

NDLEA Declares Ex- Beauty Queen Wanted Over Illicit Drugs Dealing

*Arrests 50-yr Old Man
Over 20kg Drug

Story on Page 3



The ex beauty queen declared wanted by NDLEA

Afenifere To Tinubu: Summon Political Will To Arrest Increasing Insecurity In Nigeria

*Restates call for multi-level policing

Story on Page 3

CNPP, CSOs Blame Smear Campaign Against Naval Chief Ogalla On Frustrated Oil Thieves

By: **KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu**

Conference Of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) and over 38 Civil Society Organisations, under the umbrella of the Coalition Of National Civil Society Organisations (CNCOSOs) have described online reports linking Nigeria's Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla, to alleged multibillion naira oil bunkering and contract-splitting fraud as "the handiwork of a frustrated syndicate involved in stealing of Nigeria's crude oil."

Some online media platforms had reposted an allegation that a preliminary investigations estimated that the Naval Chief had accepted over \$170 million in bribes over the past six months alone.

However, in a statement jointly signed by the CNPP's Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Comrade James Ezema and the National Secretary of the CNCOSOs, Alhaji Ali Abacha, they described the allegations as "dead on arrival as efforts to truncate the President Bola Ahmed

Continued on Page 3



From left: Osun State Governor Senator Ademola Adeleke welcoming AIG Zone 1 Command, Patrick Ogonedung and new Osun State Police Commissioner, Mr. Bzigu Dali Kwazhi to his office Abere, Osogbo on Tuesday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Story on Page 2

Islamic Scholar Killed, Manhood Cut Off 24 Hrs To Wedding In Kaduna

Story on Page 4

Clash Between APC, Labour Party Leaves One Dead In Ebonyi

CUPP Slams Tinubu For Travelling On Private Visit While Nigeria Needs Leadership **P.4**

*Says CUPP disturbed, unhappy by frequency of President Tinubu's so-called private trips to France
*Insists Nigeria back to Buhari era
*Demands that comprehensive health fitness test should be made compulsory so that Nigerians will avoid this situation in future

72 Special Force Battalion Rescues Ukum Council Chairman

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Troops of 72 Special Force Battalion under 401 Special Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. A. Rabiun has rescued the kidnapped Ukum local government caretaker chairman Rev. Gideon Haanongon. The troops recovered the council chairman and his personal assistant who have been in the kidnappers' den for about two weeks on Wednesday in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area between 5 and 6 pm. The troops said they acted on a distress call, carried out rescue mission and in the process, destroyed three camps of the kidnappers. "When we recovered him, we brought him down to our barracks in Makurdi. We administered first aid on him and also, gave him

food to eat. He is in good condition".

While narrating his ordeal to reporters Rev. Gideon Haanongon said on that fateful day, he was on his way to attend the burial of the late Ter Katsina-Ala and around Anyagba, he came in contact with some strange boys who were shooting sporadically and even killed someone. "At that point, I told my driver to stop the car and they took us straight into the bush. "They covered my face throughout the period of my captivity. I did not know when it is day time or night. They kept us inside a thatched house without air. "Each day, the soldiers will come shooting but they manoeuvred their way through a bush path and hid us inside a river. The soldiers destroyed their camps and they kept

moving us to another place. "At a point they told me that these soldiers are disturbing them because of me and that the Governor had appealed to them to release me and he will forgive them. They said I should tell the Governor to keep to his words and get them out of the bush. So, at 8pm on Wednesday, we crossed a stream and trekked a very long distance almost like from Makurdi to Abinsi and they removed the blindfold and asked me to take a path that leads to Zaki-Biam. "But I recognized the village which is Tse Wombo because my daughter is married there. I must appreciate immensely the effort of the military because it was their persistent pressure that made the kidnappers release me. Also, the

Special adviser to Governor Hyacinth Alia on Security Lt. Col. Alexander Igbaya Ashungu (rtd) played a significant role in my release. Speaking, the Security Adviser Alexander Igbaya Ashungu, rtd commended the military for their determination in ensuring the release of the council chairman. He assured that Governor Alia is working hard to see to it that criminal do not have their ways in the state. He said government is meeting with stakeholders to find solution to criminality and other vices. The adviser equally disclosed that the military authority has rescued over 13 kidnapped victims of recent.

Islamic Scholar Killed, Manhood Cut Off 24 Hrs To Wedding In Kaduna

By SANIALIYU, Zaria

Awai Community in Soba Local Government area of Kaduna State was thrown into confusion when they saw one Malam Salisu Mai Almajirai's dead body in his pool of blood by the road side at the early hours of Thursday, with his genital organ removed, less than 24 hours to his wedding. Speaking to journalists on the matter, the Sarkin Awai Alhaji Rufa'i Waziri said, the whole community was thrown into confusion over the brutal killing of an innocent man with integrity as an Islamic scholar in the area. Waziri said, it was when they wanted to take him for the burial and preparations they discovered that his penis was removed and people started thinking that this kind of brutal killing is disturbing. His wife, Malama Zulaihat said, her husband left home in the morning on Wednesday going to the former house they stayed before to greet them and later, one of the Almajira came and told her Malam has gone to Zaria to collect his new clothes he wants to

use for the wedding from his tailor. Zulaihat who bursted into tears, said up till evening, Malam Salisu did not return, so she sent for his new bride to come, when she came and told her that Malam has not returned from Zaria and requested the awaiting bride to use her phone to call him and hear from him. According to Zulaihat, when they called him, he answered them that it was the tailor that didn't finish on time but he is at Wanka about to board a motorcycle on his way home after that, they called the line severally, it was not connecting, they decided to call it a day and she saw the bride off and locked the house as it was night. Early in the morning on

Thursday, her son went out and returned in a hurry, telling her that their father was murdered, which got her confused. His neighbour, Alhaji Ali Hadimi said late Malam Salisu Mai Almajirai was a complete gentleman, who hated trouble, loved peace and unity. Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer of Kaduna State Command, ASP Mansur Hassan said that the Police have began investigations in an effort to get the culprits in order to face the law.



Remains of the Islamic cleric

Quarry Owners Shut Down Operations Over Detention of Chairman In Ebonyi

By; Mkpuma Enyinna, Abakaliki

Consolidated Ebonyi Quarry Owners Association, has shut down operations, following the arrest of its chairman, Chief Chikaodiri Ojimba.

According to findings, Ojimba, was arrested on Saturday by police on instructions of agent company over his refusal to remit government money into a private account.

Addressing newsmen on Wednesday at the quarry site, Ezillo in Ishielu Local Government Area of the state, Mr. Mbam Sunday, told our reporter that they are not ready to function until their chairman is released unhurt.

According to him, their interest is to support Governor Francis Nwifuru, achieve his heart desires of lifting the state out poverty and as such, will not allow any individual to defraud the state of its generated revenue from the mining site.

Also, Mr. Emeke Nwodom, who also frowned at the unlawful arrest and detention of their chairman by the agent company, called on Ebonyi State Governor, Francis Nwifuru, to intervene and facilitate the release of their chairman that was unlawfully arrested.

According to him, quarry owners will never allow imposition of agents on their mining site.

"Quarry is a solid mineral in the exclusive list of federal government and as such, we cannot accept any imposition of agents. "Our chairman called us for a meeting and there we resolved that we shall not by any means, pay our

money to any individual account but government account only, so that our government will get exactly amount of money generated from the mining site but regrettably, on Saturday, we heard that our chairman was arrested by the agent company that has been forcing themselves on us maybe because it is owned by a highly place person in the South East, they want to intimidate us. "I want to assure these people to be ready to arrest more because, we from Ebonyi are ready to sacrifice everything to see our state money is not transferred to anyone's personal account. "As you can see, we are not operating today because we don't know the whereabouts of our chairman if he is alive or not and we shall not operate until we see our chairman," he said. He then called on Governor Chief Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, to intervene for the growth and good of the state which he is putting every efforts to rebuild."

However, efforts to reach the agent company was not fruitful as at the time of filing this report. When contacted, the Ministry of Solid Minerals in the state, Special Assistant to Governor on Solid Minerals, Chief David Ajah, urged the quarry dealers to be calm, promising that Governor Francis Nwifuru will attend to their problem. "Whoever that arrested their chairman will release him because our governor is not a crisis governor. I want to urge them to embrace peaceful dialogue to settle the crisis than shutting down the business operation, which will affect economy of the

NDLEA Declares Ex- Beauty Queen Wanted Over Illicit Drugs Dealing

***Arrests 50-yr Old Man Over 20kg Drug**

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

A former beauty queen has been declared wanted by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for her involvement in illicit drugs business.

Identified as Ms Aderinoye Queen Christmas also known as Ms. Queen Oluwadamilola Aderinoye, the suspect, according to the agency, was Miss Commonwealth Nigeria Culture 2015/2016 and founder of Queen Christmas Foundation.

Ms. Aderinoye was declared wanted by the agency after she escaped from her Lekki, Lagos residence when NDLEA operatives raided her apartment at Oral estate, Lekki on Wednesday, January 24.

The Director Media and



The ex beauty queen declared wanted by NDLEA

Advocacy of the Agency Femi Babafemi, who made the disclosure in a statement yesterday, said the raid of her apartment followed credible intelligence that she deals in illicit substances.

Babafemi disclosed that 606 grams of Canadian Loud, a synthetic strain of cannabis, an electronic weighing scale, large

quantities of drugs packing plastics, a black RAV 4 SUV marked Lagos KSF 872 GQ, and her picture frame among others were recovered during a search on her residence, witnessed by the estate officials.

In another interdiction operation by operatives in Lagos same day, a 50-year-old Sunday

Adediran, was arrested with 20kg cannabis sativa found in one of the rooms in his house at Mushin Olosha.

Also, not less than 822 kilograms of cannabis sativa hidden in a fuel station located at Ashipa community along Badagry-Seme road were recovered by operatives of the Seme Special Area

Afenifere To Tinubu: Summon Political Will To Arrest Increasing Insecurity In Nigeria

**Restates call for multi-level policing*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Pan-Yoruba socio-cultural and political organization, Afenifere yesterday, called on President Bola Tinubu to summon necessary political will to arrest the increasing insecurity in Nigeria.

The Pan Yoruba socio-cultural and political organization made the call in a statement by the organization's National Publicity Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi,

In doing this, Afenifere emphasized that President Tinubu should urgently convene community/stakeholders meeting to tackle the insecurity challenges, saying, the tenor of the phenomenon "suggests that insiders have a hand in it".

Afenifere maintained, "By insiders, we mean people who have a relationship one way or the other with kidnap victims", and "in other words, masterminds of this dastardly act, or their collaborators, could be family members, business associates or those with whom the victim has a social relationship".

"Afenifere is sure that Tinubu-led government is capable of arresting the ugly phenomenon. This is why we have been suggesting the means to achieve this Among the steps suggested were urgent conveyance of cluster meetings with various communities where the stakeholders would be reminded of the risks and destructions such an act was causing them", it said.

The Pan Yoruba organization added, "Government should also tell participants that henceforth, those who are caught, including collaborators, would face stiff penalties not ruling out death penalties".

