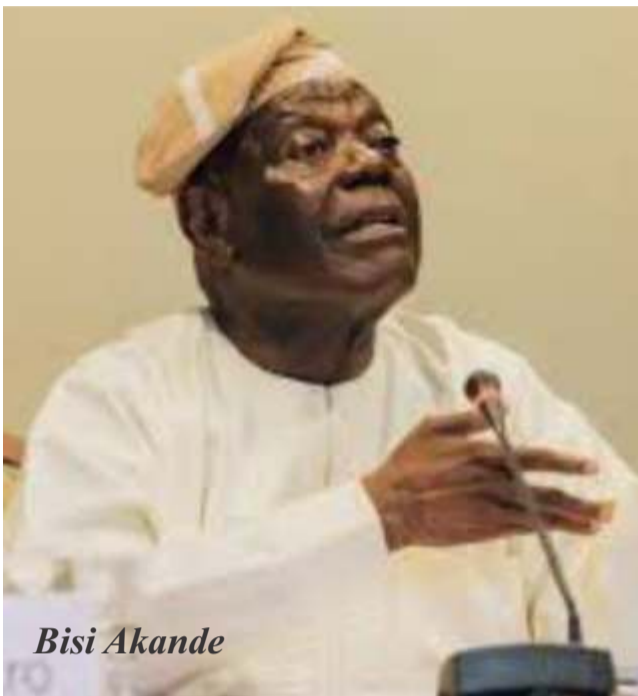


24,000 Vulnerable
In Kaduna State
To Get Free Health
Insurance
- KADCHMA DG

Story on Page 2

Transparency:
Gov Inuwa Yahaya
Dissolves Board,
Management Of
Bubayero Micro
Finance Bank,
Suspends MD/CEO

Story on Page 4



Bisi Akande

**Tinubu's Ally, Bisi
Akande Says 1960
Constitution, Best
For Nigeria**

**Wants NASS to adopt it*

Story on Page 4

All Election Cases Should End At Supreme Court — CUPP

- Demands amendment of 1999 Constitution
- Hails Supreme Court for tongue lashing Court of Appeal
- Says injustice meted on elected NASS, State Assembly members of PDP, LP from Plateau, Enugu, Abia, other states



Some of the Intercepted illicit drugs and arrested suspects.

Story on Page 3

**NDLEA Busts Drug Cartel, Intercepts
Imported Canadian Loud, Italy Bound
Rohypnol, Tramadol From Pakistan, Others**

Story on Page 4

**Four Illegal Tax
Collectors In
Police Net In Benue**

Story on Page 2

**3 Victims Of Christmas
Eve Church Attack Buried
Amidst Tears In Ebonyi**

By: ADEBOYE ADO,
Akure

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has called for the amendment of the 1999 Constitution, categorically stating that all election cases should end at the Supreme Court. High Chief Peter Ameh, the CUPP National Secretary, made the call in statement issued yesterday. "CUPP hereby calls on the National Assembly to commence without delay the amendment of Sections 233. (1)(e) and 246.(1)(3) of the 1999 Constitution as

Amended to extend appellate jurisdiction for State and National Assembly election disputes to the Supreme Court to avert a repeat of the disaster of injustices meted to the validly elected National and State Assembly Members of PDP and Labour Party extraction from Plateau, Enugu, Abia and other states.

"This call has become necessary due to the irreparable damage caused to the elected members who have been unjustly removed from their

Story on Page 2

All Election Cases Should End At Supreme Court — CUPP

- *Demands amendment of 1999 Constitution
- *Hails Supreme Court for tongue lashing Court of Appeal
- *Says injustice meted on elected NASS, State Assembly members of PDP, LP from Plateau, Enugu, Abia, other states

legitimate seats by the Court of Appeal despite the plethora of earlier decided and settled cases by the Supreme Court court, which by the doctrine of stare decisis binds the Court of Appeal. "CUPP observed that the Supreme Court did not spare words in tongue lashing the Court of Appeal for the perverse and obnoxious judgment that saw the untimely termination of the legitimate and valid mandate of those

Legislators both at the State and National Assembly which ought not have happened had the Court of Appeal not wilfully directed themselves to ignore those decided cases which they did impunitively, knowing that the likelihood of sanctions being levied upon them is minimal. "CUPP is appalled and highly dismayed that those petitions ordinarily would not have been entertained by nature of their being pre-election matters, were

made the cornerstones of their judgments by both the Election Tribunal and the Court of Appeal, leading to the nullification of those mandates thereby denying them the fruits of their victory, and handing same to persons who were rejected at the polls by the voters. "CUPP believes that this irreparable harm and loss would have been remedied had there been a further provision for appeal to the Supreme Court by the aggrieved parties, and

"I hereby call upon the National Assembly to commence without delay the amendment of those sections of the 1999 Constitution as Amended to add to endue the Supreme Court with the powers to entertain appeals for State and National Assembly election disputes and remove the Court of Appeal from being the court of last resort for same as it currently is," he declared.



3 Victims Of Christmas Eve Church Attack Buried Amidst Tears In Ebonyi

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki
The three Victims of an attack at Immaculate Catholic Church, Ngwagu Abakaliki have been laid to rest on Saturday in their family compounds respectively. The attack which happened on Christmas Eve inside Immaculate Catholic Church, claimed three lives comprising two church security men and one member of the church. The killers invaded the church while a priest was

celebrating vigil mass, killed three worshippers and injured many others, according to the Bishop of Abakaliki Diocese. Bishop Nworie Chukwu described the incident as sad and disheartening and prayed for the repose of the victims' souls. He urged the faithful to pray for unity and progress of Ebonyi and Nigeria. It was gathered that the attackers targeted one Mr. Cylil Obinna Mbam, who was inside the church but was invited out by the hoodlums unknowingly

before he was shot dead, while two other boys, Solomon Onyedikachi Alo and Mathew Ebuka Nwifuru who were also gunned down were church security men who came for his rescue but were killed in the process. On Saturday, the three victims were laid to rest following the burial mass conducted by the Bishop of Abakaliki Diocese, Bishop Nworie Chukwu at Immaculate Catholic Church Ngwagu before taking them to their respective compounds for

interment. However, information from a close source to late Mr. Cylil's family has it that he was married with children, while the other two young men were single. Meanwhile, the remote cause of the attack has not been identified and those that are behind it are yet to be arrested. When contacted, the Commissioner of Police In Ebonyi State, Mrs Augustina Ogbodo did not respond to phone calls as at the time of this report.

24,000 Vulnerable In Kaduna State To Get Free Health Insurance - KADCHMA DG

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Kaduna State Contributory Health Management Authority (KADCHMA) in collaboration with the Clinton Health Access Initiative would provide free health insurance cover to 24,000 vulnerable citizens in the state. Malam Abubakar Hassan, Director-General, KADCHMA disclosed this during Free Books Distribution and Medical Outreach for pupils of LEA Kallon Kura, Samaru, Zaria on Thursday.

The event was organised by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Deputy Governor on NGO matters in collaboration with KADCHMA. The DG said the 24,000 beneficiaries of the scheme would be indigent pregnant women and children under five years towards reducing the infant and maternal mortality indices in the state. According to him, the collaboration was initially for 20,000 vulnerable populations in the state and it was increased to 24,000 beneficiaries across the state. Hassan said Bomo Ward in Sabon Gari LGA would have 300 beneficiaries of the programme. He added that KADCHMA was collaborating with the office of the Special Adviser to Deputy Governor of Kaduna State

on NGO matters to sensitize communities on the benefits of enrolling into the scheme. "The event was to make people understand the benefits of the scheme in helping them to reduce catastrophic out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare services. "Enrollees of the scheme who were from the informal sector would pay N10, 650 annually to access over 95 different qualitative healthcare services," he said. He therefore, appealed to the residents of Kaduna State to leverage on the scheme as a viable option to reduce the burden of out-of-pocket expenses for healthcare services. Earlier, Alhaji Muktar Zubairu, Special Adviser to the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State on NGO matters, said that the collaboration is to strengthen universal health coverage in Kaduna State. In the spirit of reducing out-of-pocket expenses on healthcare, the Special Adviser to the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State on NGO matters, also supported pupils with exercise books to reduce expenses incurred by parents on education. Highlights of the event was health talk on oral health and personal hygiene for the mothers of Hayin Dogo Community, Samaru and pupils of Kallon Kura LEA Primary School Samaru, Zaria.

Abuja Girls Kidnap: Police Initiated Comprehensive Action To Rescue Victims

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Following the abduction of six young girls in the Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, the Police high command has said that it has commenced a comprehensive plan of action to address it to prevent further occurrence. The Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi in a statement at the weekend, said that the Force Headquarters is diligently coordinating efforts to address the issue, adding that all hands are on deck to rescue the victims. It reads, "In the wake of the abduction of six young girls in the Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, it is vital to state that the Police Force has already initiated a comprehensive plan of action. "The Force Headquarters is diligently coordinating efforts to address this and prevent any further occurrence, as all hands are on deck to rescue the victims. "However, the sensitivity of the situation necessitates discretion, and as a result, specific details are being kept confidential to avoid compromising ongoing operations. "The NPF is actively engaging and contacting individuals crucial to the rescue operations and investigation. The objective is not only to bring perpetrators to justice but also to intensify efforts in rescue operations for victims still in captivity.

NDLEA Busts Drug Cartel, Intercepts Imported Canadian Loud, Italy Bound Rohypnol, Tramadol From Pakistan, Others

By ; RAYMOND
TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has continued to record monumental stride in the war against drug cartels, with the busting and recovery of large consignments from traffickers and peddlers.

Operatives of the agency reportedly intercepted a large consignment of Canadian Loud, an imported strong synthetic strain of cannabis, packaged in 324 bags with a gross weight of 111.2 kilograms in Onikan area of Lagos Island. The drug was being conveyed for distribution in an unregistered Grand Caravan vehicle by a 42-year-old suspect, Taofeek Yusuf.

The Director, Media and Advocacy of NDLEA, Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement made available to journalists yesterday.

He hinted that the arrest of Taofeek and seizure of the imported consignment late on Friday January 12, 2024 following credible intelligence, came on the heels of the arrest of another drug trafficking suspect, Godwin ThankGod the previous day by NDLEA officers at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) Ikeja Lagos. According to him, the Milan, Italy-bound Godwin was intercepted while attempting to board a Royal Air Maroc flight with quantities of codeine-based syrup and rohypnol concealed in his luggage.

The suspect who is a regular flyer was arrested during a search of his luggage at the Departure Gate of Terminal 2 of the airport.

The search led to the discovery of five cartons consisting 50 bottles of codeine syrup and 300 tablets of rohypnol.

In the same vein, NDLEA operatives at the SAHCO import shed of the import on Friday January 12, recovered 30,000 packs of tramadol 225mg consisting 300,000 pills.

The consignment, which came from Karachi, Pakistan on KLM Royal Dutch Airline, with



Some of the Intercepted illicit drugs and arrested suspects.

airway bill number 074-62674964, was taken into custody following a joint examination with other security agencies at the airport.

Meanwhile, various quantities of tramadol and cannabis sativa concealed in soles of sports canvas shoes going to Oman as well as another consignment of tramadol and rohypnol hidden in spices heading to the United Kingdom were intercepted at two courier firms in Lagos by NDLEA operatives of the Directorate of Operation and General Investigation (DOGI) on Tuesday January 9.

The statement further read: "Operatives in Oyo State on Thursday 11th January raided a clandestine skuchies factory operated by Oyadeji Dimeji, 28, in Moniya area of Ibadan where 76.6kg of cannabis sativa, 134 grams of tramadol, 93 grams of rophynol and 50 litres of already produced skuchies, a liquid mixture containing various

types of psychoactive substances, were recovered.

"In Ondo state, four suspects: David Iyoragie, 34; Adams Idowu, 28; Ibrahim Audu Abdullahi, 54; and Ayomide Henry Ayuba, 20, were arrested at De – Rock View Hotel, Gadson Junction off Ado- Ekiti Road, Igoba, Akure North LGA on Friday 12th January with 524.5kg cannabis. Another suspect, Aniekeme Eyibio, 26, was also nabbed at Ala forest, Akure North LGA where 293.5kg of the same psychoactive substance and a Dane gun were recovered from him.

"While 67-year-old Franklin Eze was arrested at Otuo, Owan East LGA, Edo state on Thursday 11th January with 454 blocks of cannabis weighing 311kg loaded in his Lexus salon car marked EBM 812AA, Abdullahi Shuaibu, 43, was nabbed by NDLEA operatives on Tuesday 9th January at Ayangba, Dekina

LGA Kogi state with 43 blocks of compressed cannabis, weighing 22kg and three pinches of methamphetamine.

