child protection services, N60.2 million; At Risk Children Program (ARC-P), N288 million; repatriation of foster and destitute children, N60 million. This is a addition to allocations that directly and indirectly affect children in

education and health sub-sectors.

The Governor has not failed to remind residents of the State of his passion as a campaigner for social justice from his days as a civil society activist. Therefore, it is time for him once more to go beyond rhetoric by accelerating the approval of cash-backed budget release and mandating the Ministry of Human Services & Social Development to establish the Kaduna State Children's Parliament.

This action if taken will put the Governor in good light as an ambassador for child development. The children of Kaduna State are looking up to the Governor to give them a voice and make it count. Just like their peers at the National and other sub-nationals, they await when the first children parliamentarians will be sworn in. The time to act is now!

Goje is the Head of Leadership, Governance & Advocacy of the Coalition of Associations for Leadership, Peace, Empowerment & Development (CALPED)

"The Governor has not failed to remind residents of the State of his passion as a campaigner for social justice from his days as a civil society activist. Therefore, it is time for him once more to go beyond rhetoric by accelerating the approval of cash-backed budget release and mandating the Ministry of Human Services & Social Development to establish the Kaduna State Children's Parliament."

Uba Sani Performs Groundbreaking For Road Reconstruction In Sanga

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

In keeping with his campaign promise to revitalize and transform rural communities across the state, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Saturday, performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction of a road in Sanga.

The road will be linking Sanga to Jama'a LGA , through Kiban and Godogodo.



New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

Advert e-mail: joenibro@gmail.com || joe_ibro@yahoo.com
FOR ADVERT BOOKING AND PLACEMENT:
Contact: 08033257282, 08117876009

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

Why A President Should Not Be A Minister

By: HASSAN GIMBA

An Igbo adage says that when an anomaly persists for one year, it becomes the norm. So slowly, steadily but surely, it is becoming a norm, an accepted aberration, for a president in Nigeria to appoint himself as a minister. It is like saying in a country of 200 million-plus, there is no one good or capable enough to hold that particular office except the man entrusted with the running of the nation.

It was President Olusegun Obasanjo that started it. Nicknamed the “Trinity President” in some quarters, for six out of his eight years in office, i.e., from 1999 to 2005, Obasanjo was president, petroleum minister and minister of state for petroleum.

It was only in 2003, the last year of his first term that he appointed Edmund Daukoru, the current traditional ruler of Nembe Kingdom in Bayelsa State, as special adviser on petroleum and energy and then minister of state in 2007.

I think Muhammadu Buhari got so fascinated by this “Trinity” arrangement that he saw Obasanjo run that he too made himself the Czar of Nigeria's petroleum sector by appointing himself into the same offices.

One curious observation is that they both chose to head the petroleum ministry despite their shallow knowledge of the sector. Both presidents were soldiers who rose to become generals. Nigerians would expect them, especially Buhari, to head the defence ministry if they must be ministers. But the Ministry of Petroleum holds an enticing attraction to them. Can it be because Nigeria's crude oil is called “sweet”?

Addressing some select reporters at a Global Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism, in London, President Buhari said: “I will remain minister of petroleum. I will appoint a minister of state for petroleum.”

And that was even before he had taken the names of his prospective ministers to the Senate. Unlike Obasanjo, he had once served as oil minister and, unlike him again, he appointed a minister of state earlier.

When the news broke that he was going to announce himself as petroleum minister, Vanguard newspaper published an editorial advising against such a move.

“The nation is still at sea over how former President Olusegun Obasanjo handled the same job for six years from 1999 when he assumed power. Several turnaround maintenance projects were undertaken and billions of naira sunk and yet the refineries remained comatose,” the article read.

But how did Nigeria's oil sector with its “sweet crude” fare under the two former generals-turned-civilian presidents?

Reports have it that Obasanjo's leadership at the petroleum ministry was characterised by lots of opacity and breach of due process. The seeds of the controversial Malabu oil deal were planted in that period.

The Guardian, on January 13, 2008, wrote, “Under Obasanjo, the government was not run based on budget and he did not consider

himself bound by the budget. He was the budget. He provided figures and allocations and spent money as he liked without any evidential accountability to the National Assembly. Nobody knew what the revenue was. The National Assembly didn't know; he was not revealing anything. How much came into the government coffers from the oil sales? Nobody knew except himself. He was the sole minister of petroleum.”

And because of this, in December 2007, seven months after he handed over power to Umar Yar'Adua, the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) petitioned the anti-graft agency he set up, the EFCC, demanding that Obasanjo be probed as he no longer enjoyed constitutional immunity.

The petition read in part: “Let us start by stating that Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, during his tenure, illegally appointed himself the minister of petroleum resources, contrary to section 147 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“Secondly, his activities in the oil industry were shrouded in secrecy, as he never rendered proper accounts of the oil revenue to relevant agencies like the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC).