"At such meetings, collaborators and informants would be there to hear that government is now determined to be ruthless with hoodlums and terrorists. While that is going on, security agencies

must be strengthened numerically, equipment-wise as well as in terms of remunerations and incentives - in addition to the deployment of modern technology for security purposes".

Afenifere while citing the recent kidnap incidents in Otu, Saki and Okaka in Oke-ogun area of Oyo State, stressed that the incessant abductions in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, sacking of communities in Niger State etc, were indications that some of these incidents had signatures of insiders as conspirators or collaborators, if not masterminds.

It pointed out that the Southwest, "hitherto considered as relatively safe, is now a theatre of the unfortunate situation as the Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP), Mr. Phillip Aivoji and a few others were kidnapped at Ogere, Ogun State on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway last week Thursday when returning to Lagos while the Chairman of Oyo State Tipper, Lorry and Quarry Park Management System, Alhaji Akeem Akintola was attacked at Ajiboye area, Omi Adio, Ibadan and whisked away.

"As we have stated several times, the President should issue an Executive Order proclaiming multi-level police forces. In other words, states and local government areas that so desire should be legally allowed to have own police services that would operate within their areas of jurisdictions respectively. An Executive Bill can then be forwarded to the National Assembly for the amendment of relevant sections of the Constitution to allow multi-level policing".

It said "this will go a long way in solving the problem. Experiences we had in the past and of such countries like Britain and United States of America, "are a clear indication that the time to allow for multi-level policing has come. But such police forces must be by state actors and NOT by non-state actors because of possible abuse".

CNPP, CSOs Blame Smear Campaign Against Naval Chief Ogalla On Frustrated Oil Thieves

Tinubu administration's renewed quest to mitigate the stealing of the country's crude oil is the target of the disgruntled ring's attack on Ogalla.

The statement made available to newsmen on Sunday in Enugu read thus: "we strongly believe that it was based on Ogalla's track records of service that prompted Mr. President to trust him with the appointment in the first place and he has in the last six months shown that President Tinubu did not make any mistake in his choice of the Naval Chief.

"It has since become evident that since the Chief of Naval Staff launched the Nigerian Navy's "Operation Delta Sanity", which has been embraced by the government and leaders of the Niger Delta states, the oil thieves are increasingly uncomfortable.

"The new anti-crude oil theft tactical operation initiated by the Chief of Naval Staff and his effort to provide necessary equipment for personnel have become a serious nightmare for the enemies of the country's

economy due to its holistic and robust roadmap against crude oil theft and other forms of illegalities on Nigeria's territorial waters.

According to the group, "The Nigerian Navy in its reaction to the syndicated allegations expressly disclosed that all the vessels alleged to have been released, which was the basis of the bogus \$170 million allegedly received by the Naval Chief in bribes, are still in the custody and undergoing investigation.

"The Navy said unambiguously and we quote: "Indeed, all arrested vessels mentioned in the publication that were involved in crude oil theft and illegal oil bunkering are being investigated and none of such vessels has been released as alleged."

"So, if the basis for the allegation, which is the arrested vessels, are still in custody, we call on the Chief of Naval Staff to disregard the detractors and continue with his renewed efforts against oil thieves in support of President Tinubu's

Renewed Hope Agenda.

"Nigerians are currently suffering from severe economic hardship and we urge President Tinubu and the Naval Chief not to be deterred by the smear tactic and discrediting actions of the oil stealing syndicate who are increasing unable to continue in their nefarious trade.

"It is on record that the CNPP and CNCOSOs have been in the forefront of the agitation for an end to the brazen thieving of Nigeria's crude oil in the last eight years and we will back every genuine efforts aimed mitigating the age-long economic sabotage for the benefit of the suffering masses.

"On the contract splitting allegation, the Navy has issued a clear response and there is no need over-flogging a dead horse as we call on President Tinubu not to succumb to the antics of the already drowning oil thieves who would naturally fight back by all means possible, including the ongoing syndicated blackmail", the CNPP and the CSOs said.

CUPP Slams Tinubu For Travelling On Private Visit While Nigeria Needs Leadership

*Says CUPP disturbed, unhappy by frequency of President Tinubu's so-called private trips to France
 *Insists Nigeria back to Buhari era
 *Demands that comprehensive health fitness test should be made compulsory so that Nigerians will avoid this situation in future

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has frowned at what it does Ribes as the frequent trips to France by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, at a time that Nigeria needs solution to its myriad of problems. This was expressed in a statement signed by the National Secretary CUPP, High Chief Peter Ameh, made available yesterday. "It is our hope and belief that these private trips do

not involve something untoward that is hidden from Nigerians who voted for him to salvage the country which has been on downward spiral. "Tongues have begun to wag, and speculations beginning to abound about the real reasons for these private trips," it said. CUPP said that they hope that Nigeria is not about to witness another "Buhari 2.0 presidency where from time to time without any form of announcement, the President would sneak out of the country to a

foreign country for medical treatment in the name of private visit." They said that President Tinubu should realise that Nigeria is beset on all sides by insecurity, galloping inflation, hunger and starvation, unemployment that is running wild, and out of control, etcetera. "The value of the Naira is speeding southward with our currency exchanging at almost a thousand five hundred naira to the United States Dollar. "CUPP feels and recommends that the

country needs a hands on deck president, and whatever the reason for these private visits can be conveniently handled in Nigeria or in the absence of such facility being available, provision should be urgently made to have it brought to Nigeria. "Nigeria needs the physical presence of their president to have that assurance that the job of Mr. President has not been outsourced to those who have no business exercising it."

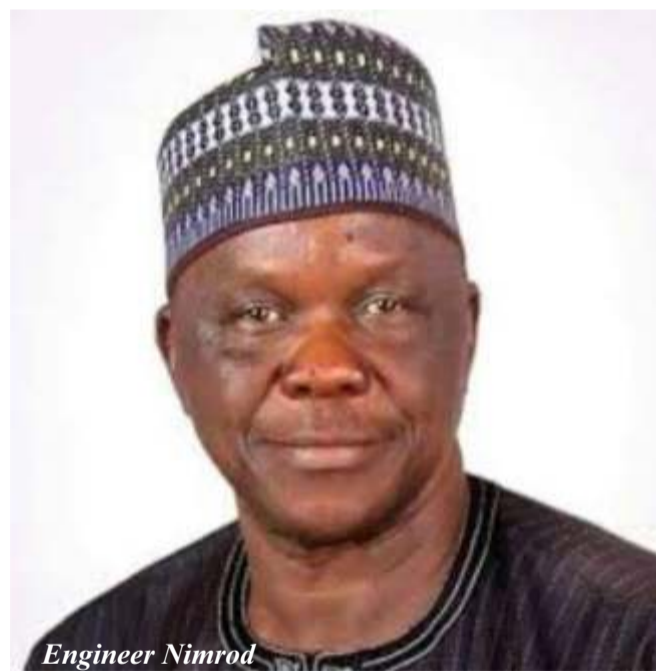
Nimrod Is Authentic Man Of Year 2023

*Remi Tinubu, Abba Kabir, Siminalayi Fubara, Ndume, Edeh among new entrants, Bode Olagoke wins third slot
 *ABU, Customs, Dangote, Trophy Stout, KADWEL, recognized

By; **BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja**

Multiple award winning news publication outfit, Authentic News Daily as a tradition, has announced winners of its annual awards for the year 2023. A statement by its Consulting Editor, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available on Sunday January 28, 2024, named President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod as its Man of The Year 2023. The statement said this year's award which is its ninth edition, has the Best Journalist category again, shared between Bode Olagoke of Blueprint Newspaper and the Northern Bureau Chief, Atlantic Television, Mike Odeh James. Nimrod who has been consistently winning the Sports Personality of The Year Award for five editions, emerged Man of The Year for 2023, following his consistency in touching the lives of youth positively all over Nigeria. Olagoke, an Abuja based journalist, is winning back-to-back for the third

year in a row, following his insightful reports that touch all facets of life. New entrants of the award, include First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Kano State Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf See the full categories and winners of the awards listed below:
AUTHENTIC MAN OF THE YEAR
 Engineer Musa Nimrod
AUTHENTIC POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR
 Abba Kabir Yusuf
AUTHENTIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR
 Senator Oluremi Tinubu
AUTHENTIC GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR
 Senator Uba Sani (Kaduna)/Siminalayi Fubara (Rivers)
AUTHENTIC LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR
 Senator Ali Ndume
AUTHENTIC BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR
 Kunle Soname
AUTHENTIC MDA OF THE YEAR
 NAFDAC
AUTHENTIC BRAND OF THE YEAR
 Trophy Stout
AUTHENTIC CORPORATE



Engineer Nimrod

- 10. AUTHENTIC ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR
Dangote Group
- 11. AUTHENTIC MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OUTFIT OF THE YEAR
Nigerian Customs Service
- 12. AUTHENTIC SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
KADWEL International School
- 13. AUTHENTIC HIGHER INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR
Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria
- 14. AUTHENTIC JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Bode Olagoke (Blueprint Newspapers)/Mike Odeh James (Atlantic TV)
- 15. AUTHENTIC SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR
Barrister Paul Edeh
- 16. AUTHENTIC OPPOSITION FIGURE OF THE YEAR
Alhaji Atiku Abubakar
- 17. AUTHENTIC ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR
Omah Lay

Clash Between APC, Labour Party Leaves One Dead In Ebonyi

**Umahi condemns action, sympathizes with family*



The victim

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

A young man of about 35 years has been assassinated by unidentified gunmen in Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, following an alleged misunderstanding between the members of the ruling party, All Progressives Congress (APC) and an opposition party, Labour Party. The Minister of Works, David Umahi has extended condolences to the victim's family, while condemning killing in the name of politics. The victim whose name was given as Gabriel Ogbonnaya, popularly known as BIGY was said to have been assassinated after a fracas between the supporters of both parties escalated beyond control. It was gathered that the incident happened on the evening of January 24, 2024 at Amenu-Egu Okposi in Ohaozara LGA of Ebonyi State. According to an eyewitness who wouldn't want his name on print, the problem started at a popular roundabout known as court area, when members of Labour Party started mobilizing in order to support their senatorial candidate in the forthcoming Ebonyi South Senatorial election, but the Coordinator of the Development Centre, who is a member of the ruling

APC, who was not comfortable with the mobilization, questioned why such a thing is ongoing without his permission as the Development Centre coordinator; which brought misunderstanding between both parties. As a result of that, the opposition party members that afternoon, attacked and injured the DC coordinator with broken bottle, but the coordinator was rescued by the late BIGY who took him to hospital for treatment. It was learnt that Gabriel Ogbonnaya, aka BIGY was tracked down later in the evening by the gunmen at Amenu-Egu Okposi same day, when he attended wake-keep and whisked him away where he was allegedly killed. It was also learnt that the late Ogbonnaya hails from Mebiowa Okposi, while the incident occurred at Amenu-Egu Okposi both in Ohaozara LGA. During the APC stakeholders meeting organized by the Minister of Works, Engr. David Umahi, he condemned the killing and warned politicians to desist from such dastardly acts in the name of politics. When contacted for his reaction, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Ebonyi State, Mr. Joshua Ukandu said he is yet to get details about the incident and promised to give feedback.