"In Katsina state, a suspect, Danladi Adamu aged 24 was nabbed on Wednesday 10th Jan. with 25.5kg cannabis sativa during a buy and bust operation at Kurmi Primary School in Malumfashi metropolis, while operatives in Gombe arrested Sulaiman Mohammed at Lapandimtai, Kaltungo, with 47 blocks of same substance weighing 30kg concealed in two sacks of groundnut".

The anti-narcotic agency spokesperson further added that the War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) advocacy campaign of the Agency continued in equal measure in schools, markets, worship places and others across the country in the past week.

Some of them include: WADA sensitization lecture for students and staff of Unity High School Senior, Abeokuta, Ogun

State; King George College, Imeke, Badagry Lagos as well as students and staff of Yusuf Bala Usman College of Legal Studies, Daura, Katsina State.

Others are WADA sensitization lecture for youths of Wamakko LGA, Sokoto State; WADA advocacy visits to the Emir of Hadejia, Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Maje, Jigawa State; and the Chief Judge of Borno State, Justice Kashim Zannah.

Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) commended the officers and men of the MMIA, Ondo, Edo, Oyo, Lagos, Kogi, Katsina and Gombe Commands as well as those of DOGI for the arrests and seizures of the past week.

He urged them and their compatriots across all formations of the Agency to maintain the offensive action tempo and strive to surpass previous records while maintaining a balance with their drug demand reduction efforts.

Transparency: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Dissolves Board, Management Of Bubayero Micro Finance Bank, Suspends MD/CEO

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has approved the dissolution of the Board of Directors of Bubayero Micro Finance Bank and suspended the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer from office.

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi who conveyed the Governor's approval, said the decision followed the findings of a thorough forensic audit of the financial activities at Bubayero Micro Finance Bank, and based on recommendations from appointed financial consultants as well as the audit report of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The MD/CEO is to hand over responsibilities to the most senior bank official, while all suspended board members and management are instructed to promptly hand over all official assets in their possession.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available at the weekend, said that an interim Management, headed by the Executive Director, Financial Control and Operations, has been established, and is to report to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for further directives.

These directives, which take immediate effect, are aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability.



Gov Inuwa Yahaya

Tinubu's Ally, Bisi Akande Says 1960 Constitution, Best For Nigeria

**Wants NASS to adopt it*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Former interim National Chairman of All Progressives Congress (APC), and a strong ally of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Chief Bisi Akande at the weekend, declared that the 1960 Constitution is the best for Nigeria.

Chief Akande said this on Saturday, while fielding questions from journalists as part of the activities lined up for his 85th birthday ceremony.

The APC leader maintained that there is the need for the National Assembly members to adopt the 1960 Constitution for Nigeria to move forward, adding, that the National Assembly should dump the 1999 Constitution written by the military leaders for the country to work.

"I will prefer the 1960 constitution for Nigeria, it is the best! For example, in the 1960 constitution, if you are a member of the national and state assembly, you are part time, you go to your work, politics wasn't work then", he said.

Chief Akande added,



Bisi Akande

"Farmers go to the farm, lawyers go to their chambers, doctors go to their hospitals and when it is time for a meeting, they go to the meeting and they pay them sitting allowance, everybody knows that they are doing it in the interest of the public."

The former Governor of Osun State emphasized that restructuring of Nigeria does not require much other than dumping the 1999 Constitution, adding that the 1999 constitution was not written by anybody, hence

National Assembly must retrace its steps on the constitution.

Accusing the military of introducing money and lavish spending into the nation's politics which are not helping the country, he said, "the military, because they wanted to stay permanently in power, they started using money to pay them (assembly) salary and everybody left their job to become a politician,"

"You leave your job where you all belong, then you become a politician, you

have nothing to do, nothing to produce, then you want to be materialistic. You become fake because you have departed from good things to bad.

"Until you retrace your steps back, you can't have it well. If you are talking about restructuring, you don't need much, throw away this present constitution which is not written by anybody and embrace 1960 constitution, look at present day realities to adjust it."

Four Illegal Tax Collectors In Police Net In Benue

By: ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Acting Executive Chairman Benue State Internal Revenue Service (BIRS), Emmanuel Agema has said that his men in collaboration with the Nigerian Police Force have arrested four illegal tax collectors in Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

In a statement signed in Makurdi by his Media Assistant, Jacintha Bernard, the four suspects

were apprehended while extorting money from petty traders at the Lafia park located at North Bank area of Makurdi.

According to the statement, the illegal tax collectors claimed to have belonged to Makurdi Local Government Area Market Committee, constituted to collect revenues across parks and markets in Makurdi.

The BIRS boss said that to ensure zero tolerance to criminal tendencies of

some staff and to fight extortion, the board put in place some measures to tackle it, which has resulted not only in the increase in revenue profile, but also in blocking some of the lapses.

The chairman who commended security agencies for their efforts, explained that contact was made to the Care Taker Committee Chairman of Makurdi Local Government, Mr James

Seem who strongly countered and disowned the illegal revenue collectors.

The BIRS Chairman who restated governor Alia's determination to ensure that the era where illegal revenue collectors were having a field day have gone, "we are not going to pamper criminals in the state or have any business with them, so the police should commence full investigation into their activities".

147 Correctional Officers Wear New Rank in Akwa Ibom

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

No fewer than 147 newly promoted officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Akwa Ibom State Command have been decorated with their new rank on Friday, at the State Correctional Headquarters, Uyo.

A statement issued by the Command Public Relations Officer, ASC Richard Metong indicated that the newly decorated officers were part of the 4,498 officers of the service whose promotion to new ranks was approved by the Minister of Interior,

Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, and the Controller General of Corrections, Haliru Nababa

The State Controller of the Command, Julius Ezugwu, the release stated has thanked the Minister and the Controller General of Corrections for approving the promotions, noting that it has boosted the morale of the Officers for better performance.

He charged the decorated Officers to be dedicated, committed, and more professional in the discharge of their duties to earn more promotions while also encouraged those who missed out on

the promotion not to lose hope adding that it would be their turn next time.

In separate goodwill messages, the Commissioner of Police Akwa Ibom State Command, CP Olatoye Durosinmi, Sector Commander of FRSC, Matthew Olonisaye, representatives of the State Commandant of NSCDC and Commander of NDLEA, thanked God respectively for His favour on the promoted and decorated Officers, charging them to see their elevation as a call to higher responsibilities, adding that promotion comes

from God.

DCC Joseph Effiong, on behalf of the newly decorated officers expressed gratitude to God for His grace on them and appreciated the Minister as well as the Controller General of Corrections for approving their promotions.

He also appreciated the State Controller of Corrections whose effort birthed the decoration ceremony and pledged their unflinching loyalty to the Service and professionalism in discharging their duties in the Command.

NESREA DG Heads FG's Committee To Implement Circular Economy Roadmap

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Federal Ministry of Environment has set-up a "Circular Nigeria Committee" to facilitate the implementation of the Circular Economy roadmap.

Rising from its two-day Ministerial/Top Management Retreat held in Kaduna, the Committee chairmen and the Director-General of National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Prof. Aliyu Jauro, will also pursue gradual discontinuation of use of single use plastic in the country, starting from the ministry and its agencies.

This was contained in a communique issued at the end of retreat which was organized for directors, heads of agencies, programmes and special projects of the ministry on the theme: "Policy Embedment and Synergy of Prioritized Action for a Renewed Hope in Environmental Management".

The communique signed by the Director Planning Research and Statistics of the ministry, Mr. Stanley Jonah, explained that the Circular Nigeria Committee would ensure sustainable waste management and facilitate the implementation of the Circular Economy roadmap.

Other decisions reached at the retreat according to the communique are that all departments, agencies, programmes and special projects of the ministry shall work collaboratively for the actualization of the ministry's mandated deliverables derived from the Presidential priorities. It is to prioritize mentorship, institutional knowledge transfer and effective succession plan; procurement plans shall be completed early and

submitted to the relevant agencies of government to ensure timely release of fund.

It also added that the retreat agreed to discontinue the use of single use plastic within the Federal Ministry of Environment and its agencies to drive a culture of waste reduction, saying that staff of the ministry and its agencies are requested to demonstrate leadership by example by implementing other personal climate actions in their environment.

The meeting is to fast track the issuance of the 3rd Sovereign Green Bond in 2024, implement programmes for capacity development, staff mobilization, performance tracking and strengthening of relationships between supervising officers and their subordinates as key strategy to enhance performance; and to accelerate the development of the 2024 to 2027 Ministry's Strategic Roadmap.

The retreat culminated in the signing of performance bond with the ministers and permanent secretary by heads of departments and agencies for the delivery of the prioritized mandates of the ministry. The communique noted that, the Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal delivered the Opening Speech, where he highlighted the link between security challenges and climate change, the need for synergy between all Departments and agencies of the Ministry and illegal activities of bandits in our forest reserves.

The minister emphasized the need for reinforcement of the forest guards in line with the vision of Mr. President to rid the forests of bandits.

Gombe SSG Epitome Of Honesty, Probity - Revenue Tribunal

By; ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

The Gombe State Revenue Recovery Tribunal has described the Secretary to the Gombe State Government (SSG) Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi as an epitome of honesty, probity and discipline.

The tribunal made the declaration in its goodwill message issued by its Chairman, Magistrate Mohammed Tukur Jungudo.

The Gombe State Revenue Recovery Tribunal has described the Secretary to the Gombe State Government (SSG) Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi as an epitome of honesty, probity and discipline.

The tribunal made the declaration in its goodwill message issued by its Chairman, Magistrate Mohammed Tukur Jungudo- to the SSG on his 65th. birthday anniversary said is a highly dedicated public servant who inculcates the principles of honesty, probity and hardworking in all public servants in the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya. According to the tribunal, such virtues and high moral standards exhibited by the SSG since he was appointed has helped the present administration to run successfully in the

past years.

"We have seen great leaders, we have seen nobility and virtue! But there is something about this our own that can't quite be encapsulated in words. A trailblazer, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, the Secretary to the State Government, Gombe State.

"Sir, your foresight and altruistic commitments over the four years made conspicuous tremendous accomplishments in the state. Your selfish services and support to his Excellency Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya moved the state closer to the highest paragon of hope. Under your leadership, we witnessed positive changes in the state.

"Sir, your impeccable track records breeding from your hard work, intelligence, selflessness, patience, and vision remains great assets not only to Gombe state but the country Nigeria at large.", the statement reads in parts.

The tribunal while urging the SSG to sustain his good legacies, said civil servants and other government officials look up to him for guidance, emulation and inspiration. The tribunal said Njodi is a highly dedicated public servant who inculcates the principles of honesty,



Gombe SSG

probity and hardworking in all public servants in the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya. According to the tribunal, such virtues and high moral standards exhibited by the SSG since he was appointed has helped the present administration to run successfully in the past years.

"Sir, your foresight and altruistic commitment over the four years made conspicuous tremendous accomplishments in the state. Your selfish services and support to his Excellency, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya moved the state

closer to the highest paragon of hope. Under your leadership, we witnessed positive changes in the state.

"Sir, your impeccable track records breeding from your hard work, intelligence, selflessness, patience, and vision remains great assets not only to Gombe state but the country Nigeria at large.", the statement reads in parts.

The tribunal while urging the SSG to sustain his good legacies said civil servants and other government officials look up to him for guidance, emulation and inspiration.

Truck Crushes Okada Rider, 2 Passengers To Death In Lagos

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two passengers on a commercial motorcycle and the rider have been reportedly crushed to death by a truck in Lagos, New Nigerian Newspaper has learnt.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred at about noon on Saturday by Barracks Bus-stop inward Iyana-Iba along Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

As learnt, the incident happened when the driver of the Man Diesel truck, while on top speed, lost control as a result of a rear busted tyre and rammed into the motorcycle driving against traffic, popularly referred to as "one way".

It was gathered that the two passengers were trapped under the vehicle

and died instantly, while the rider later died at a hospital around Satellite Town.

The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) Mr. Adebayo Taofiq, who confirmed the incident in a statement made available to journalists, said the corpses of the passengers were recovered by operatives of the agency.

He disclosed that the driver of the truck ran away after the accident, while Police men from Onireke Police Station took away the recovered corpse of the dead bodies.