“Thirdly, it is also on record that neither the Federal Executive Council nor the National Assembly was ever presented memoranda or budgets of the oil industry.”

Buhari's case was almost similar. Probably no other leader in Nigeria's history has had the swell of goodwill to tap into as him when he took over in 2015, but he sadly turned such enthusiasm into grave disappointment, his regime falling from what many, rightly or wrongly, had high hopes on, to one that the nation couldn't wait to see the back of.

According to Buhari, the reason he wanted to be the minister was to right the wrongs in the oil industry, which was plagued by corruption, massive fraud, and crude oil theft.

But in his “determination to sanitise Nigeria's oil industry and free it from corruption and shady deals,” he spent over N11 trillion on “subsidies” and over \$19 billion on the maintenance of refineries that did not refine even a single litre of petrol throughout his eight years.

The Constitution of Nigeria that authorised the president to appoint ministers also gave the power of their vetting and confirmation to the Senate of the Federal Republic. Specifically, section 147 of the Nigerian constitution provides that: “(1) There shall be such offices of Ministers of the Government of the Federation as may be established by the President. (2) Any appointment to the office of Minister of the Government of the Federation shall, if the nomination of any person to such office is confirmed by the Senate, be made by the President.

Neither of the presidents presented himself to the Senate for vetting and clearance as enshrined in the Constitution. And all of them shunned defence, their field and what needed professional supervision for sweet crude. This made some people think that if



Hassan Gimba

*Monday
Column*

Emefiele became president as he wanted, he may also make himself minister of petroleum as well as CBN governor.

But when this trend first reared its ugly head, some conscientious Nigerians did not take it lying down. A group called the Niger Delta Democratic Union went to a Federal High Court, asking it to issue “an order directing President Obasanjo to appoint a Minister of Petroleum Resources under the mandatory provisions of the Petroleum Act Cap 350 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990 as amended.” Filed by Austin Ayowe and Dafe Chuks on behalf of the NDDU, the plaintiffs also sought “an order restraining President Obasanjo and the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Authority (PPRA) from further exercising any function or powers of a minister of petroleum resources.”

Even though the suit was struck out on 15 September 2004 by Stephen Adah, the presiding judge, who held that the applicants had no locus standi to file the suit, perhaps that case forced Obasanjo to appoint Daukoru as minister of state the next year.

However, in November 2018, a Federal High Court in Abuja declared that President Muhammadu Buhari cannot legally double as the minister of petroleum resources.

The court made the declaration while giving judgment in a suit filed in 2017 by

the former president of the Nigerian Bar Association, Dr Olisa Agbakoba, SAN, who urged it to restrain Buhari from continuing to hold the office of the minister of petroleum resources, contending that Section 138 of the 1999 Constitution forbids the president from “holding any other executive office or paid employment.”

We are quick to shout that Nigeria borrowed its system of governance from America, but tell me which American president was a secretary (minister) at the same time.

Unfortunately for our nation, our leaders pick and choose according to what suits their purpose from the American system. The United States enacted the 1967 Anti-Nepotism law which forbids federal officials from employing family members into certain governmental positions and the cabinet. Can anyone mention that to recent Nigerian public officeholders? We have recently been regaled by stories of how even in the temple of justice, some senior judiciary figures make way for their children, wives and mistresses to become judges. It is the same in practically every segment of public service.

We still have a long, long way to go before we can get it right. But the worrying question is: are we even willing to try?

Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.

Plateau, Nigeria and the Kalashnikov Challenge

By Jibrin Ibrahim

ONCE again, there is outrage throughout Nigeria as armed men invaded communities in Plateau State over the Christmas weekend killing an estimated 200 innocent villagers and forcing tens of thousands to flee their land in search of self-preservation.

For Plateau State, it has been over twenty years that such attacks have occurred regularly. As is the tradition, our President, Bola Tinubu, in a statement in Abuja by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, condemned the attacks and ordered a manhunt for the killers. Tinubu assured Nigerians that “these envoys of death, pain, and sorrow will not escape justice.” We have heard such condemnation/promise to act hundreds of times from our successive Ogas that all we do is shrug our shoulders and move on until our turn comes.

Our society is confronted with the Kalashnikov Challenge, characterised by the mass use of modern rifles by civil actors with criminal orientation. In the good old days of “inter-tribal” warfare, a week of combat between two communities might produce two or three casualties. The dane gun that was in use at that time had a quasi-democratic character. In one out of four times that the trigger is pulled, the gun explodes and the shooter is the victim. The Kalashnikov has changed all that. A young man with a single rifle could wipe out a whole village and start hate memories that the whole of previous history could never have imagined. We live in difficult times in which the destruction of community, society and ultimately the state has become too easy a pathway.