Chikun State Assembly: Kaduna Deputy Governor Urges Electorate To Vote For APC Candidate

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe on Thursday has called on the people of Chikun State Constituency to vote All Progressives Congress (APC) for the Kaduna State House of Assembly by election.

She made the call at the flag off of All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Rally for State Assembly By-election for Chikun Constituency, Chikun Local Government Area, held at Kaduna Polytechnic Field in Kaduna.

According to her, vote ahead of the February 3 House of Assembly by-election in Chikun local government area, she urged the electorate to vote for the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Dr. Balarabe urged residents and members of the party to prioritise voting for the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidate in the forthcoming election for continued quality representation in the House of Representatives.

She said that the future of the constituency is in the electorate actively participating in the election and ensuring a positive outcome for the party and its candidate.

She stressed that, "as we approach the By-Election on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, I urge all residents and members of our party to retrieve and verify their PVCs to be able to participate in the February 3 by-election.

"Let's prioritise civic duty over frivolous celebrations on that day. It is paramount to intensify our mobilisation efforts, recognising that victory and our journey to the National Assembly are within reach.

"This call to action is not just about a political contest, but also a reminder of our collective strength through inclusivity. Let us foster a world where everyone, regardless of ability, can thrive.

"Stand united to support the APC and cast your vote for Jesse David Tanko, he deserves the best representation, and your vote

is the key to victory.

"Let's collectively shape the future of our constituency by participating actively in the Chikun Constituency By-Election and ensuring a positive outcome for for Jesse David Tanko and the APC.

On his part, the APC Chairman, Air Commodore Jakada appealed to Chikun community to come out enmass and vote for APC for the progress of the state.

"We solicited for your support come February 3, to cast your vote on the party for development of the state".

Meanwhile, All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Chikun Constituency By-election come February 3, Jesse David Tanko, presenting "The Hope Renewed Manifesto", said, "my social contract with the people of Chikun Constituency.

"This Renewed Hope Manifesto is carefully crafted as my social contract with the people of Chikun, whose mandate I seek to represent at the Kaduna State House of Assembly.

"It was thoughtfully developed with input from stakeholders reflecting the pressing needs and aspirations of our people.

"The manifesto outlines comprehensive plans and proposals for purposeful representation, which I commit to pursue when elected as a legislator representing my constituency.

"With your support, I will delivered on the promising vision of The Hope Renewed contained in this Manifesto," he said.

At the venue, the Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, along with the APC State Organising Secretary, Ibrahim Kawu Yakasai received into the APC fold, Revered Dr. Andrew Duya, 2023 Governorship aspirant, and a former PDP stalwart in Chikun, Danjuma Musa, also known as "Face 2".

The duo are among many politicians that have decamped into the APC in Chikun LGA to align with Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani in his vision for Kaduna State and to ensure the party's victory in the February 3 State Assembly By-elections in



Oyo Govt N5 Per Chicken Levy Will Kill Our Business, Poultry Farmers Raise Alarm

*Seeks Gov Makinde intervention



By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN), Oyo State Chapter on Thursday, raised alarm over the planned introduction of N5 per chicken levy by the state government

Raising the alarm in a statement by Oyo PAN Chairman, Elder Oyekunle Omidokun, the association called on Gov Seyi Makinde to save the association and poultry farmers from the looming threat to their business with the levy PAN in the Save "Our Soul (SOS)", emphasized that the call became necessary following the directive issued by the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulating mandatory payment of N5:00k per chicken slaughtered and processed in privately owned chicken processing plants across Oyo State.

Emphasizing that the mandatory payment will add more to the already enormous challenges of scarce and unavailability of raw materials facing the poultry industry, the

association tasked Gov. Makinde to intervene by ordering outright reversal of the impending levy which can cause huge calamity to poultry industry across the State"

"We poultry farmers are still faced with enormous challenges of scarce and unavailability of raw materials. Where cost of doing business has tripled in the last one year and forcing many of our poultry farmers to abandon the business and the country for greener pastures, we find it very discouraging to hear that this burden of tax is about to be introduced by the Oyo State Government", it said

The association added, "The poultry market space is currently heavily challenged with unavailability of raw materials which has made the materials scarce and very expensive".

"In turn, there is scarcity of frozen chicken in the market due to the continuous shrink in size of the poultry industry in the country."

Oyo PAN stressed, "in as much as we appreciate the effort of His Excellency,

Governor Seyi Makinde in ensuring that farmlands in Oyo State are secured and his continuous effort in ensuring food security in the state and Nigeria as a whole, while aligning with the mandate of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Tinubu, who has designed policies that will create and sustain food security by creation of agricultural hubs to increase food production and engage in value-added processing and other best modern practices that will minimize perennial conflicts, with the overall goal of ensuring that food is abundant and less costly."

It maintained that "This implies that poultry farmers in Oyo State are at a disadvantaged position in the poultry market space where other chicken processors operating in other states are not burdened with such tax. We only want to rear, slaughter and process our birds without added pressure".

According to the association, "We are in the food processing space and should not be treated

differently from other food producers and processors by charging fees of N5:00k for every unit of raw materials used. Live birds are our raw materials used in chicken processing plants".

"It is noteworthy that NAFDAC and SON have regularly regulated and carried out inspection of the activities of the poultry processing farmers in line with their enabling statuses covering the area of food regulation and standard formulation with compliance respectively, for which fees for certification and quarterly inspections are being demanded and paid to the aforementioned agencies.

"In furtherance, all PAN members are subjected to other taxes, charges and levies which are remitted to Local Governments where they are based, the Oyo State Government and the Federal Government of Nigeria. Some of such taxes are multiple and are currently causing a huge burden to many of the members and threatening the continued existence of poultry business in Oyo State and Nigeria at large.

Zulum Approves, Re-appoints DG Bureau On Procurement, Two Executive Secretaries For Security, Education Trust Fund For Second Term

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Executive Governor of Borno State, Professor Babagana Unara Zulum has approved the re-appointments of a Director General and two Executive Secretaries if state owned parastatals for a second term.

In a statement signed by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Borno State, Hon. Bukar Tijani, made available to newsmen on Thursday in Maiduguri said the appointments are with

immediate effect.

The appointees are, Musa Mustapha Zarma, as Director-General, of Borno State Bureau on Public Procurement.

Others include, Alhaji Ali Shettima (Vlarte as Executive Secretary, of Borno State Security Trust Fund and Hon. (Dr.) Maina Yaumi, as Executive Secretary, of Borno State Education Trust Fund.

The Secretary to the State Government also congratulated the appointees while acknowledging the merit of their appointments.

Katsina CSOs Beg Tinubu To Halt Relocation Of Agencies To Lagos

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Three Civil Society Organizations in Katsina State have called on President Bola Tinubu to halt the illegal proposed relocation of Katsina Airport project to other Airport in the Southern Part of the Country with immediate effect.

The organizations include Muryar Talaka, Katsina Youth Enlightenment crusade on peace and Development and the Citizen Participation Against Corruption Initiative.

The Chairman of Muryar Talaka Comrade Bashir Dauda Sabuwar Unguwa read the statement on behalf of the organizations.

The statement claimed that there were moves by the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace

development Mr. Festus Keyemo to relocate the project meant for Umar Musa Yar'adua International Airport.

It said, the move by Mr. Festus Keyemo was on collision with the President Bola Tinubu Agenda which states that his Government would complete all projects initiated by immediate previous administration.

The statement said the project for the refurbishing Airport Rescue and fire fighting vehicles at Umaru Musa Yar'adua International Airport was awarded in 2022.

The organizations called on Governor Umar Dikko Radda, elders and patriotic citizens in the State to do the needful to reverse the subversive action of the Minister of Aviation Festus Keyemo which meant to retard the development of Katsina State.

Supreme Court Victory; Chairman BoT IPSS Congratulates Kano Governor

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

An Adviser to the Governor of Kano State on Dam and Irrigation, Engineer Suleiman Sani has congratulated the state governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf, over his victory at the Supreme Court.

In a statement he signed yesterday, the

adviser congratulated the governor on behalf of himself, his family.

Engr Suleiman Sani who is also the Chairman Board of Trustees International Peace and Secure Society (IPSS) expressed confidence that the governor will deliver the best to the people of the state and to Nigeria at large judging by his

commitment, experience and leadership qualities.

"On behalf of myself, family, and the entire people around me, we deem it apt to express our felicitation and congratulate you over your victory in the recently concluded Supreme Court Judgement".

Engr. Suleiman said he is confident and

convinced that Governor Kabir will continue delivering the best for Kano State and the nation in general judging from his capacity, vast experience, exposure, and leadership qualities.

"We join close associates and well-wishers to pray that Almighty Allah guide, protect and bless your victory," he said.

Let's Rework Security Architecture Of Nigeria, Afenifere Says, Insist On State Police

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Pan Yoruba socio political organization Afenifere on Wednesday, demanded urgent rework of the Security Architecture of Nigeria.

Rising from its general meeting, Afenifere in a communique by its National Publicity Secretary Comrade Jare Ajayi declared that there is an urgent need for the reworking of the nation's security architecture to ensure that Nigerians are able to live and move about without the fear of being kidnapped or harassed in any way.

It emphasized that such reworking should include giving states and local government councils that so desire to establish own police services with all the requisite powers to function as such".

"There is an urgent need to rework the Security Architecture of the country to ensure that Nigerians are able to live and move about without the fear of being kidnapped or harassed in any way", it said.

The Pan Yoruba body added, "Such reworking should include giving states and local government councils that so desire to establish own police services with all the requisite powers to function as such".

"Doing so would check, if not totally stop, the incidences of kidnapping and sundry banditry now ravaging the land"

Afenifere stressed that the

Bodija explosions underscores the need to allow the federating units in the country to control mineral resources in their respective areas with particular reference to mining and exploration. It maintained that the reasoning behind this was that "had it been that states were in control of mining for instance, Oyo State government was likely to know how explosives were being moved around".

"Such would have made last week's horrendous blast that claimed many lives, traumatized hundreds of people and destroyed properties running into Billions of Naira would have been prevented

"To facilitate this, Afenifere again reiterated that the time for Restructuring the country is now", urging President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to set the machinery in motion for the purpose.

Afenifere in the communique said the hope that President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda would be giving the necessary push so that life can be easier for the people of Nigeria.

According to the body, "among the means of achieving this are taking steps that would strengthen the value of our currency, the Naira, reduce costs of energy (fuel in particular) through local production of petroleum products as well as regular supply of electricity."

Teachers Welfare Our Priority - Zamfara SUBEB Chair

By; A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau

The Zamfara State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) chairman, Prof. Nasiru Anka has reiterated his board's determination to improve the welfare of teachers in the state.

Prof. Anka made the disclosure in an interview with newsmen in his office on Wednesday.

According to him, the role played by the teachers in nation building in the state

can never be compromised by his board.

He stated that, the board is set to improve teachers capabilities through training and retraining for them to be fully qualified to teach in the state.

According to him, the board will partner with Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) in order to meet basic education system in the state.

"We are going to work hand-in-hand with

Universal Basic Education Commission to ensure our children have access to basic education system particularly rural communities in the state". He said

Prof. Anka added that the state government through the supervising ministry of education and state Universal Basic Education Board under his watch are working round the clock to ensure the education sector is been revamped.