The release reads, "Operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) today recovered 2 dead bodies trapped under an

empty long 'Man-Diesel' truck by Barracks Bus-stop along Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Lagos

"The Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA Mr. Adebayo Taofiq confirmed that the 2 (two) recovered dead bodies were passengers on a motorcycle riding on direction prohibited by law 'One-way' on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

"While these two (2) motorcycle passengers died instantly, the rider later died at a hospital around Satellites Town.

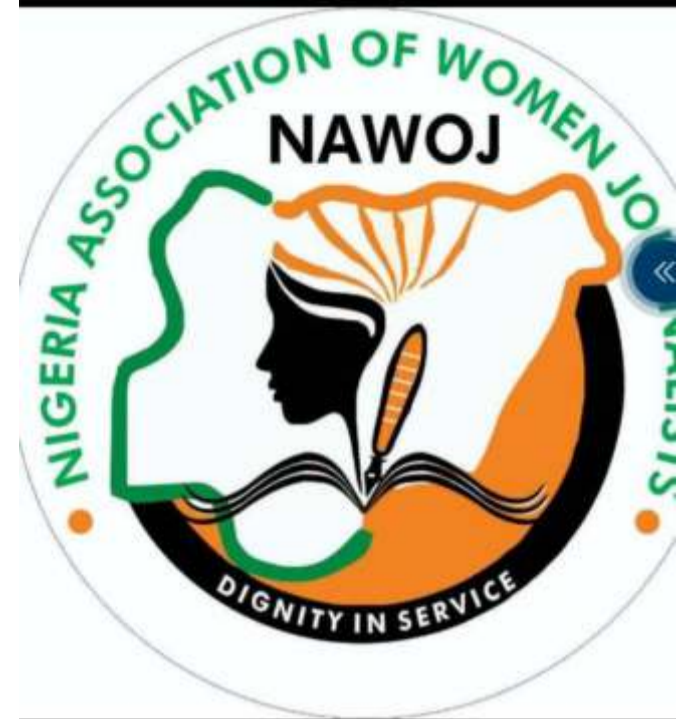
"Preliminary investigations revealed that a truck driver while on a top speed lost control as a result of a rear busted tyre and rammed into a motorcycle plying one-way by Barracks Bus-stop

inward Iyana-Iba along Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

"While the truck driver ran away after the accident, Police men from 'Onireke' Police Division' took away the recovered two (2) dead bodies.

"Lastma Ogunremi Olanrewaju (Lastma Commander Area D) who led the recovery operations and his team immediately evacuated the truck and motorcycle off the road for an unhindered free vehicular movement around the Expressway.

"The General Manager of LASTMA Mr. Bakare-Oki Olalekan while warning truck drivers to always stop over speeding however, appealed to motorcycle operators to stop playing one-way including all restricted routes across the state."



NAWOJ Condoles Borno Govt, NUJ Over Gusau's Demise

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), has extended condolences to the Borno State Government and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Borno State Council, over the demise of veteran journalist, Malam Isa Gusau.

This was contained in a statement signed by the National Chairperson, Comrade Aisha Bura and National Secretary, Comrade Wasilah Ladan, issued to newsmen in Kaduna.

According to the statement, the news of the demise of Malam Isa Gusau who was Special

Adviser on Communication and Strategy to the Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum was received with great shock. It explained that, the death came when his invaluable contributions as an experienced veteran in the journalism profession would have added immense growth and development to the profession, Borno State and the entire country. The statement expressed the association's heartfelt condolences to the Borno State Government, the deceased immediate family and NUJ, Borno State Council and prayed they would bear the irreparable loss.

Gusau: Katsina Governor Extends Condolences To Zulum

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has extended his sincere condolence to Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum over the death of his Special Adviser on Public Relations and Strategy, Malam Isa Gusau.

Governor Dikko Radda in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed stands in solidarity with Governor Zulum during "this challenging time."

"The loss of Malam Isa Gusau is deeply felt and our thoughts are with Borno State Government and the family of the departed," Governor Radda said.

Late Malam Isa Gusau died

late last Thursday evening at India, where he had been receiving treatment for an undisclosed ailment.

Late Gusau, a former Daily Trust correspondent, served as the media adviser to the former Governor of Borno State, Kashim Shettima, for eight years, and was re-appointed to the same position by his successor.

However, while emphasizing the importance of unity and support in moments of grief, Governor Radda expressed sympathy with the late Isa Gusau's family, the government and people of Borno State.

The Katsina State Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda who expressed sadness over the irreparable loss, He prayed for the repose of his soul.



The ill-fated Okada involved in the accident

Supreme Court Victory: Join Me In Rescuing Zamfara - Gov Lawal

By; **I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Zamfara**

Governor Dauda Lawal has called on the opposition to collaborate with his administration on its rescue mission. He emphasised that the Supreme Court verdict is a victory for the people of Zamfara.

On Friday, the Apex court set aside the decision of the Court of Appeal Abuja, which declared the Zamfara Governorship Election inconclusive. Delivering the lead decision of the Supreme Court, Emmanuel Agim described the judgement of the lower Court of Appeal as perverse and lacked evidential foundation.

In a statement by his spokesperson, Sulaiman Bala Idris, Governor Lawal said that the Apex court verdict reflected the people's desire for positive development and progress.

According to him, "working together is critical to achieving sustainable state development. The success of our collective efforts depends on the active collaboration

of all stakeholders.

"Let's prioritise collaboration and work towards a better future for our state."

He said: "I am thrilled to have received affirmation of my election by the Supreme Court today. This verdict will boost our morale in fulfilling campaign promises.

"Today's victory is confirmation of the collective decision made by the people of Zamfara State during the governorship election held in March last year. This victory is for all the people of Zamfara State.

"By my campaign manifesto, which serves as a guide for our rescue mission, my administration has taken swift action to liberate Zamfara from the shackles of poor governance.

"I am urging all people of Zamfara, including opposition parties, to unite and work together to rebuild and restore the state.

"My administration is on a mission to rebuild the state, and the Supreme Court's decision is a victory for the people who trusted me."



Gov Dauda Lawal

Tinubu's Vision, Support Encouraged Me To Embark On Petroleum Refinery - Dangote

*Thanks Nigerians over refinery's start of production

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

President of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote on Saturday, disclosed that President Bola Tinubu's vision and support encouraged him to embark on Dangote Petroleum Refinery, project years ago.

Aliko Dangote said this while speaking with stakeholders in the oil and gas industry on the historic start of domestic refining of petroleum products that will eliminate dependence on importation of refined products in Nigeria.

Thanking President Tinubu, the federal government, its agencies, and all Nigerians for believing in him and supporting the mega project despite all odds, Dangote recalled the support, encouragement, and thoughtful advice he got from President Tinubu towards the actualisation of the refinery project.

Specifically, Dangote also thanked the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Limited), the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority



(NMDPRA) for their support and belief in the historic project.

According to Dangote, "I want to thank President Bola Tinubu for his support and for making our dream come true. This production, as witnessed today, would not have been possible without his visionary leadership and prompt attention to details", he said.

Dangote added, " His intervention at various stages cleared all impediments thereby accelerating the actualisation of the project. I also want to express my appreciation to the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, and the Nigerian Midstream and

Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority for their support.

" These organisations have been our dependable partners in this historic journey. We also thank Nigerians for their belief and support in this project. We have started the production of diesel and aviation fuel, and the products will be in the market within this month once we receive regulatory approvals. This is a big day for Nigeria. We are delighted to have reached this significant milestone. This is an important achievement for our country as it demonstrates our ability to develop and deliver large capital projects.

" This is a game changer for our country, and I am very fulfilled with the actualisation of this

project," he added. The refinery has so far received six million barrels of crude oil at its two SPMs located 25 kilometres from the shore. The first crude delivery was done on December 12, 2023, and the 6th cargo was delivered on January 8, 2024. The Refinery can load 2,900 trucks a day at its truck-loading gantries.

" The products from the Refinery will conform to Euro V specifications. The refinery design complies with the World Bank, US EPA, European emission norms, and Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) emission/effluent norms. Employing state-of-the-art technology.

"I must extend our sincere appreciation to our Bankers and financiers, both local and offshore, who demonstrated a great deal of patience, in seeing us through many difficult times. In the same vein, we thank the Government of Lagos State, under the leadership of Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who has been incredibly proactive in ensuring that the many challenges we encountered in the course of executing this project were quickly resolved. I thank him immensely,"

Kano Guber: Yusuf's Victory Brings Disgrace To Political Jobbers - SW NNPP

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The South West Chapter of the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) at the weekend, felicitated Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf on his victory at the Supreme Court.

South West NNPP in a statement to congratulate Gov Abba, described the victory as a disgrace to political jobbers who were alleged to have carried out hatchet jobs to undermine the party's victory.

In the statement signed by the South West Public

Relations Officer of the party, Kilamuwaye Badmus, the party noted that some political jobbers who are mostly the expelled members from the party allegedly worked for the All Progressives Congress, (APC) to frustrate the appeal filed by Yusuf and the NNPP at the Supreme Court.

"We thank God for the victory of Governor Abba Yusuf at the Supreme Court. The victory has disgraced some political jobbers who gave fake information about the party to the All

Progressives Congress, (APC) thinking they would be rewarded", it said.

The party added, "All their efforts failed to stop the NNPP's victory. With Yusuf's victory, those who carried out the hatchet jobs have failed and our party remains stronger than even before. Their efforts to bring down Governor Yusuf ended in futility."

" We members of the NNPP in the South West hereby congratulate our leaders both in the region and at the national level especially our presidential

candidate, Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwakwanso and the party guber candidate in Ogun state, Ambassador Olu'femi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo, and others for their efforts, calmness and maturity while the process lasted"

The party maintained, "We call on Governor Yusuf to continue his good works. We know by the grace of God it will be 4+4.

The victory is just the beginning of the greatness of our party not only in the South West but in the entire country".

Wiki Loves Women Trains 11 In Kaduna

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Eleven female journalists, alongside some selected women in Kaduna State at the weekend, were trained on Hausa Wiki-Quote as part of Wiki Loves Women programme.

The programme was organised by Wiki-Media Foundation.

The Wiki Media messages are being disseminated in various languages across the globe, however in Nigeria, the languages used are Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba.

Wiki Media is an online platform for sharing knowledge for free. It was established in the year

2001, with the aim of educating people on how to send messages to the society in various languages.

It is a way of motivating women through gender equality, campaigning on various capacities by encouraging women to involve in participating in growth of the society.

Speaking with newsmen in Kaduna, the coordinator of Wiki-Media Northern Nigeria, Bashir Yahuza Muhammad explained that the aim is to educate women on how to amplify their voices through Wiki-Media.

He also said it deals with quotes in the major languages.

"You can also include your

languages in terms of dialects to communicate to the society globally," he added.

According to him, ICT is one of the fastest means of communication and interaction, hence the need for women, particularly those in the North to maximize it.

On her part, the NAWOJ Secretary Zone A, Daharatu Ahmed Aliyu noted that the training was apt as women in the North need to catch up with modern global trends.

In separate interviews, some participants including the Chairperson of NAWOJ Kaduna State Council, Comrade Fatima Aliyu Mahuta and the coordinator Kaduna North

Jam'iyyar Matan Arewa, Fatima Ahmed Godowoli appreciated the organisers of the event and promised to extend the knowledge gained to their groups.

Participants were drawn from National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), National Council of Women Society (NCWS), Jam'iyyar Matan Arewa (JMA), and Women in Politics Forum among others.

Chairman, New Nigerian Newspapers Chapel, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State Council, Funmi Aderinto was also part of the participants.



Katsina Governor Radda

Fatal Accident: Katsina Governor Extends Condolences To Families Of Victims

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

In a heartfelt response to the devastating incident that occurred, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has extended condolences to the families affected by the fatal accident involving a Katsina State Transport Authority (KTSTA) 18-seater bus.

The ill-fated KTSTA bus, en route from its office in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State to Abuja, according to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, met with tragedy due to ongoing repairs on the Kaduna/Abuja highway. "The construction work required diversion of traffic, with contractors placing heavy machinery in close proximity to the area, inadvertently contributing to the unfortunate incident,"

the statement said.

Regrettably, it said seven lives, including two children and the bus driver, were lost at the scene of the accident.

Governor Radda expressed deep sympathy and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and the people of Katsina State.

However, the governor, on behalf of the entire people of the state, offers his heartfelt prayers to Allah (SWT), seeking solace for the departed souls and beseeching the Almighty to grant them the highest rank in Jannatul Firdaus.