In Plateau State, there has been considerable investment in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts within and between communities. Too regularly, however, well-armed men will move into communities and massacre innocent people destroying the investment sank into peacebuilding. As the State Governor said, it is clear that the people are confronting terrorism orchestrated by people with the arms and logistical capacity to do it.

Nigeria has been turned into a country where bandit/terrorists kill, maim, kidnap, rape and steal as they please and the perpetual response of government over the past two decades is empty assurances of dealing with them but no outcome is ever seen in terms of making them account for their crimes. For this reason, Nigeria is tearing at the seams as the people realise that the State is either unwilling or unable to provide for their security and welfare. The people's response increasingly is to procure their own arms.

The reality today is that the mass circulation of small arms and light weapons among the civilian population has placed Nigeria on the path to self-destruction. Two years ago, the then Minister of Defence challenged Nigerians to defend themselves against bandits wielding sophisticated weapons. He was telling Nigerians what they already knew to be true – that there is no state to defend citizens; so, everyone is on their own.

It is important to recall that the reason we have the state and give it the monopoly of the legitimate use of violence is to provide for our collective security. If we all have our arms, the risk is we will turn against each other in a direct march to anarchy. That is why we, citizens, unlike criminals, should not procure arms.

Our society is confronted with the Kalashnikov Challenge, characterised by the mass use of modern rifles by civil actors with criminal orientation. In the good old days of “inter-tribal” warfare, a week of combat between two communities might produce two or three casualties. The dane gun that was in use at that time had a quasi-democratic character. In one out of four times that the trigger is pulled, the gun explodes and the shooter is the victim. The Kalashnikov has changed all that. A young man with a single rifle could wipe out a whole village and start hate memories that the whole of previous history could never have imagined. We live in difficult times in which the destruction of community, society and ultimately the state has become too easy a pathway.

We are now entering a new phase in which drivers of conflict are being multiplied. Rural banditry and mass kidnapping are sapping rural communities of their resources and savings. Families are being forced to pay millions of naira in ransom, which they do not have. To pay, they have to tax themselves, sell their animals and farms to secure the release of their relations. There is a deep process of pauperisation that is ongoing in rural Nigeria today. The youth of the affected communities, therefore, have nothing to lose but their poverty. The pathway to success that has destroyed their family resources is the Kalashnikov, as such they also choose to seek it and arms thereby spreads and violence grows. It is a pathway to self-destruction.

The Fulani pastoral community has emerged with the highest agency in this regard. Over a period of three decades of serious crisis of the pastoralist mode of production due to well documented causes – population growth and expansion of agriculture, climate change and dramatic decline of the availability of pasture, as well as extortion by police and area courts, amongst others, many within the community lost all or significant parts of their herd. It was in that context that cattle rustling, an age-old practice of pastoral communities utilised in forming herds and for getting cash and meat was revived.

When procurement of the Kalashnikov rifles started in the late '90s and early 2000s, cattle rustling was transformed into a vicious criminal activity far beyond the quasi-cultural practice earlier observed by anthropologists. Low intensity conflicts were quickly transformed into commando like attacks with sophisticated weapons, affecting both pastoralists and large-scale farmers. The result was that the scale of loss of both herds and human beings started to escalate and the victims were mainly Fulani pastoralists in the bush, as such the stories did not make it into the legacy and social media.

The second phase was a l s o largely unnoticed. W h e n security agencies initiated significant moves in the early 2000s to t r a c e rustled cattle, the method of criminal activity changed and rather than rustle, heads of cattle-owning families

w e r e kidnapped, forcing the families to sell their cattle, pay ransom and get their relations released. The forests straddling Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina states became the ungoverned territories for these activities. Much of this was done without media attention.

The third phase was the extension of these criminal activities to neighbouring communities who were also subjected to the malfeasance. Through the 2010s, criminal gangs composed mainly but not exclusively of Fulani youth and uniformed vigilante groups set up by communities to provide security, fought each other. The fight has always been uneven as the side with the most sophisticated weapons wins.

Pastoralism has undergone a major transformation which has increased, rather than decreased, the potential for conflicts and discord. Traditionally, pastoralists engaged in open grazing dispersing themselves widely so as not to overgraze areas and encroach on farms. With rising insecurity, however, they started moving in large groups in smaller spaces, as they got blocked out of their traditional grazing zones. This large-scale concentration of pastoralists in limited ranges allows them to protect themselves against attacks. The paradox is that the more concentrated they are, the more damage they do to crops, which in turn fuels more violent conflict. As they spread around the country and are being chased out of many states, the conflicts have intensified. This conflict-generating trend that spread around Nigeria can only be reversed when security in rural Nigeria begins to improve.