"We are going to map out

more blueprint on how to improve our education system in the state as plans are under way to reinvigorate the system to greater height by the state government". He said.

He further pointed out that more qualified teachers will soon be recruited to develop the education system in the state.

He enjoined teachers in the state to remain committed in their duties for the development of the state.

Katsina Governor Appoints Sullubawa DG KEWMA

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has approved the appointment of Alhaji Mannir Ayuba Sullubawa as the Director General of the newly established Katsina State Erosion and Watershed Management Agency (KEWMA).

A statement by Director of Press of the Secretary to the State Government, Abdullahi Aliyu Yar'adua said until his new appointment, Alhaji Mannir Sullubawa was the Director of Administration and Supplies (DAS) in the office of the secretary to the government of the state.

Expressing his goodwill shortly after the new DG had presented to him the appointment letter which he received from the office of the head of civil service of the state, the Secretary to the Government of the State, Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari expressed optimism that Alhaji Mannir Sullubawa would deliver in his new assignment.

Barrister Abdullahi Faskari congratulated the appointee and urged him to redouble his effort as the pioneer DG of the new agency to justify the confidence reposed on him by the Governor and live to the expectations of the good people of the State.

Responding, the Director General,

KEWMA, Alhaji Mannir Ayuba Sullubawa assured the SGS that, he would work hard to achieve the Agency's objectives as set out by the Governor Dikko Radda's administration.

In the appointment letter signed by the Head of Civil Service of the State, Alhaji Usman Isiyaku, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda said that, the appointment was based on merit, and in recognition of Alhaji Mannir's dedication and diligence to the service.

"Governor Dikko Radda congratulated Alhaji Mannir Ayuba and prayed for him Allah's guidance in the discharge of his duty," the statement said.

Jan 17 Explosions: Nine Bodija Residents Still Missing - BERA

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of Bodija Estate Residents Association, (BERA), Mr MUYIWA Bamgbose on Wednesday, said about nine residents of the area are still missing.

Speaking with journalists in Ibadan on the January 17 explosions on the sidelines of Face-to-face Consultative Forum, organized by Bodija residents, he said the declaration was based on their findings while collecting data of the residents and number of the affected houses with the explosions.

According to the BERA President, "It's now more towards eight or nine people that have been missing. We have brought the map of the street, and we are trying to account for house by house, that's how we can actually get accurate figure".

He stressed, "If a person

was seen yesterday and you can't find him today, then you know you need to get worried".

Commenting on the treatment received by victims of the incident at different hospitals, Mr Bamgbose disclosed that "a lot of people paid for their medicals", adding, "Those people could afford it. So, many people didn't even go to designated hospitals, they just went somewhere to treat themselves".

"I must also confess that some of the hospitals were treating people initially without even recording, there are so many people, they were just giving them first aids", he said.

Mr Bamgbose added, "The hospitals contributed, they treated people without asking for money and then some people that could afford them took themselves somewhere, maybe private hospitals".

"In terms of hotels, there are some people whose

their families paid in the hotels and asked them just go there and check yourself in, because there isn't proper organization". He noted, "If you are a decent person and they tell you that the government is going to pay for your accommodation. Our fear is that even government may end up been sub changed, how do you know who stay where?"

"Yes, it was a chaotic situation but again there should be some kind of order and process, so that's why some people will not wait for anybody, they just take care of themselves if they can afford it. A lot of people have taken care of themselves."

Lauding the Oyo state government, he said "Well, this is a first time that we will record this kind of incident in Oyo State, we never had anything like this before and I must first and foremost appreciate the spirit of the government".

According to him, "The government is definitely concerned, there is a difference between the will and ability but if you are willing then ability can come in later."

"The administration in the state has shown a great of willingness, people have worked overnight without sleeping, even the Federal Government, you will be surprised, they have taken it so seriously, all the security apparatus, NEMA, working with the state EMA, everybody has collaborated

"I think we still need to learn from this experience where are we failing one of the things I discussed in Bodija is where are the gaps? What are the things we didn't do right that we can improve? God for his, we are praying for another one to happen, but it may not be a blast, it may be a n o t h e r t h i n g , emergencies can always occur, it could flood or whatever. So, how do we

Insecurity: FG Inaugurates Project Implementation Committee On Abuja-Kaduna Highway

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A committee tagged, "Project Implementation Committee" for the provision and installation of surveillance systems on the Abuja-Kaduna highway has been inaugurated by the federal government.

Henshaw Ogubike, the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence, explained that it is part of the strategies being put in place to

address the raging security challenges, particularly on the highways.

The Minister, Abubakar Badaru, according to Ogubike, in a statement on Tuesday, said that the provision of the surveillance systems along the Abuja-Kaduna highway would also cover the railways.

Badaru disclosed, "The eight-man committee will fast-track their assignment and that they must deliver within 18 months in order

to check the frequent security challenges along the route."

The minister explained that the committee has its members drawn from the ministry, the Services and other security agencies is headed by the Director Joint Services Department of the Ministry of Defence.

He expressed confidence in the committee's ability to deliver tangible results, reinforcing the government's

commitment to addressing security concerns on major transportation routes.

Badaru stated that the terms of reference included ensuring the equipment for the installation of the security surveillance system meets the technical specification as well as suggesting any other measure necessary for the successful implementation of the system.



Honourable Aliyu Bello

Gunmen Kidnap Lagos PDP Chair, Others On Expressway

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Yet to be identified gunmen have reportedly kidnapped the Chairman of Lagos State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Philip Aivoji. According to report, the PDP Chair was abducted alongside other party members on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway while returning from the Southwest PDP stakeholders meeting held in Ibadan, Oyo State, where a new leader was elected for the party in the region.

The party's Publicity Secrecy, Hakeem Amode, who confirmed his abduction on Friday, disclosed that he was kidnapped at about 6pm yesterday while returning to the state after the meeting convened by Oyo and Osun State Governors, Seyi Makinde and Ademola Adeleke.

In a statement made available to newsmen, Amode appealed to the Security agencies in Oyo, Ogun and Lagos to intervene promptly and secure the release of Aivoji from his abductors.

According to the statement, "Aivoji was abducted on Thursday, January 25, 2024, around 6 pm on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway while returning from a stakeholders meeting in Oyo State convened by Governors Seyi Makinde and Ademola Adeleke.

"It is disheartening that kidnapping has become a



prevalent issue in our country, and the government's inability to address this menace is deeply concerning.

"The abduction of Aivoji underscores the pressing need for decisive actions from the government and stakeholders to eradicate this menace. Aivoji's abduction was a violent

incident, and his current whereabouts or any communication from the abductors remain unknown.

"We implore the governments of Oyo, Ogun, and Lagos States, alongside security agencies, to expedite efforts and secure his safe return to his family and

well-wishers.

"We firmly believe that, with increased efforts from security agencies, Aivoji can be rescued from these criminals, and we call on the public to support initiatives aimed at ending this threat to innocent lives"

PDP Ward Congresses: Youth Leader Pleads With Makarfi For Increased Youth Inclusion

By: SHARIFUDEEN IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD, Kaduna

An appeal has been made to the former National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and former Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, to support youth for various party offices ahead of the upcoming PDP Ward Congresses in the state.

The Kaduna State PDP Youth Leader, Alhaji Aliyu Bello, made the appeal on behalf of the vibrant youth of the party, when stakeholders of the party from Kaduna South visited the National Leader of the party in Kaduna.

Hon. Aliyu Bello highlighted the vital role played by the youth in the last election, emphasizing their unwavering support for the cause of PDP in the state and Nigeria as a whole.

Noting the crucial roles

played by youths globally, Hon. Bello pleaded with the National Leader to support youths for the positions of Ward Youth Leader, P.R.O, and others.

The stakeholders, led by the Local Government Party Chairman, Hon. Musa Maikudi, the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee on Host Communities, and Member Representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Hon. Mal Abdulkarim Hussaini Ahmad Mai Kero, also included the Senior Legislative Aide to Hon. Abdulkarim Mai Kero, Hon. Hassan Ya'u Musa Kura, the Personal Assistant to Hon. Kero, Hon. Auwal Alhassan Gwadabe, the Tudun Wada Constituency Candidate for Kaduna State Assembly, Hon. Baba Zeeta, Hon. Suleiman Kurmin Mashi, Hon. Shusha, Hon. Alhassan Dan Inda among others.

Kaduna Teen Girls Far Behind In Digital Literacy, University Don Says

**Urges Gov Uba Sani to expand KAD-DIP*

By: JACOB ONJEWU
DICKSON

A university don with the Centre of Excellence on Development Communication, Department of Theatre and Performing Arts, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Professor Rasheedah Liman has urged the Senator Uba Sani-led government to secure the future of girls in the state by expanding the scope of the Kaduna Digital Incubation Programme (KAD-DIP) across the LGAs stating that Kaduna teen girls are far behind in digital literacy. She said this during a 2-day Capacity-building Workshop with Girls in Zaria during the Advocacy for the Expansion of the Kaduna Digital Incubation Program organized by the Creative Arts Development (CRAD) Center with support by Rise Up saying that 10 of every 100 teen girls lack digital skills.

“One in every ten teen girls in Kaduna lacks digital skills in spite of the efforts put by Kaduna State Government to improve the lives of girls.

“The Social Protection Policy for example do not have any clearcut programs for girls and there is a need to take that in in the review of that document.

“Within the next twenty years, our world will change completely and many professions, individuals and work may be controlled by Artificial Intelligence. The question is that would Kaduna girls be

able to compete with girls from other states as well as other countries when that time comes.

“Now is the time to prepare our girls for the change that is to come. Ten in every ten Kaduna girls can be digitally literate and His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State is one person that can make that happen” she said.

While speaking on the importance of digital skills for girls, Shade Olumeyan, a Champions for Change Fellow, stated that the creativity of girls in Kaduna State

needs to be honed by introducing them to digital programmes from the early ages of 12 to 19 saying that these are the periods for learning the fundamentals and aspects of the core of the different programs available.

“It is good to start early. Girls have an advantage given their ability to learn faster and to do many things at the same time. It is possible for a girl to acquire digital skills at age 12 through to her 20s and build upon what she has learnt.

“KAD-DIP is a good initiative. However, it needs to be expanded to other LGAs in

the State. Sabon Gari LGA for example has facilities that can host digital programs and it is accessible to girls from different parts of Kaduna North. Expanding digital programs to the LGA would mean providing opportunities for at least 93,000 girls and women” she said.

While receiving feedback from the teen girls during the workshop, Umar Zainab of Demonstration Secondary School noted that digital knowledge will increase their skills and creativity if the Kaduna State Government can expand its digital program to Sabon Gari LGA.



Niger Delta Youth Want Prof Onuchukwu As Substantive VC Ignatius Ajuru University Of Education

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Niger Delta Youth have called on the federal government and all authorities concerned, to make Professor Okechukwu Onuchukwu the substantive Vice Chancellor Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in reward and recognition of excellent service to the ivory tower.

This is just as the youth conferred a distinguished award of excellence on Prof Onuchukwu in acknowledging his numerous landmark achievements, including infrastructural development, commitment to welfare of staff and students, security and upgrade of academic standard in the institution.