Accordingly, Katsina State Government remains committed to ensuring the safety of its citizens and would work diligently to prevent such tragic incidents in the future, the Governor assured.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda urged people of the state to come together and support one another during these trying times.



Abba Kabir's Affirmation A Testimony To Entrenched Democracy - Dawanau

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

An active member of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Alhaji Mustapha Zakari Dawanau has said that the affirmation of Abba Kabir Yusuf as the governor of Kano State has indicated that Nigeria's democracy is improving and becoming more trusted. He stated this in an interview with journalists in Kano, shortly after the

Supreme Court affirmed Abba Kabir as the duly elected governor of the state, adding that Nigerians agree that the judiciary is now steadfast and more reliable to democratic process.

Mustapha Zakari Dawanau said that, "With the present development in the judicial system, democracy would continue to benefit the citizens because fair judgment is now actualized when the

people's mandates are given in courts," he emphasized.

The party chieftain called on the people of Kano State to support the Abba Kabir's government in order to benefit more from the dividends of democracy at both rural and urban settlements. He therefore, congratulated the governor over his victory at the Supreme Court.



Dawanau

Governor of Katsina State, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda has said that the only way to boost Nigeria's economy is through the holistic development of the agricultural sector. Radda, who stated this on Tuesday in Abuja, when he paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator, Abubakar Kyari, underscored the need for government at all levels to accord agricultural development a pride of place in the scheme of things to boost Nigerian economy. Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Governor Inuwa Mourns National President Yamaltu Devt Forum, Alhaji Ali Baba



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the demise of the National President of Yamaltu Development Forum, Alhaji Ali Baba Mohammed who died on Thursday in Gombe. This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made

available at the weekend. Governor Inuwa who led a delegation on a condolence visit to the residence of the late helmsman of Nyimati Forum Worldwide, described the deceased as an exemplary community leader and patriot whose elderly advisory role will be greatly missed. "Elderly advice plays a vital role in every community setting, and Alhaji Ali Baba Mohammed was one of the respected elders we had here in Gombe State and sadly we lost him.

"He was like a brother to me too, I always ran to him for advice anytime the need arose and his guidance impacted significantly in my life and activities. "On behalf of the Government and entire good people of Gombe State, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to his immediate family, the Yamaltu emirate and the entire Tera at home and diaspora as they grapple with this profound loss". Governor Inuwa Yahaya prayed Almighty Allah to grant the late Santurakin

Yamaltu Aljannat Firdaus and give those he left behind the fortitude to bear the weight of this sorrow. The Governor was accompanied on the condolence visit by the Deputy Governor, Dr Mannasah Daniel Jatau, Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly, Rt Hon. Abubakar Mohammed Luggerewo, SSG Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, Commissioners among other officials.



FG's NAGS-AP Initiative Impacting Wheat Farmers - AFAN

By: SANALIYU, Zaria

Kaduna State Chapter of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) has commended the Federal Government for its National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS -AP) initiative, which it said, has made a significant impact on Wheat farmers.

Alhaji Nuhu Aminu, Chairman Kaduna State Chapter of the association who made the commendation during an on the spot assessment visit to wheat farms in Zaria and Samaru Kataf, said, NAGS-AP targets small holder farmers, thereby improving food production.

He urged government to sustain and upscale the initiative to strengthen food security and job creation among the people. AFAN Chairman also said, the NAGS-AP inputs distributed to the wheat farmers have indicated a promising result in wheat production in the country. According to him, this initiative by the Federal Government to subsidise dry season wheat farming inputs by 50 per cent under its National Agricultural Growth Scheme and Agro Pocket (NAGS -AP) initiative is a welcome development.

It would be recalled that 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. Aminu said over 90 per cent of the beneficiaries have redeemed their inputs and planted the wheat as the government's intervention has greatly augmented their personnel efforts.

He said the scheme will encourage smallholder farmers to key into the initiative easily, while urging the federal government to work closely with state governments towards ensuring that genuine farmers are registered as beneficiaries.

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.

Some farmers interviews, said NAGS-AP has prevented them from becoming debtors and other exploitation experienced during the Anchor Borrowers Scheme.

They added that the initiative has linked farmers with genuine improved seeds and other inputs and also a simultaneous relationship between the agro-dealers and farmers.



Prof Gwarzo Congratulates Kannywood Actor, Ali Nuhu On Appointment As MD Film Corporation

By: **I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**

The President of MAAUN Group of Universities, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, has congratulated a popular Nigerian actor and Producer, Ali Nuhu on his appointment as the Managing Director, Nigerian Film Corporation. The congratulatory message was contained in a statement personally signed by Prof. Gwarzo and issued to newsmen in Kano on Friday. Prof. Gwarzo described the appointment of the renowned actor as well deserved appointment in view of his tremendous contribution to the movie industry in the country. He expressed optimism that with his wealth of experience, talents and skills, the acclaimed

Nollywood actor will take the corporation to greater heights.

"President Tinubu has appointed the right person to head the Corporation, considering the fact that Ali Nuhu is a Director, Script writer as well as a Choreographer, who made a great impact in the Kannywood industry.

"On behalf of myself and Maryam Abacha American University conglomerate, I wish to join other Nigerians in congratulating you on this appointment," Prof. Gwarzo said in the statement.

He prayed to Almighty Allah to guide the new MD of the Film Corporation to discharge his new assignment diligently with a view to taking the Corporation to the next level.



Ali Nuhu

Oyo Govt Determined To Ensure Adequate Healthcare Service Across State - Dr Olatunji

**Commissions health facility in Kosobo*

By: **BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan**

The Executive Secretary of Oyo State Primary Healthcare Board, Dr. Muideen Babatunde Olatunji has assured that the state government is determined to ensure adequate healthcare service across the state. Dr Olatunji who said this at the Commissioning of an ultra modern healthcare center in Kosobo Community of Oyo town, stressed that the government is committed to doing everything within its powers towards ensuring that the facility serves its purposes in the community.

According to him, in demonstrating this, the state government procures drugs every month and that means the facility will now be listed among

those that will be supplied with such drugs.

"The state government primary healthcare was brought in to be able to own it and that is what reflected in my speech. The state will see what we can do to make sure that all the investments on it does not come to ruin. We will seek the community's support to assist government to make it habitable and functional. The primary healthcare board will provide within the limit what we can, to make it functional and at the end of the day the community will be better for it," he said.

Dr Olatunji added, "We have a concept of world health system, whereby we have one facility per ward, but when you have a population that is more than five thousand, you can actually have another facility, the current

facility has a population in the excess of the prescribed members, that necessitated this one that is actually coming in handy and it's in a reasonable distance to the existing one, and we can actually have catchment areas.

"There must be community ownership, they must own the facility, they must not say it belongs to the government. I have asked them to provide security for the facility, they can lay claim to it and be part of the management of the facility. They should not lay back, they should give their support to the facility both financially or otherwise, in any way the facility can be made functional. The community should be able to do that one and we should encourage our staff again to interface with the

community as much as possible."

Dr Olatunji stressed, "There was a time we had ALGON that were very strong and they met regularly, this health facility is one of their contributions to the development of healthcare service to the nation, and they contributed something like this to certain locations across the country and that was when this one in particular, was conceptualized in 2003/2004.

"This particular project started in 2003, but was abandoned unfortunately due to change of government by subsequent administrations, this is what led to the delay of this project, although we heard information that it has been paid for, but some of the projects were not completed, so the project was an abandoned project for quite

some time, I was even here four or three years ago to inspect this same facility which was already been vandalized."

He maintained, "we want a situation whereby for someone to go the facility and remove hindrances to access adequate healthcare, we want to remove financial burden, this is a facility that some people within the community can actually walk through within five kilometer radius.

"They can walk into the facility and access care without looking for money, transportation or other means, this one will further expand care to the people of the community. It's quite fundamental and quite commendable that this facility is coming on board to support the existing ones."

Tinubu Leaving No Stone Unturned To Return Nigeria's Economic Prosperity - Senator Alli

**Says 2024 budget will benefit citizens*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District Senator Sarafadeen Alli on Friday, said that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is leaving no stone unturned to return Nigeria to economic prosperity.

Senator Alli who said this while featuring on a programme, "The Platform" on Success 105.3 FM in Ibadan, declared that the 2024 Budget would benefit Nigerians.

The Senate Committee Chairman on Electoral Matters maintained that Nigerians should continue to support President Tinubu administration.

"The 2024 Budget is different from 2023 budget. We've been running a deficit budget for several years. The reality today is that the percentage of deficit is less than what it used to be", he said.

Senator Alli added, "Today, we have more money to conserve as a result of improvement in revenue generation. President Tinubu is doing very well. May God bless him and give him good health.

"We are going to get there. It may not be really visible, but there have been lots of improvement. You can also see that those taking billions are not being spared".

Describing as untrue the

information that all National Assembly members have collected bags of rice or hundreds of million naira, Senator Alli said there was nothing of such, and that it was a statement made by the president in October, but we haven't received of such till we left on December 31, 2023.

According to Senator Alli in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media, Mr Akeem Abas, "There is none of the three senators from Oyo State who has not distributed more than two trucks of rice during the festive period.

"This is purchased individually by the three Senators. We have not received any rice from the

government. We will continue to serve our people diligently as promised during the campaign".

On the distribution of cash to the vulnerable in the country, the Senator noted that it was not the best, but better than not doing anything at all adding that the hardship Nigerians were going through would soon be over.

"I am Nigerian and know things are very hard today. These hardship is temporary and will soon be over. It is just like pouring iodine on a sour, at first it will be painful and later dry off. Giving cash is not the best, but a stop gap. It is better to give it than not doing anything at all"

Gov Makinde Must Pay Us N3.4bn Judgment Debt - Forum 68 Of Ex Oyo ALGON

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Forum 68 of ex Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON, Oyo State) has declared that Gov Seyi Makinde must pay them the N3.4 billion judgment debt.

In a statement made available to journalists by the forum's Chairman, Prince Ayodeji Abass-Aleshinloye, the forum said it has come to its knowledge that, "Oyo State Government is pretending that it has no record of the judgment creditors (i.e elected Chairmen and Councillors).

According to the forum, "After much delay and deliberate disobedience of the Supreme Court judgement, Gov. Seyi Makinde paid a tranche of the judgment debt of N1,500,000,000.00 out of N4,874,889,425.60."

It stressed, "the State Government made a promise to pay the balance of the judgment debt within six (6) months as stated by the then *hon attorney general of the state* in his letter dated 13/12/2021.

"The State Governor failed to pay and started playing hanky panky by rushing to a High Court to technically appeal against the Supreme Court judgement that he would not pay as expressly stated by the Supreme Court in a judgment written in simple, unambiguous English language", it stressed.

Forum 68 of ex ALGON Oyo State added, "The antics of such absurd legal rigmarole at a huge cost to the state is to deny or delay payment of our money ordered to be paid by the Supreme Court.

"The governor should be reminded the aphorism of Thomas Fuller that: "Be you ever so high, the law

is above you". It is a judgment debt he must pay. So calling some members of ex ALGON individually, as some state officials have been doing to remind the state government of our numbers, tenure, salaries and allowances is laughable and elementary".

It emphasized that the "state Government has all the information about us in its record, court documents, and in the files it used to pay us the first tranche.

"What the Governor is pretending to look for in Sokoto town is right there in his Sokoto (pocket) if he is sincere. After the garnishee of the state government's accounts as ordered by the high court, the governor has issued threats publicly to "deal with us" for being lawful, persistent and resolute in seeking the course of justice legally through the courts as democrats who believe in the rule of law.

"Lastly, if the governor truly wants to pay his debt which he must pay, he has all the information at his disposal. And in line with our (Forum 68) ex ALGON resolution, and a positive order of the court granted with the consent of *HIS EXCELLENCY* counsel, the Governor knows that the payment MUST be paid through our solicitors account".

The forum noted, "it is on record that even without a court order the sum of N1.5b was paid to us through the client account of our then Solicitors i.e Adeniyi Akintola SAN & Co", adding, "Therefore, payment of our entitlement should be paid through our Lawyer, who has power of attorney to receive on our behalf as supported by the court. We remain resolute".

Tinubu, Shettima merit commendation for abstaining from influencing the Supreme Court's judgment - Governor Yusuf

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Kano State Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf has lauded President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima as courageous leaders who resisted significant pressure to influence the Supreme Court's judgment on the governorship elections.

According to a statement signed by the Director General Media and Publicity, Government House Kano, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, Yusuf expressed satisfaction with Tinubu and Shettima's steadfastness in the face of pressure to interfere with the apex court's ruling, despite strong opposition from various quarters.