Nigeria's ruling class understand the trajectory we are on but they are too irresponsible to care. Of course, they care for themselves and are busy buying houses in Dubai, United Kingdom, Ghana and other places to bolt out when the times come – just they and their nuclear families, while their relations and former compatriots fight it out. That is why they are not really making any effort to rebuild the state and create conditions for



Jibrin Ibrahim

rebuilding legitimacy and state capacity to provide for the security and welfare of all citizens.

We are now entering a new phase in which drivers of conflict are being multiplied. Rural banditry and mass kidnapping are sapping rural communities of their resources and savings. Families are being forced to pay millions of naira in ransom, which they do not have. To pay, they have to tax themselves, sell their animals and farms to secure the release of their relations. There is a deep process of pauperisation that is ongoing in rural Nigeria today. The youth of the affected communities, therefore, have nothing to lose but their poverty. The pathway to success that has destroyed their family resources is the Kalashnikov, as such they also choose to seek it and arms thereby spreads and violence grows. It is a pathway to self-destruction.

Nigeria's ruling class understand the trajectory we are on but they are too irresponsible to care. Of course, they care for themselves and are busy buying houses in Dubai, United Kingdom, Ghana and other places to bolt out when the times come – just they and their nuclear families, while their relations and former compatriots fight it out. That is why they are not really making any effort to rebuild the state and create conditions for rebuilding legitimacy and state capacity to provide for the security and welfare of all citizens.

Wherever they go would be a temporary abode, their destination is hell. For the rest of us who are going nowhere, our future is in our hands, do we allow the criminal elements to destroy us through conflict or do we make efforts to rebuild a political community that would serve the interests of all Nigerians?

Ibrahim is a professor of Political Science and development consultant/expert, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Development. He is also the Chair of the Editorial Board of Abuja-based online newspaper, PREMIUM TIMES.

Culled from National Record

New Year Resolutions: My Journey Of Becoming A Vegetarian

By: Aisha Abdulkareem Yakubu

The year 2024 is here and usually, the start of a new year serves as an opportunity for most people to set new goals which they hope to abide by and commit to better habits. But how many of such New Year goals or New Year resolutions come to fruition after the excitement of a new year? This brings to mind the question of how long does the average New Year's resolution last? Failing at New Year's resolutions is so common that there's even unofficial dates commemorating such failures—some sources cite 'Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day' as January 17 while others denote the second Friday in January as 'Quitter's Day'.

The Forbes Health/One Poll survey found that the average resolution lasts just 3.74 months. Only 8% of respondents tend to stick with their goals for one month, while 22% last two months, 22% last three months and 13% last four months.

I am one of the few that have successfully not failed my 2023 New Year resolution as I resolved to be a vegetarian from the 1st January 2023. The beginning of 2024 will be exactly one year since I took that decision of becoming a vegan.

There'll be no New Year resolution for me in 2024 as I'll use this opportunity to recommit to my 2023 resolution of being a vegetarian. June 1 is unofficially known by many as 'New Year's Resolution Recommitment Day' but having passed that stage, I'll use the beginning of 2024 as a time to hit the reset button of my 2023 resolution.

Nigeria is primarily a non-vegan region with less than 0.2% of its population being vegetarians...In Lagos alone, an estimated 164 trailers come daily with 6000 cows slaughtered for various purposes.

Being a vegetarian in this kind of country is not easy, especially the northern part with the culture heavily dependent on meat in their diet.

It's my most dreaded conversation on why I am a vegetarian.

Some people even argue with me and try to convince me to eat meat again. They'll ask me all sorts of questions like; where do you get your protein from? Or don't you feel like eating meat again since you are from a non-vegan family? I'll always answer them with; I get my protein from other sources like; beans, nuts, tofu (Awara), lentils, avocado, soybeans and spinach.

And yes, sometimes I get tempted to eat meat again since it's my first year in the journey into living a vegan life. When I think about the health benefits of being a vegetarian and that I'm into it for my well-being, I can't give up that soon. But these answers don't seem to always placate them since they think meat is the main or only



source of protein.

What triggered the idea of becoming a vegetarian started one night when my father told me that his line manager in the office has a daughter that's a vegetarian and I was like, that's crazy; I can't go a day without eating meat or fish.

A few days later, I started to develop interest in why would someone want to become a vegetarian and I found that there are tons of reasons. Everyone's journey is unique, yet has so many similar and familiar aspects. Many choose to become vegetarian for health reasons, others for environmental or ethical reasons.

I then focused on the health benefits of cutting down or completely quitting the intake of meat and fish looking at its predisposition to cause certain disease conditions. According to a study published by HARVARD UNIVERSITY, researchers found that vegetarians consume less saturated fat and cholesterol than non-vegetarian. They also have greater intake of vitamins C and E, dietary fiber, folic acid, potassium, magnesium and other plant nutrients.