The youth in a statement under Niger Delta Youth Council (NDYCN), an umbrella body comprising all nine oil producing states of Nigeria eulogized leadership qualities of Onuchukwu whom they described as detribalised public servant with passion for academic excellence and high moral standard. The statement signed by President of NDYCN Comrade Ufuoma Victor Erharhine, listed introduction of instalment payment of school fees to

provide succour to students, ensure the accreditation of six departments by NUC, annual welfare packages to staff, upgrade of infrastructures on campus, ensuring decency by introducing dress code among others as achievements of the acting VC since assumption of duty.

Comrade Erharhine in the statement further commended the acting VC for restoring good and warm relationship between lecturers and students which was hitherto cold and poor.

"We the youth of Niger Delta wish to applaud a man of exemplary leadership, unequalled patriotism for country and love for students.

"Professor Okechukwu Onuchukwu has distinguished self in excellent service, selfless commitment to academic excellence and high moral standard as acting VC of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education.

"A visit to the campus will convince any doubting Thomas as the general



view of the institution of higher learning is wearing a new and improved look worthy of commendation by all.

"It is in the light of this rare feat achieved by head of this ivory tower within a short period, We the youth of Niger Delta felt we should acknowledge and recognize good work by conferring an award of

excellence on Professor Onuchukwu.

"We are equally advocating that he should be made the substantive Vice Chancellor of the school in the interest of continuity so that he can consolidate on achievements made so far," the statement added.

State Minister Defence, Matawalle, Clinches HOTPEN Magazine Personality Of Year Award

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

In a resounding acknowledgment of his exceptional leadership and dedication to national security, the Honourable Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle, has been conferred with the prestigious HOTPEN Magazine Personality of the Year Award.

The accolade recognizes Matawalle's outstanding contributions to the defence sector and his pivotal role in safeguarding the nation.

The HOTPEN Magazine Personality of the Year Award is a reflection of the Defence Minister's unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Nigeria amidst evolving challenges. Matawalle's strategic approach to defence policies and initiatives aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the armed forces has garnered widespread acclaim.

In his acceptance of the award, Minister Bello Matawalle expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized the collective efforts of the entire defence apparatus. He underscored the importance of a robust and secure nation, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the armed forces and security agencies in preserving Nigeria's territorial integrity.

The 10th HOTPEN Magazine awards recognizes Matawalle not only for his leadership in navigating complex security issues but also for his vision in enhancing the preparedness and efficiency of the Nigerian Armed Forces. The

accolade serves as a testament to his strategic direction and steadfast commitment to the defense and sovereignty of the nation.

The Personality of the Year Award ceremony, hosted by HOTPEN Magazine, brought together leaders, dignitaries, and influencers to celebrate excellence and exceptional contributions to various sectors.

Matawalle's recognition as the Personality of the Year highlights the critical role played by leaders in ensuring the peace and stability of the nation.

As the Defence Minister, Bello Matawalle has demonstrated remarkable leadership qualities, contributing significantly to the ongoing efforts to secure Nigeria from internal and external threats.

The award not only commends past achievements but also serves as an inspiration for continued dedication to national service.

HOTPEN Magazine, known for its commitment to recognizing excellence, celebrates Minister Bello Matawalle as the Personality of the Year for his exemplary service, visionary leadership, and tireless efforts in upholding the security and defense interests of Nigeria.

CBN, FAAN Relocation: Kaduna Journalist Tasks Northern Politicians On National Unity

**Says energy should be redirected towards ending insecurity*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKDON

Kaduna based Journalist, Andrew Ibrahim Mshelia has urged Northern politicians to as a matter of national unity, redirect their energy towards ending banditry and terrorism that are bedeviling the North, rather than playing "Mummy Market" politics with the planned relocation of some Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) departments and Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) headquarters to Lagos State.

According to him, it is a misplaced priority for a



region which its citizens cannot sleep with their two eyes closed due to kidnapping, terrorism and

other social vices, to have lost their voices in that direction, only to play politics with agencies that do not belong to one region alone.

He noted that if the sudden voices of the Northern politicians were there long before now, banditry and terrorism would have

ended without firing a single shot.

The Kaduna journalist observed that the North at

this point, owes other regions the duty of supporting the central government just as it was done during Muhammadu Buhari and other Northern leaders.

He warned that playing such dangerous politics over the planned relocation of FAAN and some offices of the CBN, doesn't portray the Northern region in good light in the scheme of things in the country.

He added that what the present administration needs at this point in time, "is a collective effort towards rebuilding Nigeria of our dream".



Bello Matawalle, Minister of State Defence

International Day 2024: Education Is A Catalyst For Peace, Promotes Wellbeing - UNICEF

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The UNICEF Chief of Maiduguri Field Office to Borno State, Phuong T. Nguyen, at the commemoration of the 2024 International Day of Education (IDE) held at the El Kanemi Hall of the University of Maiduguri, Borno State on Wednesday January 24, 2024, said this year's International Day of Education with the theme, "Learning for Lasting Peace", is being commemorated across the world.

She added that, "Education is a global resource for learning and the acquisition of relevant skills for opportunities in today's world. Education promotes wellbeing. It is a catalyst for peace."

The UNICEF Chief also said that more than half of all displaced (IDPs) children in the North East of Nigeria are out of school, while less than 40% of primary and secondary schools in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states (BAY) have teachers with low level of teaching qualifications or without qualified teaching staff resulting in ineffective and inefficient learning of children are the foundation level.

She further observed that for many children, the right to education has still not translated into the right to learn, hence the learning crises and other challenges that we are all trying to address.

"In North East Nigeria and indeed communities affected by conflict across the world, education is a platform for the delivery of inclusive learning and psychosocial support. For children in armed conflict situations, education is a unique lifeline. It is a driver of peace and security.

"In collaboration with the Government humanitarian partners and donors such as Education Cannot Wait (ECW). We have made huge strides in the provision of quality, inclusive education for children affected by conflict.

"More girls and children living with disabilities are enrolling in school through regular enrolment campaigns and the provision of conducive learning environment with sanitation facilities across the North East region.

"We are leveraging evidence from other contexts and collaborating with others to expand the frontiers of quality and inclusive education to children from minority ethnic groups.

" Learning materials in the Kanuri and Hausa languages have been produced so that children can learn in their mother tongue and at their own pace, before transiting to learning in the English Language.

"Every International Day of Education affords us the opportunity to look at how far we have come, we cannot lose sight of the huge gaps that still exist in reaching the most disadvantaged children in rural communities with quality and inclusive education," Nguyen said.

She however, added that, more than half of all displaced children in North East Nigeria are out of school and less than 40% of schools in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states have teachers level of teaching qualifications.

"From Gaza to Ukraine, Sudan to Nigeria, the 2024 theme, Learning for Lasting Peace, is a call to action for everyone working with children affected by conflict to model education as a catalyst for peace and security.

"Stakeholders, from government



to humanitarian partners, must increase education financing. We must make sizable and sustainable investment in teachers' recruitment and training; school infrastructure and security, including fortification of school infrastructure against climate change disruptions.

"This programme to commemorate the 2024 International Day of Education. Since 2018, January 24 UNICEF has been leveraged to recognize the transformative power of education for individuals, communities and global peace," Nguyen added.

She charged education stakeholders, both public and private to redouble their efforts with innovative solutions even as the context of the operating environment is changing, assuring that UNICEF will continue to work with the

Government, donors and other partners to raise the bar of education for girls and boys affected by conflict and give them a future.

Nguyen also urged the school children to continue to do their best at school and imbibe the values that quality education proffers," saying, "Children, you are here today as learners, but you are also leaders. I cannot wait to see you at the top".

Earlier, the Executive Director Unique Care and Support Foundation, Mr. Benjamin John in his welcome address said education is critical and a catalyst for societal development full of challenges that require commitment and dedication from all the stakeholders while appreciating all for attending the celebration.

He disclosed that the event will witness series of activities such as paper presentation, panel presentation, school quiz competition among three selected schools, poem presentation by students, prizes and awards presentation.

Six organizations, Borno State Government (BOSG), University of Maiduguri, (Unimaid), CASFOD, CATAI, UNICEF and Nigerian Education in Emergency (NEE) jointly organized and participated in the commiseration activities to mark the 2024 international Day for education held on Wednesday at El Kanemi Hall of University of Maiduguri.

Forty three primary and secondary schools from five local government areas of Borno state, namely, MMC, Jere, Mafa, Kaga, and Konduga LGAs

participated attended the ceremony with 16 schools from Jere LGA, 15 schools from MMC, four schools from Konduga LGA, 5 schools from Kaga LGA and 3 schools from Mafa LGA.

Guest Speaker at the occasion, Hon. Musa Inuwa Kubo, a former Commissioner of Education and former Speaker, BOSHA in his paper presentation charges governments and NGOs to redouble their efforts in other areas especially, in the extreme northern part of the state while appreciating the humanitarian support of all NGOs on education in most parts of the State and region affected by the crisis.

He also dwelt on the need for school children to imbibe the habit of commitment and dedication to learning at all levels and concentrate more in learning as future generations and leaders.

He urged government to intervention in the rebuilding and development of school buildings and basic infrastructures as well as adequate and qualified teaching staff particularly at the foundation level by improving on the learning environment for both the teachers and school children.

Inuwa Kubo also expunged on the historical perspectives of education, challenges surrounding education before, during and after colonization era as issues against societal needs and demands for integration of both eastern and western education right from the beginning.



Sardaunan Badarawa Visits Kaduna APC Chairman, Vows To Dislodge PDP From All Elective Positions In Next General Election

By: IBRAHIMADAMU, Kaduna

Former Interim Chairman of Kaduna North Local Government Council, Hon. Usman Ibrahim popularly known as Sardaunan Badarawa vowed to ensure People's Democrat Party (PDP), loses in all elective positions in the next general election of 2027. Hon. Usman Ibrahim made it known when he paid a courtesy visit to State Chairman of All Progressives Congress (APC), Emmanuel Jekada in the state party secretariat in Kaduna. During the visit, Sardaunan Badarawa leveraged on the opportunity to meet with central zonal party chairman, seven local government party chairmen and 81 wards

chairmen of the party from Kaduna Central Senatorial Zone who hailed the politician's generous contributions to party Excocs and members by extension. While congratulating Uba Sani for his Supreme court victory, the grassroots politician lauded the Governor's landmark achievements spreading across all three zones in the state within a short period since assumption of office. He pledged to bring forth his wealth of experience to the advantage of APC by mobilizing people at the grassroots and support base for his new party in the next political dispensation. He expressed his loyalty to the party leadership hierarchy at every level to

ensure APC dominate the political space of the state. "I will continue with my welfarism to party loyalists of APC by building structures for the advantage of the party as we move towards the next political experiment in 2027. "Politics is all about service to the people and garnering support base for the party, a venture I believe I have the capacity to deliver. "With synergies formed at critical levels with political heavy weights that matter, I can assure you that APC is the party to beat again in 2027 and I will make that happens in collaboration with other stakeholder,"he declared.

Kaduna APC Chairman Emmanuel Jekada expressed joy over rejoining the party by Sardaunan Badarawa, saying he would have more fertile ground to deliver dividends of democracy to the people. He commended the politician for his foresight, dedication and longtime commitment to serve the masses via numerous philanthropic activities. The state party leader assured Sardauna Badarawa of equal treatment like every other party members and urged him to team up with the government of the day to bring more development to the state.