Referring to the alleged efforts by former Governor Abdullahi Ganduje to use the Presidency to sway the Supreme Court's decision in favour of his All Progressives Congress

gubernatorial candidate, Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, Governor Yusuf highlighted Tinubu and Shettima's unwavering stance as a testament to Nigeria being in capable hands.

Furthermore, Yusuf extended an olive branch to his rival, Dr. Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, the APC gubernatorial candidate who lost in the Supreme Court, emphasizing the need to focus on building Kano now that the political contest is over.

He urged individuals from all political affiliations to unite with his administration to advance Kano.

"As a true democrat and progressive, I call upon my opponents and their supporters to join me in the endeavor to develop our beloved state of Kano for the betterment of its

citizens," said Governor Yusuf.

He also commended the people of Kano for their support and resilience, as well as the Supreme Court Judges for upholding the integrity of the Judiciary.

Additionally, he expressed gratitude to Allah for providing him with unwavering support.

The governor also expressed appreciation to NNPP leaders at all levels, particularly acknowledging the guidance and support of Sen. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, the leader of the Kwankwasiyya movement, during the challenging period.



Gov. Buni Commiserates Zulum Over Isa Gusau

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni has commiserated his Borno State counterpart, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, over the death of his spokesman, Malam Isa Gusau.

A statement issued and signed by Mamman Mohammed, the Director General, Press, and Media Affairs to Governor Mai Mala Buni said the governor described Isa Gusau as a dedicated officer who served his principal with commitment and strong conviction.

"Gusau had professionally managed information at the peak of the security challenge in the Northeast and Borno state in particular.

"He will be remembered

for his resilience, commitment to duty, and long years of diligent service to the governor and government of Borno state," Governor Buni said.

"I condole His Excellency, my brother, Gov. Zulum, the government and people of Borno state over this sad loss at a time when his services are needed to support the government." Gov. Buni said.

Gov. Buni prayed to God to forgive his shortcomings and grant his family the fortitude to bear this sad loss.

Gusau served as Special Adviser on Media to Vice President Kashim Shettima when he was governor of Borno state and was inherited by Governor Zulum, whom he served for about five years.

Emir Turbans CBN Deputy Director As Magajin Garin Zazzau

**2 others get titles*

By; SANALIYU, Zaria

The Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli has turbaned Alhaji Mu'azu Bamalli, Deputy Director, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) as the new Magajin Garin Zazzau.

The turbaning of the new Magajin Garin Zazzau followed the demise of late Magajin Gari and former Nigerian Ambassador to Morocco, Alhaji Mansur Bamalli who died in Lagos while on transit to Morocco in October 2023. Until his turbaning, the new Magajin Gari held the traditional title of Baraden Zazzau before his elevation to the new position and both the late and current Magajin Gari are biological brothers of the Emir.

Similarly, the Chief of Staff of Zazzau Emirate, Alhaji Sambo Nuhu Bamalli was also turbaned as the new Baraden Zazzau.

Also the new Gado-da-

Masun Zazzau, Alhaji Aminu Musa Hassan, a staff of the Federal College of Education, Zaria was turbaned.

Aminu succeeded his late father, Alhaji Musa Hassan a teacher and seasoned administrator, who died on Nov.15, 2023. Speaking at the turbaning ceremony at his Palace, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Bamalli while congratulating the newly turbaned traditional title holders, tasked them to uphold the good image of the emirate and respect the norms, values and traditions of Zazzau Emirate.

He cautioned them against overstepping their boundaries in the course of discharging their assigned responsibilities, urging them to work in accordance with the rules. Bamalli urged them to use their wealth of experience and vast influence to bring more progress and development to the



Emir of Zazzau

emirate.

The Royal father also appealed to them to work as a team to sustain the existing peace, love and unity among the diverse people of Zazzau Emirate, Kaduna State and Nigeria. In an interview with

newsmen, the new Gado-da-Masun Zazzau, Alhaji Aminu Musa Hassan, pledged loyalty to the Emir and the Emirate Council, while assuring to do his best to uplift the traditional heritage and sanctity of the royal

Jubilation In Ebonyi As Supreme Court Affirms Nwifuru's Election

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the Supreme Court ruling which affirmed Governor Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru's election, the residents of Abakaliki metropolis and party faithful were in jubilation mood, saying that the victory represents the overall interest of Ebonyians.

While addressing party members at the APC secretariat, Abakaliki, the state chairman of the party, Chief Stanley Okoroemegha expressed gratitude to God who gave victory to the party, stating that the entire state is the

mood of jubilation since the outcome of the Supreme Court verdict is a true reflection of the people.

In an interview with some faithful at the APC secretariat, the state's Deputy Governor, Mr. Chika Nwangele Okoro Agbo, among others, expressed joy and satisfaction over the judgment, adding that the Supreme Court has shown capacity and resilience in ensuring that the will of the people prevails.

At the party secretariat, there were a lot delicacies, including barbeque and assorted drinks for entrainment.



Nwifuru



Malam Isa Gusau.

Hubby Flees Abroad After Failed Assassination Attempt By Wife's Ex-lover

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A Nigerian, Sanusi Olabode Quam has escaped to Austria after he survived attempted elimination attack by his wife's ex-lover.

Authoritative source revealed that Sanusi had earlier received a phone threat from his wife's ex-lover to release the woman and the only female child from their relationship which terminated 10 years ago.

It was gathered that Sanusi who was residing at Kano Street, Ebute-Metta area took the conversation as ordinary threat and dismissed it, until when some boys accosted him while returning home from work and beat him till he became unconscious.

"Sanusi claimed to have overheard them saying that if he comes back to the world, he will not take over another person's wife again", source revealed.

According to the source, the case was reported to the Police to arrest the suspected ex-lover, but due to his influence in the area, the suspect was released immediately when he denied knowledge of the attack.

The source disclosed that a good Samaritan who overheard the suspect instructing another deadly hired killers to finish the

job without any traces, came to alert him and advised that he should vacate the house and go underground.

A close relative of Sanusi had earlier revealed that he was threatened by the former hubby of his wife for marrying her and keeping the 10-year old daughter of the first marriage.

It was reliably gathered that the ex-husband had denied the ownership of the wife's pregnancy 10 years ago, while the woman refused to abort it and later gave birth to a baby girl.

After two years of suffering, she met Sanusi who pledged to marry her and take care of the child.

Source hinted that Sanusi and his wife later had three kids from their relationship and things were going on well for them before the former husband emerged from the blues to claim both the wife and daughter. Efforts were made by people to persuade him to let peace reign and forget the past, but the man was adamant, insisting that it's death that can settle the matter.

He added, "seeing this, he just packed all his belongings and disappeared into thin air. But from another information we got, Sanusi has traveled out of the country.



Sanusi

Use Intelligence-Led Tools For Investigations, AIG Force CID Owohunwa Charges Personnel

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Officers and men of the Force Criminal Intelligence Department (FCID) Annex, Alagbon Lagos have been charged to embrace Intelligence led tools in discharging their duties.

The Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of the Annex, AIG Idowu Owohunwa who gave the charge, emphasised the imperative use of Intelligence-led tools to bolster investigations.

Speaking at a meeting with the personnel on Wednesday, AIG Owohunwa stressed the crucial utilization of forensic criminal data and cautioned detectives against resorting to custodial violence.

Additionally, he underscored the necessity to respect citizens' rights,

maintaining a zero-tolerance stance on corruption and professional misconduct.

In a release by the Police Public Relations Officer of the Annex ASP Aminat Maiyegun, AIG Owohunwa further briefed the officers and men on the current initiatives of the IGP to reinstate FCID as the leading investigative agency in accordance with the Rule of Law and professional excellence. He announced plans to initiate tailored training programs.

ASP Maiyegun hinted that the meeting also served as an opportunity for all Detective across all sections to contribute their insights, in quest to add value to the investigative standards in FCID Annex Alagbon.

AIG Owohunwa reaffirmed his belief that the success of FCID



AIG Owohunwa

Annex Alagbon hinges greatly on the collaborative efforts of the Sectional Heads and Detectives channeling their expertise and vast

knowledge towards upholding professionalism, integrity, and efficiency in investigative processes.

Hon Wadaji Congratulates Gov Bala Mohammed For Victory At Supreme Court



Governor Bala Mohammed

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The Special Adviser On Pilgrim Affairs, Bauchi State, Hon. Shehu Alhaji Wadaji has congratulated the Executive Governor of the state, His Excellency, Bala Mohammed, Kauran Bauchi, Jagaban Katagum, Turakin Ningi,

on his victory in the Supreme Court as the duly elected governor of the state.

Alhaji Wadaji while congratulating Governor Mohammed, also praised the Supreme Court justices for doing the right thing by restoring the confidence of Nigerians on the judiciary.

"On behalf of the good

people of Jama'are, I wish to congratulate you on your victory at the Supreme Court. Indeed, this is a great day for democracy and a great day for the people of Bauchi State

"Your victory at the Supreme Court has justified the confidence that millions of Bauchi

State indigenes and residents have in you.

"They voted you because of the enormous developmental projects that you brought to Bauchi

"I wish to also commend the justices of the Supreme Court that took the right decision thereby restoring confidence of Bauchi people and Nigerians back to the judiciary," he said.

According to Shehu Wadaji, Governor Bala Mohammed would surpass his past four years record by bringing more projects and employment opportunities to the state.

"I know that by this court victory, our amiable Governor would now be free to do more by generating employment opportunities while bring many more developmental projects to the people of the state.

"Once again, I extend my heart congratulations to our father, the Kauran Bauchi," he said

Sierra Leon's Gendemeh Emerges Star Prize Winner Future Africa Leaders Awards 2023

By: MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The Future Africa Leaders Awards (FALA) 2023 Grand Finale which held in Lagos, Nigeria, saw the emergence of 23-year-old Mariam Gendemeh from Sierra Leone as the star prize winner of the year.

She came tops out of thousands of entries reviewed from all 54 countries on the continent.

The yearly event recognises and empowers young Africans between the ages of 16 and 23, who have effectively initiated multifaceted projects and initiatives, that have brought about positive change and innovative advancement in their communities throughout the continent.

The top 10 finalists for the year 2023 announced at the grand finale include Katleho Mojakisane Queen from Lesotho, Grace Lamane Fatime from Chad, Alieu Sasay from Liberia, Annick Bado from Burkina Faso, Clinton Arko Agyemang from Ghana, Emma Kwaje from South Sudan, Lyna Bossa Tchydre from Togo, Matilda Kahunde from Uganda, and Wissal Rida from Morocco. The 10 finalists were awarded a grant of \$10,000 each, while the Star Prize Winner, Mariam Gendemeh, was awarded an additional \$25,000 for embodying the highest standards of visionary leadership in 2023.

Speaking on her emergence as the Star Prize winner, a thrilled Gendemeh declared that winning the award was not only a personal achievement but a testament to the greatness of her home country, Sierra Leone. "It means so much to me and my country because we have suffered so much", she stated.

Held under the distinguished chairmanship of Nigeria's former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, the event saw the likes of Rt. Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of National Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan as a guest and former President Republic of Malawi, Dr Mrs Joyce Banda, as Special Guest of Honour.

At the grand finale, the President and Founder of the Future Africa Leaders Foundation (FALF), Pastor Chris Oyakhilome, D.Sc, D.Sc, D.D asserted that "Every nation has young people and investing in the young people is investing in the future. Every nation must recognise this. Our efforts in this regard have helped train, inspire, and motivate young people worldwide."

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome also acknowledged the challenges and problems that Africa has faced in the past, stating: "If we will chart a new course for Africa, we must do something about Africa's young people. Our young people have done amazing things throughout the continent, inspiring others and contributing to their countries, communities, and generations. Tonight's award further serves to encourage our young people; we realise that they hold the future in their hands."

He encouraged young people to intentionally live beyond themselves and make a difference in their world. "You can do a lot about your country, community, and the world. When you look beyond yourself and live a life beyond yourself, you really begin to experience your inner greatness because in each one of you is a seed of greatness."

In his remarks, Nigeria's former President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, emphasized the need for peace, stability, and security of lives in Africa and the world. He opined that Africa's future lies in the people of Africa, particularly the youths of Africa. Speaking on the ongoing wars in the world, he opined that "we must all embrace a world of peace, security, harmony, and love. Without peace, there can be no development; without development, there is no progress." He charged all the award recipients to view the recognition as a challenge and a call to duty rather than a reason to rest of their oars. He encouraged all African youths to; "not be despondent about the situation on the continent, their countries, communities, or the world at large. Things are getting better. There are leadership qualities in each one of you, bring it out. That's what this award is all about. Inspiring and empowering you to bring out those leadership qualities to make Africa, the great continent God intended it to be – a land flowing with milk and honey".