With this interest, I found out that there are different types of vegetarians or diets vegan (exclude meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy products and food that contain these products). There's the lacto-vegetarian, which exclude meat, fish, poultry and eggs as well as foods that contain them, but allow dairy products such as cheese, milk, yogurt and butter in their diet. The ovo-vegetarians exclude meat, poultry, seafood and dairy but allow eggs in their diet. On the other hand, the lacto-Ovo

vegetarian diet excludes meat, fish and poultry, but allows dairy products and eggs. The pescatarian exclude meat, poultry, dairy and eggs but allow fish.

I then decided to be a lacto-ovo vegetarian.

After taking the decision, I then took the first step by informing my father and luckily for me he was not against it. But it was a different ball game with my mother, who vehemently kicked against the idea as according to her, it's against our religion and culture. The reasons she posited was that our religion allows us to slaughter and eat animal meat for different occasions while vegetarians say that it's the maltreatment of animals.

I told her I want to do it for the health benefit but she still did not agree. However, after so many trials, I was able to convince her but on the condition that I consult an Islamic scholar to find out more on the religious (Islamic) perspective to the issue. I went ahead and asked a scholar in our community and alhamdulillah he said yes I can decide to become a vegetarian for personal reasons, such as not liking the taste of meat or for health purposes, with the understanding that only Allah (SWT) can prohibit or permit eating meat.

I thus started the journey by reducing the amount of meat I eat; like having three meatless days in a week but fish was ok. On the other four days I had a choice as to what I ate (meat or not). I thought I was doing my part and that was good enough for me. I could still eat meat when I wanted to but by reducing it drastically.

I became a full-fledged vegetarian on 1st January 2023. At first it was very hard for me being the only vegetarian in my family and friends. I have to contend with people eating meat in my presence or trying to convince me to eat meat again. But after sometime I got used to people eating meat around me without getting tempted to relapse in my decision. I no longer feel like an alien among my friends and family with my meatless food.

Every new journey has its own difficulties but alhamdulillah the only difficulty I encountered when I started this journey was when I attended my friend's wedding in Ganye Local Government Area of Adamawa State. It was a really tough time for me because that was my first time being a bridesmaid, with a very busy day and at the same time looking for my type of food to eat in the midst of the abundance of meat.

What makes me happy about being a vegetarian is eating food without any worry or concern about my ingestion of cholesterol. Even though we don't have vegetarian restaurants in Yola we have a variety of food for pescatarian lacto, Ovo and lacto-Ovo vegetarian. That's why I don't have a tough time when going out.

If I was told a few years ago that I would become a vegetarian, I think I would have laughed at what I might have thought an impossibility. But on one random night, everything changed.

Happy New Year!

AISHA ABDULKAREEM YAKUBU
can be reached via,
abdulkareemyakubu@ gmail.com

Navy To Build Ferry Boats For Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Nigerian Navy through their subsidiary, the Naval Shipyard Limited, has indicated interest to build Passenger/Cruise Ferry Boats for Akwa Ibom State Government.

Commissioner for Information in Akwa Ibom State, Comrade Ini Ememobong disclosed this to journalists after an enlarged State Executive Council meeting on Thursday in Uyo, the state capital.

According to Ememobong, the move is intended to revamp a safe and comfortable water transport, in preparation for the full engagement of the State's blue Economy potentials.

"HC-Transport informed EXCO that the Nigerian Navy through their subsidiary, the Naval Shipyard Limited will be

responsible for the building of the Passenger/Cruise Ferry Boats for the state government." Comrade Ememobong stated.

He said that the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla would personally attend and undertake the contract-signing event for the boats. To intensify the fight against sea pirates on its waterways, Comrade Ememobong said the state government has acquired 14 gunboats.

"EXCO ratified the award of contract for the reclamation and construction of ravine control facilities at Etim Umanah Street and environs, and Emergency Intervention Works at 2 Gully Erosion sites within Uyo metropolis." Information Commissioner further disclosed among decisions of the Exco.

Traditional Institution Vital To Development Of Society - Senator Alli

**Pays gratitude visit to traditional rulers, political leaders in Ibarapa zone*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Sarafadeen Alli on Friday, said traditional institution is vital to the development of the society.

Senator Alli expressed this during a gratitude visit to traditional rulers and political leaders in Ibarapa zone area of Oyo State.

The Senator in a statement signed by his Special Adviser on Media, Mr Akeem Abas, made available to journalists, reaffirmed commitment to the traditional institution.

Speaking at the palace of the Olu of Igboora, Senator Alli who cited his role as a fellow senior

traditional Chief and Maye Balogun of Ibadan land, emphasized the importance of the role of traditional institutions in the progress of the society. Senator Alli said that he deeply understands and appreciates the value of the traditional institution, vowing to do everything within his power to support the elevation of these revered leaders.

Reiterating his appreciation for their unwavering support, Senator Alli assured traditional rulers in Ibarapaland that they would always get their fair share of any benefits or offices that come his way.