Sardaunan Badarawa Visits Kaduna APC Chairman, Vows To Dislodge PDP From All Elective Positions In Next General Election



Oyo Govt Apprehends 32 Beggars In Ibadan

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government on Wednesday, arrested 32 suspected beggars in Ibadan metropolis for allegedly violating the law banning street begging in the state. The state Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, Mrs. Toyin Balogun made this known at Akinyele resettlement centre, Ibadan, where the rested beggars were lodged. Mrs Balogun said the suspected beggars were apprehended during a special raid by officers of

the Ministry, and security agents between 2:30 p.m and 4:00 p.m..

Stressing that the state government frowns at the menace which has become an eye sore in the society, the Commissioner noted that it is a crime to beg on the streets in Oyo State.

The Commissioner pointed out that the menace " is not only affecting the beauty of our roads but a high risk to the beggars lives as they can be knocked down or crushed by speeding vehicles".

Mrs Balogun said the state government is working on making the Resettlement

centre at Akinyele more conducive for these set of people and that food will be provided to them while they undergo vocational training on simple but profitable crafts for their source of livelihood.

Also, the Oyo State government has vowed to permanently stamp out street begging from the State.

The Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources, Architect Abdulmojeed Mogbonjubola, made this known while touring Egbeda local government. Architect Mogbonjubola described the menace as

greatly traumatic, and that the governor has discovered that the infiltration and convergence of beggars within the metropolis is against the provisions and policy of Oyo State government.

He stated that street beggars, that refused to take advantage of the magnanimous gesture of Oyo State Governor's accommodation, specifically built for them, at Moniya, in Akinyele Local Government, would, henceforth face relocation to their home state.

I'll Continue To Play Positive Role Towards Ensuring PDP Becomes United, Formidable - Gov Makinde

**Receives PDP BoT during visit to Ibadan over Bodija explosions*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Governor, Engineer Seyi Makinde has said that he would continue to play a positive role towards ensuring that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) becomes united and formidable. The governor made this known on Wednesday, during the visit of members of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), led by Senator Adolphus Wabara, to his office to commiserate with him and the people of Oyo State over the Bodija explosions.

Gov Makinde pointed out that PDP needs alignment to achieve unity of the party and that he has been reaching out to colleague-governors to ensure that the party becomes more united.

The governor emphasized that the BoT members as the conscience of the party, should put in the work towards steering the party in the right direction, "Regarding our party, I am proud of the role the BoT is playing. I received the letter and have responded to the letter. I did not mince words in terms of what we should be doing as a party. Unity is important and we have to unite", he said.

The governor added, "Yes, it is normal to disagree within ourselves because what is facing me may be backing somebody else. But it is important that we seek alignment to reduce those areas of disagreement or friction, and you are already leading the charge, and I want to thank you for that". "I also feel few people within our party are still thinking in terms of the enormity of the challenges and errors. I want to encourage such individuals not to feel bad because we faced more than that in 2017 and 2018 in Oyo State. And today, we have PDP at the local level 100 per cent. At the state level, we have over 96 per cent because we have some opposition".

He maintained, "So, we don't have to be discouraged. Yes, we have a lot of hard work to do in terms of appealing to ourselves and reaching out for unity within the party at the national level. And I want to say that I am here to play a positive role for us to be able to achieve this desired unity. I am fully committed to the great party."

On the Bodija explosions, the governor said Oyo state will come out stronger, as the government has been working out a long-term solution to the challenges posed by the incident,

"Yes, we have been battling with the fallout from the incident; we have been trying to give the affected people temporary accommodation so that they can continue their lives. Also, we have the people who got injured and need medical attention and the humanitarian side of it where some children are supposed to be in school now.

"So, it is still very early days and we have to look at a long term solution. We are also dealing with the security aspect of the incident.

"So, you need to keep encouraging us and supporting us where possible as well as keep praying for us."

Speaking, the Chairman of the PDP BoT and former Senate President, Senator Wabara lauded Gov Makinde for his prompt response to the unfortunate incident and for showing his prowess as an engineer by directing that a structural integrity test be conducted on about 230 buildings in the affected area.

Emphasizing that the nation must avoid a recurrence of such incidents by embarking on a thorough investigation, the PDP BoT expressed its condolences to the governor and the government of the state as well as families, who lost loved ones to the incident, as it observed a minute of silence for the departed souls.

Only 43% Meet Safe School Standards In Nigeria - UNICEF

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says only 43 per cent of the minimum standards for safe schools are being met in about 6,000 assessed schools and called for concerted efforts to enhance school safety in Nigeria.

Ms. Cristian Munduate, the UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative, stated this in her message to mark the 2024 International Day of Education with the theme, "Learning for Lasting Peace", on Wednesday.

She explained Nigeria's commitment to creating

safe school environments by endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and developing the Minimum Standards for Safe Schools, saying that there is the need for further progress and collective responsibility in safeguarding the educational environment for every child.

According to her, "The theme of the 2024 International Day of Education, 'learning for lasting peace,' underscores the crucial role of education in promoting peace and stability. It serves as a reminder to all stakeholders of the importance of providing safe, secure

learning environments."

The UNICEF Nigeria Country Representative explained that the challenges faced by Nigerian children, particularly adolescent girls, whose educational journey is often disrupted by attacks on communities and schools, including the abduction of students.

According to her, the recent attacks on schools have led to learning disruptions for over 1.3 million children, necessitating precautionary school closures, and highlighting the urgency of addressing school safety comprehensively.

She called for a multi-

sectoral approach to improve school safety, informed by the performance of states on the Minimum Standards for Safe Schools, suggesting that the approach should include comprehensive planning, coordination, and adequate resource allocation, especially in states with higher risks.

She stressed the importance of alternative learning platforms, such as the Nigerian Learning Passport, which offers curriculum-aligned materials and is crucial for ensuring continuity of education, especially during school closures.

Bakori LG Boss Hails Appointment Of Veteran Journalist As GM Katsina Radio Service

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Chairman of Bakori Local Government Council of Katsina State, Alhaji Ali Mamman Mai Citta has described the appointment of a Veteran Journalist Alhaji Lawal Attahiru Bakori as General Manager of the State Radio Service as best option toward the development of the station.

Alhaji Mamman Mai Citta stated this when he led Councillors and APC stakeholders from the area to a congratulatory visit to the General Manager of

Katsina State Radio Service.

He said the selection of Lawal Attahiru Bakori would no doubt enhance the smooth running of the Radio Station for continued airing of meaningful programmes. Alhaji Ali Mamman Mai Citta urged the General Manager to use his experience to justify the confidence repose in him by the Governor and the good people of Bakori.

The Council Chairman expressed gratitude to Governor Dikko Umar Radda for the selection of two sons of the area to lead the Agricultural and

Information discrimination sectors.

Also speaking, two of the APC Stakeholders from the areas Alhaji Kabir Mamman and Alhaji Sanusi Magayaki hoped that the General Manager would put on his best and carry all along.

Similarly, the Council's leader Alhaji Mohamed Haruna scored high Governor Dikko Umar Radda for a step to address insecurity which according to him has started yielding positive impact.

Responding, the General Manager of the Radio station, Alhaji Lawal

Attahiru Bakori thanked them for the visit and assured not batray the trust repose on him..

Alhaji Lawal Attahiru Bakori said withing short period of his leadership, the Radio station was witnessing tremendous transformation in terms of quality and steady transmission.

He urged the visitors to always be at for front at offering critical advises on how best to improve.

The General Manager assured to have a good listening ear in advises as his doors always remain open.

Group Hails Wailare's Contributions To Better Democratic Practice

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The founder of Tamallan Foundation Kano, Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare, who is also one of the young visionary politicians from Makoda Local Government Area, has been commended by the Movement For The Democratic Support And Good Governance

(MSDG) for his contributions towards entrenching of democracy.

In a statement signed and issued to newsmen by the group's national president, Alhaji Dauda Mohammed Ali, MSDG described Dr. Wailare as a great politician for his efforts towards ensure that democracy benefits the electorate.

"We are happy to inform the general public that MSDG has recognised the efforts being made by Dr. Saleh Musa Wailare who is a young, but a very talented person, whose contributions to Nigeria's democracy should be recognized by all the democratic support groups and we are certain that he is a great asset to good governance". The

statement added.

The movement canvassed support for the politician whom they said deserves full recognition for his loyalty and dedication to service to humanity without political differences, when giving helping hands under his foundation, Tamallan Foundation in various sectors.



Dr. Wailare acknowledging cheers from supporters.

Wike Not Ready For Peace In Rivers, Clark Tells Tinubu

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Chief Edwin Clark, the South-South leader, has told President Bola Tinubu that Nyesom Wike, the immediate past governor of Rivers State and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Administration, is not ready for sustenance of peace in the political crisis rocking the state. Clark, in a statement on Thursday, in Abuja, said that the continuous activities of Wike are clear indications that he is not ready for peace in Rivers State.

Tinubu intervened in the crisis when he issued an '8-point pact' to both parties that the governor of Rivers State, Siminalaye Fubara and his allies should

withdraw all court cases pertaining to the matter, which is against the 1999 Constitution and against popular opinion of Rivers people and indeed Nigerians, Governor Fubara and his associates, including the Speaker recognised by the court, Edison Ebie, have complied with the proclamation.

According to the statement, "The expectation is that the 26 decamped legislative members who had filed cases in court, would have also done same. But they refused, giving rise to the judgment delivered by Justice James Omotoso on January 22, 2024, stating amongst other things, the nullification of the 2024 Budget which was presented by Governor

Fubara, passed and signed into law."

Justice Omotoso, also said that he based his judgment on the fact that the legislatures said there was no evidence of settlement of the matter before him.

From the above, the statement further explained that it shows clearly that Governor Fubara, obeyed Mr. President and carried out his directives, in violation of the 1999 Constitution 'for the sake of peace,' except that which he is currently precluded from doing by the courts, adding that even though majority of Nigerians were not happy with the terms of the settlement.

It stated that having done all these against the Constitution which Fubara, as Governor of

Rivers State swore to uphold, Nyesom Wike is not seen, wittingly or unwittingly, by his latent or otherwise conduct, advancing peace in Rivers State.

"Let the truth be told to President Tinubu, according Clark that Wike is not ready for any form of peace and called on the President, once again, to call him (Wike) to order to allow the elected Governor Fubara, whom he Wike claimed he made to govern Rivers State, peacefully," he said.

He said that he did not anticipate that Mr. President would proclaim an 8-point agreement that appears to be one-sided and unconstitutional, when he appealed to him (President) to call Wike to order.

AYCF Congratulates INEC On Supreme Court Judgments

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has congratulated the leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) following the recent judgments of the Supreme Court on governorship election disputes. AYCF President General, Yerima Shettima acknowledged the exceptional planning implemented by INEC Chairman Professor Mahmoud Yakubu during the elections.

The AYCF viewed these judgments as a clear vindication of the meticulous steps taken by the INEC leadership in ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections. Shettima expressed his sincere appreciation for the unwavering dedication and commitment demonstrated by the INEC Chairman, which he believes fully deserves commendation and recognition both nationally and internationally.