Similarly, Rt Hon Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly, Republic of South Sudan, averred, "Africa has all the resources it needs to position itself positively on the global stage. We have the brains, the resources, and the knowledge of our situation. We need to



continue praying, collaborating, and building the capacity of our young people, men and women, to take a lead in that. Only Africans can solve Africa's challenges because we are the only ones with a vested interest in making the continent the best it can be. Any other party claiming concern for Africa may have exploitative agendas. Therefore, we must learn to rely on ourselves and use our resources effectively to provide services to the African people. Thus, this award focuses on young people so they can have a different attitude towards development, providing services to the people and not self-centred leaders focused on lining their pockets."

Dr. Joyce Banda, former Malawian president, opined that her years of leadership have taught her that "leadership is a love affair. You must love the people you serve, and do things that will make the people fall in love with you; this will make you serve, or work beyond status. Young people in Africa are suffering, and it's the duty of every one of us who finds ourselves in leadership positions to create opportunities for them to thrive. We are failing our children, and that is why this award is a unique programme." Addressing the young awardees, she declared, "there is hope for Africa; we need more young people involved in the peace processes."

The Future Africa Leaders Foundation has been instrumental in identifying, honouring, empowering, and mentoring young Africans from

all parts of the continent over the past 11 years. These individuals have voluntarily taken on leadership roles in their local communities and have successfully launched various grassroots initiatives to address some of Africa's most pressing challenges through innovative and indigenous solutions.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.4 million to 123 youths from 30 African countries. The event, hosted by the Chris Oyakhilome Foundation International, underscores the Foundation's unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of African leaders and accelerating Africa's systemic change by fostering a spirit of innovation, responsibility, and service among young leaders.

Mariam is a farmer, philanthropist, and the Executive Director of Fresh Veggies Agro Company Limited. A platform she founded when she was 19 years old, to be a powerhouse for her multifaceted initiatives focused on uplifting and enhancing the lives of women, children, and young girls. She secured funds through personal savings, donations, and grants from NGOs to fuel impactful projects spanning Agriculture for food and income, Advocacy, Capacity Building, Food Support to malnourished kids, and Scholarships for vulnerable school girls.

In its inaugural year, her company generated \$1,200, created job opportunities for 15 young people, and directed 40% of the funds toward community

feeding programmes during the Ebola outbreak.

She has a 50-hectare rice farm and the largest vegetable farm in Kenema. In 2022 and 2023, Mariama's rice cultivation resulted in a harvest of 850 tons. Her company's Food Systems Resilience Programme has impacted over 1,300 members, earning her the title of the YOUNGEST MASTER FARMER in her district and the entire country.

Mariama's "Save the Malnourished Kids" project, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Community Health Centers, has helped over 10,000 malnourished children annually in the Kenema District. She also initiated the Orange Fresh Sweet Potatoes programme, which has benefited 12 women groups in six communities, providing a sustainable food source for school feeding programmes.

Mariama has also spearheaded several outreach programmes in 110 communities, providing essential sanitation materials, soap, and education on protective measures. Through her advocacy, she and other female leaders successfully championed a 30% inclusivity of women in governance in her country, resulting in crucial appointments and wins during the 2023 general elections. She also organized a SHE LEADS Summit in her country that empowered 500 girls with leadership skills and catalyzed mentorship platforms in six schools, reaching 400 girls. Mariama Gendemeh truly deserves her win and serves as a stellar example of the incredible potential of the African youth.

SAHCO Renews British Airways Ground Handling Contract For Five Years

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc has renewed its ground handling contract to continue to provide aviation ground handling services for British Airways (BA) at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Ikeja in Lagos and the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja for the next five years.

SAHCO started providing Ground Handling Services to British Airways in 2020 when BA moved her ground handling contract to SAHCO after operating into Nigeria for over 40 years. They saw the need to transfer their Ground Handling contract to SAHCO due to the unrivalled services that SAHCO provides.

A statement signed by Head, Corporate Communications, Skyway Aviation Handling Company PLC (SAHCO), Adetola

Vanessa Uansohia (Mrs), made available yesterday, said that the decision to renew the contract for the next five years was taken by British Airways after the Airline did their due diligence through rigorous audits from their international team for all the Ground Handling companies in Nigeria and still found SAHCO to be the best.

According to the contract, SAHCO would be providing Passenger Handling Services, Baggage Handling services, Ramp Handling services, Cargo Handling services and Warehousing to British Airways at both the International Airports at Lagos and Abuja.

British Airways is the flag carrier airline of the United Kingdom, headquartered at Waterside, Harmondsworth, near its main hub at London Heathrow Airport.

Basil Agboarumi, Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer,

SAHCO, speaking about the contract renewal promised to continuously deliver quality and improved ground handling services through SAHCO's well trained staff in all of SAHCO'S stations.

With the constant investment in modern Aviation Ground Support equipment fitted with the latest technology, SAHCO has ensured that all her clients' expectations are not only met but also exceeded. SAHCO boasts of a professional team that is versed in the best of Departure Control systems in the Aviation industry for Passenger Check-in and Boarding, also for Load control systems. In the event of tracking lost or delayed baggage, SAHCO has a team that is skilled in World Tracer and Baggage Reconciliation System (BRS).

It is worthy to note that SAHCO is also the recipient of numerous awards both locally and

internationally due to its quality service delivery in aviation ground handling operations in Nigeria. SAHCO is an RA3 and IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certified company.

These certifications make the company a preferred gateway to import and export to European countries and the world at large. SAHCO is also an International Standard Organization (ISO 9001-2015) Certified.

SAHCO, a member of the Airport Services Association (ASA), is an Aviation Ground Handling service provider involved in all the activities that takes place from the arrival of an aircraft to its departure to the delight of its customers and benefit of all stakeholders, utilizing state-of-the-art skills, procedure, equipment and facilities with a devoted workforce.

Customs To Launch Electronic Platform To Boost Transparency In Auctioning Process

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), has said that it will be launching an electronic platform to accommodate applicants from interested Nigerians as part of efforts towards boosting transparency in its auctioning process.

Adewale Adeniyi, the Comptroller General of Customs, on Wednesday in Abuja at a press conference on the Service 2023 Performance and Forecast for 2024, said, "In the upcoming week, the NCS is set to inaugurate an electronic auction (e-auction) platform, strategically designed to enhance transparency in the auction process."

He explained that the collective actions signify NCS's dedication to enhancing staff welfare and sustaining optimal performance.

The NCS boss explained that on the fiscal year 2024, the N5 trillion, aligning with the government's economic objectives, stressing that the commission's strategic initiatives alongside other operational reforms, are anticipated to play a crucial role in achieving this revenue goal.

He said that the Customs's role in facilitating the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement,

saying that since the inception of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) on October 7, 2022, saw over 30 countries participating, with Customs assuming a leading role in the implementation of the AfCFTA.

As the driving force behind AfCFTA execution, he stated that Customs holds a central position in shaping government trade policy, assuring that the NCS is resolutely committed to actively contributing and playing a pivotal role in aligning its operations with the dynamic facets of AfCFTA.

According to him, the zero-tolerance approach towards smuggling of petroleum products out of the country would be rigorously enforced as the Service remains resolute in addressing border management challenges, balancing security concerns with trade facilitation.

He noted that the service acknowledges the impact of currency exchange variations on trade dynamics and revenue collection, saying that it aims to address the challenge proactively by considering strategies to mitigate potential adverse effects, one of which is to regularly update the exchange rate in line with the going market conditions.



Nearly All Paracetamol Sold In Nigeria Underdosed - Investigation

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Nearly all of the paracetamol tablets sold in Nigeria are possibly underdosed, falling short of the requirements specified by the British Pharmacopoeia and World Health Organisation (WHO), according to a recent investigation.

Samples from five different paracetamol brands, each claiming to contain 500mg, were tested and analyzed using the spectrophotometric method, on the 2023 study, titled 'Comparative Analysis of Five Different Brands of Paracetamol

Sold in Nigeria with British Pharmacopoeia Standards'.

The concentrations, according to the investigation ranges from 185mg to 358mg, which was much lower than the suggested 500mg limit, saying that the study's researchers voiced concern about the possibility of treatment failure due to underdosed paracetamol tablets.

They emphasized that possibly as a result of the perception that the practice is safe, the topic had not received sufficient attention, saying, "Considering the current demands for cost-effective

therapy, a prescribing and underdosing habit that could lead to treatment failure is of potential concern."

They believed that they can lead to poor patient outcomes, polypharmacy, and a large expense to the healthcare system, believing that paracetamol, which is widely used in Nigeria for its analgesic qualities, is a basic pain reliever.

The investigation noted that the study's findings raise questions about the drug's efficacy, which could be attributed to insufficient amounts of the active

ingredient in the tested tablets.

Published in the journal Communication in Physical Sciences, emphasizes the importance of increased awareness and regulatory scrutiny to ensure the quality and efficacy of pharmaceuticals available to the public.

The health implications of underdosed paracetamol tablets extend beyond individual patients, according to the finding is affecting overall healthcare outcomes and imposing additional costs on the healthcare system.

My Take On Promoting Citizen Engagement Through Open Government Partnership In Kaduna State

By; MUBARAK ABDULGANIYI

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) stands as a catalyst for fostering transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance.

This write-up explores the ways in which the state can advance citizen engagement by leveraging the principles and initiatives put forth by the OGP.

1. Transparency and Access to Information: the state government can enhance citizen engagement by ensuring transparency through the disclosure of information related to policies, decision-making processes, and public expenditure.

Therefore, utilizing the OGP platform, the state government can commit to providing accessible and understandable information, empowering citizens to make informed decisions.

The government through the House of Assembly, should also prioritize the passage and domestication of the FOI bill in Kaduna State.

2. Collaborative Policy-Making: OGP encourages inclusive policy-making by involving citizens in the decision-making processes. The State government can leverage this platform to seek public input, allowing citizens to contribute ideas, concerns, and feedback. The integration of citizen perspectives in policy formulation strengthens the legitimacy of government actions.

3. Open Data Initiatives: the State government can promote citizen engagement by embracing open data initiatives, making non-sensitive government data available to the public. Open data holds the potential to

foster innovation and allows citizens, businesses, and civil society organizations to create applications and services that address societal needs.

4. Technological Innovation: leveraging technology in conjunction with tech-hubs can lead to the development of digital platforms and tools that facilitate citizen engagement. Furthermore, digital channels, such as mobile applications and online forums, can provide citizens with easy access to government information and enable real-time interaction.

5. Civil Society Collaboration: the civil society organizations need to actively collaborate with development partners to amplify citizen voices. The OGP provides the framework that encourages such partnerships. The Civil society acts as a watchdog, holding governments accountable and ensuring that citizen interests are adequately represented and factored in decision making.

6. Capacity Building and Education: It is key for the



Mubarak Abdulganiyi

State government to invest in initiatives that enhance citizens understanding of governance structures, processes, and the significance of their participation. This can be achieved in collaboration with development partners through workshops, educational programs, and awareness campaigns. As this will empower citizens to actively engage in shaping their communities.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation: there is the need to Implement robust monitoring and

evaluation mechanisms to enable the State government to assess the impact of citizens' engagement initiatives. Likewise, a responsive feedback loop will ensure continuous improvement, creating a responsive and accountable government.

In conclusion, referencing the Sustain manifesto of the current administration under its agenda for nurturing citizens' engagement had an overview of building, strengthening, and nurturing a relationship between citizens

and government.

Advancing citizen engagement through the Open Government Partnership requires a holistic approach, combining transparency, collaboration, technology, and education.

By embracing these principles, governments can build trust, strengthen democratic processes, and foster a sense of ownership among citizens in shaping the future of the State.

Mubarak Abdulganiyi is a member of the Open Gov Youth Innovation Hub, Kaduna.