On infrastructural development of Ibarapaland, Senator Alli hinted that he was working

to ensure the completion of the power line running through Ibarapaland and that he has determined to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Works and the Hon. Minister of Works in reviving the abandoned Badagry/Sokoto expressway as part of his continued commitment to the district's development. A former Chairman of Ibarapa Central Local Government and Olukotun of Iberekodo, Chief Akinyemi Akinlabi while speaking lauded Senator Alli for his unwavering dedication to the welfare of Ibarapaland.

Chief Akinlabi who stressed that no previous Senator has ever accorded Ibarapa such immense confidence in the Senator's

continued commitment to the development of the district.

The Senator's visit was attended by notable traditional rulers in Ibarapaland, including the esteemed Olu of Igbo-ora, Oba Titiloye Jimoh; Onidere of Idere, Oba Aderoju Kingsley; Olu-Aso of Iberekodo, Oba Adedamola Badmus and Asigangan of Igangan, Oba Rafiu Ariwoola.

Others included Asawo of Ayete, Oba Okeniyi Ewuola; Elenpe of Tapa, Oba Sunday Oyekanmi; Onilala of Lanlate, Oba Sunday Oladejo; Onisagan of Sagaun, Oba Fasasi Jinadu; Eleruwa of Eruwa representative, Oba Olayide Ojedapo and hosts of others.

EFCC: Courts Jails 37 Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan, Abeokuta

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ibadan Zonal Command has secured the conviction and sentencing of 37 internet fraudsters.

The 37 fraudsters were convicted and sentenced by Justices Ladiran Akintola, O.A. Olajide, J.O. Adeyemi, Bayo Taiwo and M.O. Ishola of the Oyo State High Court, Ibadan; Justice Uche Agomoh of the Federal High Court sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State and Justices A.A. Babawale, A.A. Akinyemi and S.O. Adeniyi of the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta.

According to EFCC, the convicts were arraigned between the November and December, 2023 on one-count separate charge each.

EFCC listed the convicts as Aladelusi Temitope Matthew, Akinade Abimbola Oluwaseun, Gbenga Musbau Adebayo, Olaitan Gbenga Josiah, Adegboyega Toluwalope Owolabi, Giwa Areef Olakunle, Victor Ogundahunsi Damilare, Kelvin Dave Udanyi, Ayelaja Ridwan Oluwatobilola, Adebule Olamide, Olamilekan Gbolahan Adeniji, Agboola Oladimeji Taofeek, Ojo Odegbile Oke, Abdulazeez Ajadi Oludare, Oyewole Korede Tolu, Okeowo Abiodun Sunday, Oladokun Peter Ayomide, Samuel Ayodeji Mayokun, Hamzat Taofeek Opeyemi, Echeta Chidi Oluwambe, Mujeeb Adedeji, Eyinola Ojo Tosin and Makinde



Kehinde Bukola.

Others are: Jubril Ayomide Adeshina, Gbolahan Emmanuel Jayeola, Eyamekware Gabriel Cleverly, Kazeem Orija Oladimeji, Echeta Chinedu Junior, Oyelakin Collins Ayomide, Olanrewaju Kabir Olamilekan, Lasisi Damilola Idris, Emmanuel Ojima Matthew, Sonibare Adebayo Wasiu, Makinde Olamiposi Feranmi, Timileyin Bankole Toyosi, Adeyinka Monsuru Oladaride and Ubiwe Kenneth.

It stressed that one of the counts read: "That you Oyelakin Collins Ayomide on or about 2nd June, 2023, at Ibadan, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court,

with intent to defraud, did sell hacked Facebook Accounts with different identity cards to internet fraudsters, thereby aiding them in committing an offence, aiding another person in committing, an offence contrary to Sections 7 (c) and 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 30, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

Another count charge reads, "That you Eyamekware Gabriel Cleverly on or about April, 2023 at Ibadan, Oyo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud one Lukas Wack, did falsely represent yourself to be a white lady who goes by the name Elmar Bockmar, thereby committed an offence

of Personation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

EFCC maintained that upon their arraignments, they all pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to them and that consequently, facts of the cases were reviewed, several indicting documents and exhibits were tendered as evidences in the courts, urging the courts to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

The courts convicted and sentenced Owolabi, Olamide, Taofeek, Oke, Oludare, Tolu, Sunday and Feranmi to one year imprisonment each, Tosin to one month community service, while Idris and Toyosi bagged two months community service each and Josiah, Ayomide, Oladimeji, Matthew and Kenneth got three months community service each.

Also, Aladelusi, Oluwaseun, Adebayo, Olakunle, Damilare, Udanyi, Oluwatobilola, Adeniji, Mayokun, Opeyemi, Oluwambe, Adedeji, Bukola, Adeshina, Jayeola, Cleverly, Junior, Oladokun, Olamilekan, Wasiu and Oladaride were convicted and sentenced to six months community service each.