The forum recognized the importance of credible elections in ensuring good governance and socio-economic development.

"Therefore, the AYCF's endorsement of the judgments handed down by the Supreme Court aims to emphasize the significance of INEC's efforts in upholding the democratic process.

"The meticulous planning carried out by the INEC leadership, led by Professor Mahmoud

Yakubu, has played a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity of our democratic system. We must commend and appreciate their commitment to organizing transparent and credible elections," Shettima stated.

Shettima further added, "We believe that the Supreme Court's judgments are an affirmation of the INEC's unwavering commitment to ensuring electoral justice. It is imperative that we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of INEC as they contribute to the strengthening of our democracy."

The AYCF wished to express sincere gratitude to the INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmoud Yakubu, and his team for their tireless efforts in organizing successful elections across the country.

"The meticulous planning, impartiality, and dedication demonstrated by the INEC in conducting these elections have bolstered public trust in the electoral process," he said.

The AYCF urged all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organizations, and the general public, to rally behind INEC in its continued efforts to enhance the credibility and integrity of the electoral process.

"Together, we can build a democratic society that ensures the will of the people is respected and that our nation continues to progress," he added.



Shettima Yerima

Ododo Sworn-in As Fifth Governor Of Kogi State

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo has been sworn-in as the fifth governor of Kogi State by the state Chief Judge, Justice Joshua Majebi on Saturday.

The colourful inauguration ceremony was the climax of the verdict of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) that announced the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo as the winner of the November Off Circle election in the state late last year.

In the said election, Ododo polled 446,237 votes to defeat Murtala Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) who staggered to second position with 259,052 votes, while Senator Dino Melaye of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led with 46,362 votes from behind.

The power-shift to Kogi Central was due to the death of Prince Abubakar Audu, who would have again been declared the winner of the November 2015 gubernatorial election, but for the unpredicted cold hands of death that cut short his life, causing the declaration of

an inconclusive election by the electoral umpire.

Opinion sampled by our correspondent revealed that the administration of Ododo will be a stamped legacy of Yahaya Bello's bequeathed *modus operandi*, while others opined that there will be a change to reflect a dramatic change.

The fear was confirmed by the governor, when he said that he will build on the achievements of his predecessor, having described his mentor as the father of modern Kogi State, lauded him for his transformation feat and for building an enviable Kogi State.

Consequently, the newly sworn-in governor of the state, Ahmed Usman Ododo has nominated members of his cabinet and other top government functionaries largely drawn from Bello's administration on his first day in office.

He announced the nomination of some Commissioners to be forwarded to the State House of Assembly for prompt confirmation as members of the State Executive Council (SEC) during his inaugural speech to the people of the state.

The Commissioner-nominees were mainly

drawn from the immediate-past administration of Governor Yahaya Bello and include the former Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Folashade Ayoade Arike, Kingsley Fanwo, Deedat Salami Ozigi, among others to be appointed with immediate effect.

Furthermore Suleiman Ibrahim was appointed as the Director General of Protocol, Oladele John Nihi as Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Alhaji Shaibu Oricha as Director General of Government House Administration, and Barrister Femi Adegboyega as the State Legal Adviser. These appointments take immediate effect.

The occasion also included the conferment of the highest state honour on the immediate past Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, and a minute of silence that was observed in honour of the late Governor of the State, Prince Abubakar Audu.

Alhaji Yahaya Bello's protegee urged the people to choose unity and togetherness and affirmed his will to pursue in full measure their happiness without tribal or ethnic affiliation that binds them together.

"We will work to sustain the ideals of the founding fathers, delivering on the dreams of a prosperous Kogi State that will lead to the progress of the State as envisioned by the founding fathers."

To ensure a sense of belonging, Ododo assured that the charter of power rotation, which would ensure inclusiveness of all segments of the state will be test run as a style of governance.

"I shall hit the ground running with programmes that would ensure the well-being of our people, with accountability and transparency as our driving force.

"Let it be said that once upon a time, when our will was tested, we strived for unity for the future generation of all Kogites.

"Our administration will strive to complete all ongoing projects and focus on solid minerals, steel development, marine and digital economy."

The Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, National Chairman of APC, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and other stakeholders of the party as well as other members of the society attended the inaugural occasion.



Ebira Ohinoyi Gets Staff Of Office

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

For the second time in two days, immediate past Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello presented a staff of office to a paramount ruler in the state this time from Kogi Central.

While he presented a similar symbol of office to the Ohimegye Igu of the Ohimegye Igu of Koton-Karfe Kingdom, HRM. Saidu Akawu Salihu midweek the Thursday presentation was done in favour of new Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Alhaji Ahmed Tijani Anaje.

The new Ohimegye Igu of Koton Karfe was installed following the dethronement and banishment of his predecessor, Alhaji Abdulrazaq Isah Koto while the installation fiesta in down town Okene Thursday was as a result of the demise of the then Ohinoyi Dr. Ado Ibrahim. The coronation fiesta was a stock taking event of top notchers of Ebira Kingdom who dotted the globe as they simmered in the unfriendly scorching sun in the central senatorial district of Kogi state to register their presence as the celebrator wore the royal crown.

Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi State reiterated his commitment to the traditional institutions in Kogi state and assured the Traditional ruler of continuous support from the incoming administration of Alh. Usman Ahmed Ododo.

He said "I want to call on all the sons and daughters of Ebiraland that we should all come together and rally round our Ohinoyi of Ebiraland for

the greatness, development and security of our land".

Gov. Bello commended all the contestants for the coveted stool of Ohinoyi of Ebiraland for the spirit of sportsmanship they displayed having confirmed to them the approved due process that led to the ascension.

His words "God Almighty has enthroned Alh. Dr. Ahmed Tijani Anaje out of the seventy eminently qualified contestants. I appreciate statesmanship and the display of maturity through the process of selecting the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland".

Born on 29th June, 1974 into the family of late Alhaji Muhammed Anaje Aliyu of Asuwe Clan, Dr. Tijani Anaje attended Seifudeen Primary School, Okengwe where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1983.

He attended Ebira Muslim Community College Okengwe (EMCCO) in Okene LGA of Kogi State where he obtained his West African School Certificate (WASC) in 1993.

After his secondary school education, he started his Islamic Studies at the Sharafudeen Madrasat Okengwe under the leadership of Mukadam Alhaji Yakubu Ta'aba.

After obtaining a Diploma in Applied Psychology from University of Jos, Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmed Tijani Muhammed Anaje was enlisted into the Nigerian Army in the year 1995 as 39 Regular intake and was decorated as Warrant Officer on the 13th of October, 2021 shortly before his ascension to the stool of Ohinoyi of Ebiraland for Okengwe/Okene.





Kidnapping And Death Sentence

By Safiya I. Dantiye

OVER the years when it became apparent that kidnapping for ransom was rising, some states have made laws for death penalty and life imprisonment for kidnappers. But from all indications, such deserving sentences are not being carried out, particularly where death penalty is concerned, it is believed that civilian governors are reluctant to sign the death sentence which is the final decision for execution.

Nobody, and nowhere, is safe! It seems as if nobody could stop them, while they operate with impunity. This makes people to question the intelligence units of our security agencies where it is expected of them to trace and track phone calls and locations, including money paid as ransom through banks.

As it is because kidnappers usually succeed in taking ransom without being apprehended, people now fake their own kidnap to extort money from their relatives. It has become a way to raise capital for business, believing that their relatives would go to any length to secure their release. If caught they should be dealt with like the real kidnappers.

The National Identification Number (NIN) and BVN by the banks were touted to be the turning point in combating kidnapping. Therefore, it is either they are not being used or the kidnappers outsmart the security agencies, which is a sad commentary on the ability and expertise of intelligence-gathering.

In any event, the level of escalation in kidnapping is beyond comprehension. Kidnapping in rural communities is rampant where security agents are far in between, and few at that, and they are mostly overpowered by the bandits where they try to engage them. However when people are kidnapped on the road or estates stormed in cities, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for that matter, it shows insecurity rising to the highest level.

Perhaps with the outcry over the recent kidnapping of six sisters in Bwari, Abuja and the killing of Nabeeha, one of them, over the failure of their father to raise the amount demanded by the kidnappers; among other kidnappings in the FCT, the authorities would put more effort to combat this menace that may not go anywhere soon. The other sisters were later released by the kidnappers.

Not everybody has the privilege of his story being carried out all over and even have a former minister help to raise millions of naira as ransom for their

release, or have national leaders of repute meeting about how to end kidnapping. Yet there are many women and young girls being kidnapped and living with the kidnappers for a long time, some are forced to marry them. They have little hope of being rescued or escaping.

The focus is because of the frequent kidnapping in Abuja and therefore too close for comfort to them, the authorities and the leaders should however remember the under-privileged ones as well.

In this regard, to show that kidnapping cannot be tolerated the state governors should please sign the death warrant for kidnappers sentenced to death. We need to send a strong message that criminals cannot rule us at will.

In so doing they should look at the root cause beyond cattle rustling and local vigilante fight with Fulani.

A good starting point is to admit the failure of the authorities, religious leaders and traditional rulers over a long period of time to bring these people into the fold and give them a sense of belonging. Instead they are neglected and allowed to run wild, running their own 'empires' and now they are a threat to everybody. Those that amass millions of naira to safeguard themselves and their grandchildren from poverty are no longer safe to enjoy their asset.

Two days ago, I watched a video of a ten-year-old boy who went to houses to beg, but he was actually sent by kidnappers to find victims. He would later lead them to the houses. He was also taught how to fire a gun.

How many more of these young children do we have as informants and potential bandit leaders?

The problem is so enormous that all those concerned should do their best before it consumes us.

As it is because kidnappers usually succeed in taking ransom without being apprehended, people now fake their own kidnap to extort money from their relatives. It has become a way to raise capital for business, believing that their relatives would go to any length to secure their release. If caught they should be dealt with like the real kidnappers.

In this regard, to show that kidnapping cannot be tolerated the state governors should please sign the death warrant for kidnappers sentenced to death. We need to send a strong message that criminals cannot rule us at will.

Education Key To Building Prosperous, Sustainable Society - Zamfara Governor

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Governor, Dauda Lawal of Zamfara State, has said that education should be given top priority in building a prosperous and sustainable society.

A statement issued by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Suleiman Bala Idris, said he expressed this while briefing journalists during the 43rd Convocation of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

He said the university has made significant philanthropic contributions to the society, revealing that Governor Lawal is an alumnus of Ahmadu Bello University.

According to him, Zamfara State governor has contributed to various learning institutions within and outside the state due to his passion for education development.

Governor Dauda Lawal attended the 43rd convocation ceremony of his alma mater, Ahmadu Bello University

Zaria.

“Since his days in the banking sector, he has been passionate about education development and has always considered giving back to society.

The governor has constructed a three-story building comprising lecture halls and offices, he also donated a new Coaster bus to the Department of Political Science, where he graduated.”

The governor declared a state of emergency on education in Zamfara State last year with the aim of boosting the education in the state.