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 WRAP AROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PAGE 2 OR 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PAGE 4 OR 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PAGE 6 OR 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
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
BACK PAGE STRIP	420,889.54	31,566.72	452,456.26
CENTRES PREAMBLED (COLOUR)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
DOUBLES PREAMBLED (COLOUR)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
CENTRES PREAMBLED (BLACK & WHITE)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
DOUBLES PREAMBLED (BLACK & WHITE)	550,000.00	41,250.00	591,250.00
FRONT PAGE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
ROPS TRIP (COLOUR)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
ROPS TRIP (BLACK & WHITE)	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

I Want To Talk About Tinubu, Even Though I Lost My Mother

By: HASSAN GIMBA

On Monday, January 8, I lost my mother. She died at the age of 85. Despite the age being ripe, it was still a shock. It is normal for a child to see his parents as immortal despite an ingrained knowledge that every soul shall taste the inevitable – death.

She succumbed to a debilitating pulmonary disease, something I think I inherited. She died on the 8 and her husband, Suleiman Gimba Ahmed on the 6 of January 2013. However, I want to talk about President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

There was a time when I was hopeful that I could get Medicare abroad, after going to some hospitals here, and she, being more worried about my condition, was happy for me when I broke the “good news” to her. But I told her, “God willing, we are going together, “sai ki samu kiyi Umrah.” She became doubly excited. But then, I want to talk about Tinubu.

I recall that Adamu Maina Waziri, after the normal condolences, told me: “This death, like it happened to me, will fully open the door to your full maturity, because even the last time I saw her, she requested that I look after and guide you as if you were a baby.” To which I told him, “Yes sir, surely I’ll feel her absence and care, kam, even though there’s a sort of relief. Because of my ailment, I fear going before her because I know how devastated she would have been. Alhamdu lilLah.” But do not mind me, it is Tinubu I want to talk about.

Of course, she was sick, challenged by various ailments, like almost everyone her age. Same with me, but not everyone will know, especially if their contact with me is through phone conversations or on this page. Perhaps when one is dead, then the talks will begin. But then, one will just be laughing at those who doubted. Anyway, I just want to talk about Tinubu. It will just be like the case of Spike Milligan, an Irish comedian and writer who died in 2002. Perhaps to get his last laugh at doubters and “experts”, he caused to be written on his tombstone, as an epitaph, “Dúirt mé leat go raibh mé breoite”, in the Gaelic language, or “I told you I was ill”, in English. The Daily Mail declared the epitaph as “Britain’s Favourite Epitaph.” But what concerns one with the Gaelic language, after all, it is Tinubu I want to talk about.

I am yet to write an epitaph for her, not to talk of a befitting tribute, still numbed by shock, living in a daydream. I have vehemently refused to cross over to reality. Perhaps when I come out of the reverie, I may pen down something. Until then, let me talk about Tinubu.

Well, I want to talk about Tinubu, as I said. But let me tell a brief story of Prophet Musa (AS), or Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him), who was mentioned in the Qur’an and also in the Bible. Of course, the Attaura, or the Torah, Old Testament, Pentateuch is his book.

He was born at a time when the Pharaoh (Fir’aun) was killing all newborn males

for fear of a man he was told would come to destroy his evil empire and ways. His mother threw him into the sea, thrusting him into the care of God almighty, trusting that He would save her son. And that He did.

Prophet Musa grew up in the Palace of the Pharaoh, surrounded by whatever the Pharaoh was known with and for. However, even though he fully knew what was happening, he did not indulge in any of the perfidies associated with the palace. And when the time ordained by God came, Prophet Musa challenged the Pharaoh, despite all his pomp and arrogance, which pushed him into proclaiming himself, “I am your god most high!”

Prophet Musa proved to be the albatross of the Fir’aun.

Now, to Tinubu. Many stories, unsubstantiated, abound that he was fully aware of all the corrupt practices taking place in Nigeria, a country that was battling so hard to become the palace of perfidies.

He has proved all doubters and nay-sayers wrong by tackling corruption and the corrupt head-on.

It is not a secret that even within his party, there were some powerful forces at the highest level that did not want his emergence as the party’s presidential flag bearer. These powerful forces, who wanted power for its sake, straddled the political sphere and held the country by the jugular, wreaking havoc on the nation’s economy. Badly hit was the central bank which they turned into their automated teller machine.

Tinubu, assumedly part of them, is now proving the difference. A year ago, nothing would have happened to Betta Edu, the minister of Humanitarian Affairs. The nation can shout to the high heavens, but no investigations would have been carried out to verify the authenticity of the allegations against her.

It was as if corruption was an adornment and the corrupt got rewarded. A lady diverted date fruit worth millions of dollars sent to Nigeria by Saudi Arabia meant for internally displaced people. The items were diverted and sold to the public by a lady with itchy fingers. Yet, despite national outrage, she was “promoted” to a

“Tinubu, assumedly part of them, is now proving the difference. A year ago, nothing would have happened to Betta Edu, the minister of Humanitarian Affairs. The nation can shout to the high heavens, but no investigations would have been carried out to verify the authenticity of the allegations against her.”



Hassan Gimba
Monday
Column

more “lucrative” position.

When the then secretary to the government of the federation was indicted of diverting funds meant for grass cutting, it took the combined efforts of the National Assembly, civil society organisations, the press and, most significantly, President Buhari being away on a medical trip, before the SGF was shown the way out.

In this country, some people said they spent hundreds of billions of naira to feed school children who were at home during

the COVID-19 lockdown.

It is on record that former President Muhammadu Buhari had accused Godwin Emefiele, Central Bank governor under President Goodluck Jonathan, of giving out (and misappropriating) billions of dollars based on notes written on “ordinary paper” or “bread paper”, meaning he did not follow due process in what he did before 2015, and that he was part of the locust years before Buhari was elected based on his “integrity and honesty”, yet despite all that he was retained on the job; was it for him to continue the heist?

Now see the rot coming out from that direction as is being revealed by Jim Osayande Obazee, a first-class chartered accountant and former chief executive officer of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria, saddled with investigating those leaky days.

Who would have thought that Tinubu, a man raised and bred in a nation (that he is knowledgeable of) hurtling towards perdition, would be the man destined to take us to the Promised Land?

But there is a good sign that he may be the one.

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

Open Government Partnership: Building Partnership for Effective Social Protection System in Kaduna State

By; SUMAYYA ABDULLAHI HUSSAINI

Poverty in Kaduna State is endemic, 8.04 million residents are said to be multidimensionally poor, despite the government's ongoing efforts at curbing poverty and protecting the vulnerable, challenges persist in providing effective social protection services for its citizens.

To checkmate this, transparency and accountability in social protection programmes can play a crucial role in ensuring effective targeting and wider coverage, thereby improving the credibility and comprehensiveness of the social register for the poor and vulnerable in the State.

As at January, 2023, the State Operations Coordinating Unit (SOCU) portal shows it had 1,056,622 poor and vulnerable households made up of 3,953,809 individuals on its social register.

This is drawn from 9,976 communities across 234 wards in the 23 LGAs of the State. The Unit also houses a shock-responsive database, Rapid Response Register (RRR), with a data strength of 180,814 successful enrollees across 94 wards in 2,839 communities, all spread across 22 LGAs.

Despite using the Community Based Targeting (CBT) process, as stated in its portal, many stakeholders have continued to question the coverage, credibility and comprehensiveness of the register.

The utilization of the register also remains low. Notwithstanding the commitment by the Governor in his SUSTAIN manifesto, the register was not used during the last Federal government N5 billion intervention through the State government. This sends a signal to suggest that the government does not trust its own register.

A quick look at the governor's SUSTAIN manifesto one will see a commitment to fight poverty and its causes through the State Social Protection Policy, addressing the housing deficit through affordable social housing programs, and offering relief to citizens impacted by poverty through the expansion of social investment programs. It further committed to offer relief to citizens most impacted by poverty.

Specifically under the Investing in Human Capital Development agenda in the SUSTAIN manifesto, the



Sumayya

governor committed to strengthen social welfare programs and pro-poor interventions by deepening programmes designed to cater for the interests and needs of women, youths and the vulnerable.

He further committed to empower the agency assigned with the mandate of social development and human services to champion and help integrate pro-poor interventions across government.

The governor committed to empowering women and building more youth talent and sustain the promotion of equal opportunity for all from sports to education, skills development and health, programmes will build and support the ability of young people to thrive.

There is a significant gap between the existing social protection policy and the practical application, especially that the implementation plan and other key documents have not been approved or activated.

This suggests a need for a review of the policy and its supporting implementation documents to align with current priorities and ensure

effective resource utilization.

To address some of these challenges and advance social protection in Kaduna State, transparency and wider public participation is paramount. The gateway to which is the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Therefore, the next co-chair of the Civil Society Technical Working Group on Social Protection should collaborate with members of relevant accountability mechanisms that have components of social protection to hold the government accountable for the effective implementation of the policies and promises in the manifesto. Furthermore, civil society, leveraging the OGP, should actively advocate for transparency in the scale-up of the Social Register, which should be the primary database source for all pro-poor interventions.

This involves ensuring regular updates, independent verification processes, public access to information, grievance redress, collaborative efforts and proper coordination between social protection implementing agencies to maximize the impact on addressing

the needs of impoverished and vulnerable households.

The recent upscaling of the Kaduna State Social Investment Office to Kaduna Social Investment Programme Agency (KADSIPA), is a commendable move by our Governor. However, there's a need for collaboration between the OGP TWG and the Kaduna State Social Protection Accountability Coalition (KADSPAC) to advocate for the speedy and effective implementation of the social security law.

Finally, the TWG should work with other sector accountability mechanisms, along with media partnerships, to ensure effective tracking and dissemination of reports on social protection programs and interventions focusing on results. This will give the fight against poverty momentum in the State and ensure no one is left behind.

Sumayya Abdullahi Hussaini, is a nominee for OGP Strengthening Social Protection SAP III. She can be reached via;

sumayyaabdullahi1010@gmail.com

Tinubu The Real Maradona Of Nigerian Politics, Did Many Wonders In One Week

By; AUWAL AHMED IBRAHIM, GORONYO

If not for the insecurity and economic stress in the country, the systematic political leadership of President Bola Ahmad Tinubu must have won all the oppositions and the antics of his political progression.

Though, the economic crisis in Nigeria is a global issue, President Tinubu can use his prowess and political mechanism to suppress the ills infecting Nigeria's economy and insecurity.

The fusion of changes, style of leadership of Ahmad Bola Tinubu is pro-masses and the good future of the country. What Tinubu is doing at now are testimony of a man that come to serve the people for nothing to get but for history and recognition of good records.

In just one week, President Tinubu has done wonders of integrity, proving to the people that he come to serve not for their treasure as the First Lady mentioned during the President's campaign in 2023.

Unlike the previous leadership; President Bola Asiwaju Ahmad Tinubu suspended Betta Edu, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in less than seven months in office, and set a panel of investigators into the matter. The action taken by the president proven him committed for the goodness of the country in zero corruption tolerance.

However, the investigation of the former Humanitarian Minister; Sadiya Umar-Farouq and opening former governors' money laundry cases is another indication of how President Tinubu hates corruption with all passion.

Corruption has been the cancer eating the deeper flesh of the country, its effect is under-developing the country and making the lower citizens poorer. Fighting corruption will put the country on prosperous pace.

Nigeria is known as the giant



of Africa because of its immense wealth in mineral and human resources but few people continue to devour the wealth with extravagant expenditure.

If Tinubu government takes the crusade of fighting corruption serious and judgemental in all sectors without exemption, all hands must be on deck in all sectors. Let the judgement continue to serve good lessons and the country will take a direction for good.

And, changes in leadership

should always be on merit and capacity like Nigerians witnessed in some ministries and agencies. The replacement of Maryam Shetty, Former Governor of Kaduna State, 24 year Engr. Imam Kashim Imam and others in Tinubu's government proven the government being the government of the majority. Those doing well in their ministry should be allowed to uphold the values of the government and motivate them than mutilate them. While, those affected with

Edu corruption saga should also face the truth of the book. Kannywood has gotten a recognition for in the previous week, the appointment of Ali Nuhu as the Managing Director (MD) Film Corporation testified Bola Ahmad Tinubu as a man that pays reward of sacrifices made. This is a reward of paying the North and the Kannywood leadership. But, much must be done for Tinubu's course be fruitful and yield better results. Poverty is ravaging, and Tinubu must save the economy, fight

insecurity and reduces poverty among the common Nigerians. If these efforts are made indeed Nigeria will be happier to have a president of the Fourth Republic that lead with all concepts of whole leadership and Nigerians always pray for that to happen. Amen.

Auwal Ahmed Ibrahim, Goronyo is a lecturer of Department of Mass Communication Department, Kaduna Polytechnic, can be reached at auwalgoronyo@gmail.com

Governor Dikko Radda Donates 2 Buses To Katsina United

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has donated two Toyota buses to Katsina United Football Club, the Club Media Officer, Nasir Gide has said. Nasir Gide said the two buses feature a brand new 32-seater coaster bus and an 18-seater bus.