The convicts were also ordered to reconstitute their various victims and forfeit all items recovered from them, including seven exotic cars to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Bauchi Wins Aisha Mohammed U-15 Boys Championship

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Hosts, Bauchi have emerged winners of the second edition, Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) organised Dr. Aisha Mohammed (Sarauniyar) Bauchi U-15 Boys Football Tournament.

In an entertaining final, the team defeated Gombe State 4-1 to lift the giant trophy and a cash prize of N200,000, while runners-up, Gombe went home with a trophy and a cash prize of #100,000.

Third placed, Kaduna defeated Jigawa 3-0 to go home with medals and cash prize of N50,000 for their efforts.

Speaking while presenting trophies and medals to the winners, National President of Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), Dr. Yusuf Gawuna who was represented by the National Vice President, North East, Justice Habbi, commended the First Lady of Bauchi State for sponsoring the tournament describing her as a full supporter of grassroots football development.

According to him, the First Lady's sponsorship of the tournament for the second year

has given youths opportunity to exhibit their talents as well as led to the discovery of many talented players who will do the country proud in future.

He commended all the participants for their discipline throughout the duration of the tournament even as he challenged wives of other state governors and corporate organisations to emulate what the wife of Bauchi State Governor is doing in grassroots football development.

In his remarks, Bauchi State Commissioner For Sports, Hon. Mohammed Sambo Abubakar expressed happiness at the successful conclusion of the tournament, promising that next year's edition will be more glamorous.

"It's a thing of joy that this competition came to a successful end and kudos must go to Her Excellency for her passion about grassroots sports development and she has expressed her willingness to continue partnering with YSFON towards talent discovery through the tournament.

"As we have witnessed a successful completion of this year's edition, we look forward to having a more successful and



glamorous 2024 edition which Her Excellency has already made a commitment to see that it

holds", he stated.

It was also announced that winners of the tournament will

participate in an invitational tournament next year in Norway and Portugal.

Friday Mosque Reopens After Seven Years, As Zamfara Governor Intervenes

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal has resolved a seven-year dispute that led to the closure of one of the largest Juma'at mosques in Moriki town, Zurmi Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The Juma'at mosque in Moriki had been closed for over seven years due to a dispute between

two factions in the community.

A statement by the governor's spokesperson, Sulaiman Bala Idris, said the intervention was necessary to address the disunity issue among the people.

According to him, the governor recognizes unity's crucial role in fostering social harmony and promoting sustainable development, especially in trying times.

"Yesterday, the Zamfara State Government, under the leadership of Governor Dauda Lawal, resolved the seven-year dispute that resulted in the closure of one of the largest Friday Mosques in Moriki town, Zurmi local government.

"The Zamfara State government deemed it necessary to intervene and take measures to mitigate any factors contributing to

disunity among the people.

"Governor Lawal directed the Ministry of Religious Affairs to construct a new mosque for the other party in the dispute. The new mosque is expected to be completed in three months.

"Both parties have agreed to comply with the terms of the government's agreement".

The Friday prayer yesterday was

led by Sheikh Abbas Moriki, whose sermon centred around unity among people.

In his remarks, the Emir of Moriki, Bashar Isma'ila Muhammad, extended gratitude to God for witnessing the reopening. He also commended the state government for its timely intervention in resolving the end of the dispute.

Plateau PDP LG Chairmanship Candidates Condemn Killings in State

By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The forum of People's Democratic Party (PDP) Local Government Council Chairmanship Candidates Plateau State (2021) has frowned at the massacre unleashed on innocent and peace loving people of Bokkos, Mangu, Barkin Ladi and other parts of Plateau State.

The forum considered the unwarranted

attack as barbaric and an organized genocide aimed at not only undermining or subverting the will of the people, but a deliberate and well coordinated ploy towards land grabbing, hence dislodging the people from their ancestral land.

The forum described the killings of innocent lives at a time when peace is prevailing in the state as evil perpetrated by blood thirsty agents and enemies of

Plateau State.

The forum also called on true Plateau sons and daughters, both within and in the diaspora to set aside differences and arise with one voice in defending the "heritage freely given us by God".

The forum extended condolences to the governor, His Excellency Barrister Caleb Mutfwang, families who lost love ones, and indeed the good people of Plateau

State over the unfortunate massacre.

They also called for deliberate and prompt synergy amongst security agencies to bring the perpetrators to book and forestall future occurrences.