He said Governor Radda handed over the keys of the two buses to the club's interim Chairman, Alhaji Kabir Dan'lami Rimi, at the Muhammadu Dikko Stadium in Katsina, through the state Commissioner of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Aliyu Lawal Shargalle.

According to him, while handing over the keys of the vehicles, the State Governor said donating the Vehicles were intended at boosting the morale of the club to continue performing at the ongoing Nigeria Premier Football League.

"Dikko Umaru Radda reiterated his commitment to continue providing Katsina United with all the assistance



required for the general growth of football-related topics," Nasir Gide emphasized.

Upon receiving the keys, he said the Club Interim Chairman Alhaji Kabir Dan'lami Rimi thanked Governor Dikko Umaru

Radda for the gesture and praised him for his support.

"Kabir Dan'lami Rimi guaranteed his readiness in guaranteeing adequate maintenance of the vehicles provided for the purpose they were intended for," Nasir

Gide said.

"Similarly, he assured the state government that the Club's leadership would continue to succeed in the ongoing Nigeria Premier Football League season," Nasir Gide reiterated.

Basketball Administrators Visit Kaduna Sports Commissioner

**Propose strategic sports development*

By: KATOP.LADAN, Kaduna

A high powered delegation of basketball enthusiasts and administrators in Kaduna State and Nigeria at large, visited the Ministry of Sports Development and the Commissioner of Sports, Professor Benjamin Kumai Gugong on Thursday. The delegation, which included Coach Oliver B. Johnson (OBJ), said its mission is to propose a strategic sports development initiative.

"A Public Private Partnership approach for economic growth, peace building and youth development in Kaduna State: basketball in focus."

They explained that they will use same template to develop other sports.

The initiative was at the instance of Saidu Idris Dibis, SA to Governor Uba Sani on Sports Matters, who brought some stakeholders for a strategic meeting and they gave birth to the initiative.

In his welcome speech, the Commissioner of Sports Development, Professor Benjamin Kumai Gugong expressed optimism that the idea would yield desired results.

He promised to study the documents carefully for onward delivery to the governor.

He assured that his office will work for the development of sports, especially at the grassroots.

In an interview with the SA to Governor Uba Sani on Sports Matters, Saidu Idris Dibis, he maintained that the governor is in love with sports and will do all possible to promote sports to the next level.

He urged various sports associations, corporate entities and philanthropists to join hands together to achieve the goal.

Also, Ahmed Tijjani, a board member Kaduna State Basketball and board member North West Zonal Representative on Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF), shed more light.

He said, "Kaduna State has produced great basket stars like Skambo Morrison, Onminya Mathew, John Iduh, Bright Akhuetie and recently, Timothy Kwaor and a host of others."

Ahmed Tijjani said that to achieve the goal, "we intend to work with relevant stakeholders, particularly the state government, municipal authorities, local



government elected officials and corporate bodies to implement the long term complementary strategies and cardinal pillars necessary for promoting and developing sports in Kaduna State". Among the team that visited the

commissioner, include the chief coach of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria and Basketball veteran, Coach OBJ, Chief Coach of Kaduna Polytechnic, James Fungen, Mufi Idoko, Edward Tox and others

Lobi Stars Have Overcome Major Challenge Of Broken Down Vehicles During Away Matches - Gov Alia

By: ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Benue State Governor, Reverend Father Hyacinth Alia has disclosed that with the provision of new vehicles by his administration to Lobi Stars, the club has overcome its major challenge of mobility and inconveniences during away matches.

The governor stated this when he handed over four vehicles, including a bus to management of Lobi Stars FC at the Government House, Makurdi.

Governor Alia who is impressed with the performance of the team and her management further pointed out that the club solidarity visit to identify with him over his victory at the supreme court was heart touching, 'this club has remained the pride of Benue State.'

The governor further told players that government is looking forward at the remaining two matches ahead, expressing optimism that their brilliant performance would qualify them an international ticket.

He assured the players that before the season runs-off the Aper Aku stadium



Gov Alia

would be fixed, adding that his administration has vowed to renovate the stadium to international standard.

On the angle of motivation, the governor who announced to the players that their match bonuses have just been approved as a way of motivation, while wishing them good luck as they play the remaining matches, encouraging the team to work hard.

In his contribution, the Chairman of Lobi Stars

FC Barrister Sam Ode, expressed appreciation to governor Hyacinth Alia for the support, acknowledging that the huge support has gingered performance of the yes father boys.

The Club Chairman who is the State deputy governor commended the Vice Chairman of Lobi Stars FC Dominic Iorfa for his tireless efforts and energy he has put in, describing the former international as a football enigma.

In separate remarks, Vice

Chairman of the club Dominic Iorfa and the club's captain Daniel A ts a k a , while congratulating the governor over his supreme court victory said the club has enjoyed the best welfare packages so far under the present administration, adding that both players and management has not taken the good will of the governor for granted as reflected in the performance of the team this season.

Akwa Utd FC Hail Gov Umo Eno On Supreme Court Victory

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa United Football Club of Uyo, have joined the teeming populace in Akwa Ibom State to congratulate the state governor, Pastor Umo Eno on his victory at the Supreme Court.

Chairman of the Club, Elder Paul Bassey said the Supreme Court judgment is a clear confirmation of the mandate the electorate of Akwa Ibom State gave to Pastor Umo during the gubernatorial election.

Bassey noted that the judiciary should be commended for sustaining the nation's democracy through its fair and decisive judgement of the case.

"I, on behalf of Akwa United Football Club wish to congratulate our amiable Governor Pastor Umo Eno on his victory at the Supreme Court, which confirmed him as the duly elected governor of Akwa Ibom State.

"The Supreme Court judgment has put to rest all the distractions and the judiciary must be commended for deepening the tenets of our democracy by ensuring

that the choice of Pastor Umo Eno by the electorate at the polls was not cut short. This judgement has given hope to Nigerians that the judiciary is truly the last hope of the common man.

"At a time like this in the history of Akwa Ibom State, we need a goal-oriented leader like Pastor Umo Bassey who has a developmental blueprint for our state through his Arise Agenda programme that will bring sustainable development and progress to the people of the state especially in sports.

Elder Paul Bassey urged political stakeholders in Akwa Ibom State from all political affiliations to accept the judgement in good faith and join hands with Pastor Umo Eno in taking the state to an enviable height.

Recall the Supreme Court on Thursday, dismissed the appeals of All Progressives Congress (APC), New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) and Young Progressive Party (YPP) that challenged the victory of Pastor Umo Eno of the Peoples Democratic party (PDP) in the March 18 2023 elections.

Plans Concluded For 5th Nimrod U-20 Football Competition In Hong, Adamawa State

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Plans have been concluded for the hosting of the fifth edition, Engineer Musa Nimrod Inter Ward U-20 Football Championship in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

It was reliably gathered that the competition

which is organised by the Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON), Adamawa State Chapter, would feature the best teams from each of the wards in Hong Local Government Area.

Details revealed that the championship will take place simultaneously at the College of

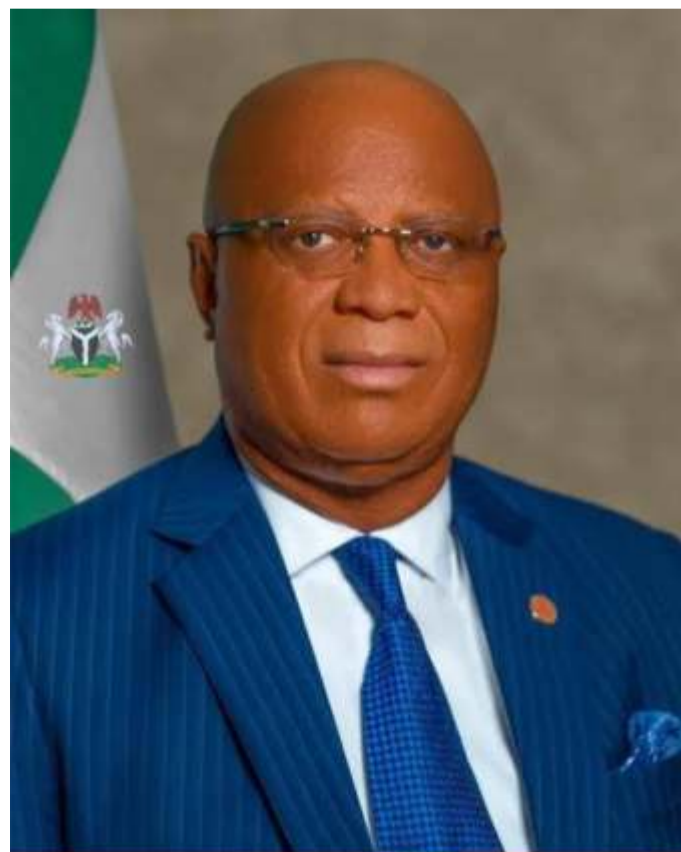
Education and Government Secondary School both in Hong.

The championship which promises to thrill football lovers and spectators, will be held between January 15 to 19, 2024.

It is being solely sponsored by the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation

(NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod, who has been at the forefront of grassroots sports development across the country.

The general public are therefore, invited to watch the entertaining matches billed for play from 10am to 6pm daily.



Gov Umo Eno

Governor Dikko Radda
Donates 2 Buses To
Katsina United

Story on Page 22

HADI Describes Governor Lawal's Supreme Court Win As Victory For Zamfara People

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Hope Arewa Development Initiative (HADI) has described last Thursdays affirmation by the Supreme Court of Dr Dauda Lawal as the duly elected Governor of Zamfara State as victory for the poor masses of the state.

In a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Adamu Mohammed, it stated that the victory was indeed for the people of Zamfara who have for long been strangled by politicians who have no interest of the people at heart.

Mohammed said the Supreme Court verdict has really saved the state, considering the awe inspiring developmental success recorded within Lawal's seven month in office.

Of particular concern, he said, was the meticulous way the governor was handling the challenge of insecurity in the state.

"This is a divine intervention, and we salute the Supreme Court justices for proven that they are



Zamfara Governor Dauda Lawal

the last hope of the common man.

"HADI appreciates the fact that power is from God, but condemns in totality the clandestine moves by some political elites in the state to truncate what God has destined

to happen.

"We have no doubt in our minds that the Rescue Zamfara Agenda of Governor Lawal has come to stay, and it will benefit the people no doubt," the statement said.

The HADI Coordinator however, expressed optimism

that even if the re run election were to be held, Governor Lawal would still emerge victorious, considering what he has been doing since his assumption of office, adding he is a God sent leader who has impacted positively on the lives of the

people of Zamfara.

"As a true politician, we commend Governor Lawal who after his victory, extended hands of fellowship to his opponents. That is the hallmark of a great politician.

"They should throw politics aside and join hands with Governor Lawal to rebuild and restore the glory of the state.

"Let us reiterate that, We believe in the ability of Governor Lawal to lead Zamfara State with all sense of sincerity, Honesty and fear of God". He said.

Mohammed urged the people of Zamfara State to put all that has happened behind and rally round the governor in his quest to develop the state and make it a destination of investors..

The group also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for being neutral during the whole process.

"His singular act of non interference has proven that the independence of the judiciary is assured and this will deepen the nation's democracy," it added.

SMEDAN Launches Undergraduate Internship Programme - DG

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

An undergraduate internship programme has been launched by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to identify, train, and empower future entrepreneurs on campuses across the country.

Charles Odii, the agency's Director General, during the official launch of the programme held at Baze University in Abuja, announced that the program would target 10,000 internship placements through the programme in 2024.

The Director General's media aide, Peter Adeshina, in a statement on Friday, explained that the agency has secured the commitment of several prestigious firms to provide opportunities for students

seeking practical knowledge and experience through the programme and unveiled Miss Farida Akuyam, a Business Management student at the university, as a pioneer participant of the programme.

According to the statement, the initiative code-named the "SMEDAN Undergraduate Internship Programme" was designed to provide hands-on entrepreneurial experience to students through quality internships at renowned organisations.

The statement explained, "We want to spot and nurture the builders of Nigeria's next unicorns, and this programme is a major step towards achieving that goal. It is a significant demonstration of the agency's commitment to advancing the



MSME sub-sector by making the right investments in talent and innovation. Selected students will receive specialized

training, experiential learning, networking opportunities, and mentorship."