"May the souls of innocent lives gruesomely killed rest in peace with the Lord, as their bloods cry for vengeance," the forum prayed.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 242

Monday 1st January, 2024

Jamada Al-Thani 19, 1445 AH

Bauchi Wins Aisha Mohammed U-15 Boys Championship

Story on Page 23

Kaduna: Orphanages, Widows, Elderly Benefits From Caleb Foundation Donations, Others

*Pays students WAEC fees

By; ACHADU GABRIEL, Kaduna

It was an air of excitement galore as orphans, widows and the aged heartily received donations and education support with joy from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Caleb Danladi Foundation in Kaduna State.

In the heartwarming display of holiday spirit and community support, Caleb Danladi, the visionary CEO of the Caleb Danladi Foundation, recently undertook a special journey to Jaba LGA in Kaduna State and extended the festive cheer, donations and educational

support to orphans, widows, and the aged.

The visit, marked by compassion and generosity, according to a statement, included stops at Arrow of Hope Orphanage, Gweimen Center, and Daddu Orphanage as well as a meaningful outreach in the Samban Community.

At the Arrow of Hope Orphanage, the air was filled with laughter and excitement as CEO personally interacted with the orphaned children, spreading joy through festive gifts and treats.

The spirit of giving continued at Gweimen Center and Daddu Orphanage, where

widows and orphans received essential supplies and the warmth of the foundation's support.

The outreach didn't end there, in the Samban Community, Caleb Danladi, however, took a step further by paying the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) fees for deserving students, in line with his believe that education remained an accessible path for the youth in the region.

This impactful gesture reflects the foundation's commitment to empowering the next generation.

Additionally, the CEO visited the elderly in

Samban, sharing stories and offering companionship during the festive season.

The foundation's dedication to the holistic well-being of the community was evident as essential needs were met, and the elderly were reminded that they are valued members of the community.

Expressing his feelings, Caleb Danladi had this to say, "This festive season is about spreading joy and making a meaningful impact. We are privileged to be part of Jaba LGA and Samban Community, and it is our mission to bring hope to those who need it most, whether through educational support, material aid or simply spending time with the elderly."

The Caleb Danladi Foundation's holistic approach to community outreach underscores the transformative power of compassion and collective efforts.

As the festive season unfolds, these initiatives stand as shining examples of how a foundation's commitment to uplifting lives can create a lasting positive impact on communities.



Caleb Danladi Foundation beneficiaries in Kaduna.

Gombe Women Commissioner Bags Traditional Title of Azurfan Dukul



Asma'u Muhammad

By; ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

Gombe State Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development, Asma'u Muhammad Iganus, has been conferred with a traditional title of "Azurfa of Dukul", in Kwami Local Government Area of Gombe State, by the district head of Dukul, Abdulkadir Muhammad.

Before she was appointed Azurfan Dukul, Asma'u had many titles, which include, Gimbiyar Kalaku, Uwar Soron Shongom, Jinkan Kaltungo and Tauraruwar Sansani.

In his remarks during a thank you visit to the palace, the district head said he gave her the title based on her commitment in protecting the right of children and women, saying she is the only Lady in the state assembly that put have pressure on governor on the child right act bill that was signed into law.

Our correspondent recalls that the last time someone in the district was conferred with such title was in 1976.

He explained that the title was in recognition of the commissioner's passion and commitment to assisting girl-child and

protecting them from abuse.

In his address, the Council Chairman of Kwami, Ibrahim Buba, Makaman Dukul, appreciated the royal father for honouring the commissioner from Shongom Local Government Area of the state.

He enjoined her to associate very well with the community because she knows one of the community members.

In his vote of thanks on behalf of the family, the Elder brother to Hon Commissioner, who is the Village Head of Kalaku and Waziri of Shongom, Nappi Muhamamd, said he lacked words to appreciate the district head for appointing his sister as Azurfan Dukul.

In her response, Hon Asma'u Iganus commended the traditional ruler for appointing her based on contributions to girl-child protection.

She said as the only female legislature and chairperson House Committee on Women Affairs, she was able to lobby for the signing of the child-right bill into law.

Iganus, appreciated the king makers of the palace and the support of her staff in the ministry.

Philanthropist Calls For Donation Of Blood To Victims Of Plateau Attacks

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Executive Director, Beautiful Gate Handicapped People's Centre, Jos, Barrister Ayuba has lent his voice to the call for donation of blood to the victims of the recent attacks in Mangu, Bokkos,

and Barkin Ladi LGAs.

It would be recalled that on the eve of Christmas, various communities across the three LGAs came across a coordinated attacks by herdsmen, leaving in its wake over 100 persons dead, with quite a score injured.

"The existing blood banks

in Jos have run out of blood due to the numerous persons injured during the attack with many still in need of blood transfusion".

"I plead and urge all citizens of Plateau to avail themselves to donate to the blood banks in Plateau Specialist Hospital and

that of the Jos University Teaching Hospital", he said.

He said that at this time, the bond of unity, love, and solidarity should guide Plateau citizens, hence his appeal for donation of blood so as to save the lives of those in need.