In line with the administration's concern to boost education, he has commenced the construction and renovation of 245 schools across the 14 local government areas of provision of two-seater desks for pupils and students, totalling 9,542 across schools in the 14 local government areas equipping the constructed and renovated 245 schools with 619 tables and 926 chairs for teachers.

Katsina Govt Requests Support In Registering Persons Affected By Banditry

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, KATSINA.

Katsina State Government has requested State Operation Coordinating Unit (SOCU), National Social Safety-net Program to aid Government in building a comprehensive register for persons in various communities affected by myriads act of banditry in the State.

Senior Special Assistant to Katsina State Governor on Victims of Banditry and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim Danja made the request when he visited Katsina SOCU Office.

He said the office was mandated to assist victims of banditry as well as Internally Displaced Persons who left

their communities by developing and implementing initiatives for immediate needs of the victims.

The information was contained in a statement by SOCU information and Communication Officer, Marwana Abubakar Darma.

Alhaji Sa'idu Danja said the office was operating with Desk Officers at Local Government and hospitals in the State. Responding, the State SOCU Coordinator, Alhaji Kabir Adamu who assured support to build the register, explained the process of building the State Social Register.

He assured to liaise with the Local Government Desk Officers affected to achieve the desired goals.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

CORPORATE OFFICE:
AHMADU BELLO WAY
KADUNA

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

ADVERT RATE

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Special Position			
SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL W RAPA ROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF W RAPA ROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PA GE 2 O R 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PA GE 4 O R 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
B A C K PA GE S T R I P	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	550,000.00	41,250.00	591,250.00
FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

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

FAAN, CBN And The Short Trip To Lagos

By; HASSAN GIMBA

Nigeria is a country of one week, one issue; but insecurity, spreading over the nation like a cancer in a diseased body, remains constant. However, in some ways, a nation's behaviour tends to reflect that of its leader's character.

Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Nigeria's president, is that kind of person, especially during the home run in the last presidential election. One week he was fighting off pretenders to the All Progressives Congress presidential ticket and the next he was fighting for his "health".

Throughout the campaign, he was either fighting the Villa cabal against him or crying foul about policies he believed were meant to stymie his march towards victory. Naira re-designation and fuel scarcity, for instance.

Most times, he sought solace in the ancient town of Abeokuta, founded in 1830 by fleeing settlers. Shodeke, a hunter and leader of the Egba refugees who had fled from the disintegrating Oyo Empire, founded it that year. Abeokuta, from the Yoruba phrase "Abé òkúta", means under the rocks or refuge among the rocks because of the presence of giant rocks, most notable being the Olumo Rock. It signifies the protection the Olumo Rock offered the refugees from potential attacks.

And when he was announced the winner of the election, almost every week came with its freshly poisoned darts aimed at scuttling his march to the dais to take the oath of office.

Among all these, he never wavered from his belief; he constantly reminded all that it was "Emi lo kan," pointing at himself.

And so it was that hardly had the dust raised by the federal government's proposal to relocate the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to Lagos settled than another sandstorm was raised. This is another proposal to relocate some departments of the Central Bank of Nigeria to Lagos. Again.

Now, what is the entire hullabaloo all about?

As mentioned above, it all has to do with the relocation of the headquarters of FAAN and some departments of the CBN to Lagos. And like every relationship in Nigeria between the government and the led, there is mutual suspicion. Again, typical of Nigeria, the suspicion is by those whose side of the country the president is not from. Normally those not from the side where a president comes from always perceive themselves as victims of a president's policy. And this is even

when the policy is for the good of the nation. And conversely, it's good, if the president comes from their side, even if it's not so good for the nation.

This is why those crying and desperately trying to convince people, especially northerners, that they are going to be "short-changed" because of the relocation never saw anything wrong when, instead of upgrading and expanding the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology and the Nigerian Civil Aviation College both in Zaria, billions were wasted by the last government in establishing a Federal University of Transport in Daura, President Buhari's hometown.

But, honestly, all these cat-and-mouse games would never have been had our leaders been seen as sincere by the followership. People now take with a pinch of salt whatever emanates from governments. To solve this, leaders need to embrace all of us without pointing out who is theirs and who is not.

In this instance, sentiments are being whipped up by those alleging, without any proof, that there is a grand design to relocate the capital of the nation back to Lagos.

This caused Bayo Onanuga, one of the president's spokespersons, to allay that suspicion.

"President Tinubu has no plan whatsoever to move the federal capital to Lagos," he said.

He elaborated that "the rumour first surfaced during the campaign last year by opponents looking for all manners of weapons to stop him. We trashed it... Those peddling it anew are dishonest, ethnic and regional champions, trying to draw attention to themselves. Abuja has come to stay. It is backed by law."

Lagos is the commercial capital and the hub of the aviation business in Nigeria. The headquarters of FAAN had always been there, but it was relocated to Abuja by the past aviation minister, Hadi Sirika.

For that of the CBN, the underpinning idea is for some departments concerned with banking supervision, especially those dealing with commercial banks, to move to Lagos. It is worthy of note that all commercial banks, save about three, have their headquarters in Lagos. So, there is some sense in that.

But we all want our economy, for long bastardised, to mend. Can that happen in a vacuum? No! So, which hub will be the best for some industries, especially those to do with the economy, than Lagos? Abuja is more of a civil service/administrative town, while Lagos is a bustling economic hub.

As of today, I would like to give Tinubu



Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

the benefit of the doubt until I become certain that he wants to relocate the capital of Nigeria back to Lagos, recently ranked the 19th best city to visit in the world, according to Time Out, a British media and hospitality company that publishes guides and magazines.

In only six months, Tinubu has fought corruption among his appointees more than Buhari did against his appointees in his first four years. And the economy is more on a bounce after nose-diving from the first day Buhari became president. Even our sports, especially football, a national unifying force is responding positively!

Nigeria's Equity Market has crossed 101,000 points, which is remarkable by any standard, and according to the Financial Derivatives (FDC), with a Return on Investment of 22.90%, Nigeria's Stock Exchange is now the most profitable capital market in the world! Our market index (All-Share Index) increased by 2,954.14 basis points and total market capitalisation also grew by 3%, closing at ₦55.58 trillion, according to the Nigeria

Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

I am now somehow satisfied with some aspects of his governance, which I believe is what we should all focus on, for the sake of Nigeria. When all is said and done, and the chips are down, even if the capital will be taken to Abeokuta, as long as Nigeria will mend and become the nation our founding fathers envisioned it to be, I will be on board.

What is most important is for everything to be located where it will work for the benefit of the nation.

Therefore, to me, at this material time in our nation's life, when we are at a critical juncture in our nation's survival, the location of offices pales when the government is trying to fight corruption, refitting our economy and tackling insecurity so that we all can once again sleep with both eyes closed.

That, to me, is all that matters. After all, in this age of the internet, it is just a short trek to Lagos, from anywhere, to be done in the blink of an eye.

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

Governors Forum Urges Unity, Decisive Action, Effective Governance To Tackle Northern Nigeria's Challenges

*Says Northern Governors will come up with Strategic Roadmap To Address Root Causes of Under-development

*Leaders reflect on Sir Ahmadu Bello's ideals with commitment to regional development

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Northern States Governors' Forum and Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON says northern leaders must walk the talk if they truly want to address the common issues confronting the region and bring it back to the forefront as envisioned by the late Premier of Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu Bello.

The Governor who stated this during the annual Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Lecture held in Maiduguri, Borno State, emphasized the need to revisit the principles of the Sardauna era, address the disconnect between the government and the people, and seek practical solutions to the challenges faced by Northern Nigeria decisively with unity, determination, and effective governance.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said that while outlining the Northern Governors' strategic roadmap for addressing the root causes of underdevelopment in the region, Inuwa Yahaya emphasized the role of good governance as a potent antidote to security challenges.

"Under my leadership, and with the

support of my colleagues, the Northern States Governors Forum is coming up with a strategic roadmap towards addressing the root causes of under-development in our region. We believe that only through good governance, unity, and a shared commitment to progress, that we can overcome the security challenges affecting us".

The Governor stressed the importance of prioritizing citizens' well-being through access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, underlining the principles of equity, fairness, justice, and inclusivity.

Reflecting on Sir Ahmadu Bello's legacy, Governor Inuwa Yahaya posed a critical question to the leaders of northern Nigeria: What would Sir Ahmadu Bello have done in response to the current security challenges? He asserted that the late statesman would have responded decisively with unity, determination, and effective governance.

"As leaders of northern Nigeria, we must ask ourselves what would Sir Ahmadu Bello have done if he were alive? How would he have responded to the current security challenges bedevilling northern Nigeria? I would say, without any fear of doubt, that the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, like the true statesman that he was, would have

responded decisively with a sense of unity, determination, and effective governance".

He stressed the importance of drawing inspiration from the Sardauna era in addressing contemporary challenges, particularly the prevalent insecurity, including cattle rustling, kidnapping, and banditry.

The Governor advocated for collaborative efforts across state lines, encouraging partnerships, intelligence sharing, and resource collaboration to combat criminal elements threatening peace and stability.

Acknowledging the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation's role in preserving the late premier's legacies, Governor Inuwa Yahaya expressed commitment to supporting and strengthening the foundation.

He urged participants to reflect on the ideals of Sir Ahmadu Bello and recommit themselves to the principles cherished by the founding fathers, expressing the hope that his legacy would continue to inspire the building of a northern region and Nigeria that reflects the dreams of the nation's founders.

While presenting his remarks, Muazu Babangida Aliyu, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation, praised

Governor Inuwa Yahaya for his leadership in Gombe and encouraged him to lead a peer review among his colleagues to learn from his visionary approach.

The former Niger State Governor expressed admiration for the strides reported in Gombe, as frequently highlighted in the media, urging other Northern leaders to borrow a leaf from the NSGF Chairman.

The Vice President of Nigeria, Sen. Kashim Shettima, was represented by the Special Adviser to the President Dr. Hakeem Baba Ahmed.

The guest lecturer, Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Prof. Tijjani Bande, emphasized the values of planning, team building, and addressing challenges. His lecture focused on rebuilding trust, peace-building, provision of quality education, modernizing agriculture, poverty eradication, infrastructure development, rebuilding the civil service, and creating media for public enlightenment.

Other speakers, including the host Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, emphasized the suitability and timeliness of the theme: Creating Pathways for Peace: Tackling Banditry and Insecurity through Good Governance and Sustainable Development in Nigeria.



Education Advocate Expert, Caleb Danladi Outlines Change Vision

**Say's vision outlined will lead to tangible change, ensuring that no child is left behind in pursuit of education*

By; ACHADU GABRIEL, Kaduna

Recognizing the pressing issue of out-of-school children crisis worldwide, a renowned education advocate, Caleb Danladi has put forward visionary plans to address the menace.

In a statement in Kaduna yesterday, Mr Danladi believes that with focus on collaboration and sustainable solutions, the proposed steps aimed at bringing millions of children back into the educational fold is achievable.

His words: "In response to the alarming numbers of out-of-school children globally, Caleb Danladi, founder of Caleb Danladi Foundation, advocates for a strategic and holistic approach.

Also at a recent press conference, Caleb Danladi outlined key steps necessary to reverse the trend and ensure that every child has access to quality education.

Mr. Danladi emphasized the need to identify and understand the root causes of children being out of school. "These may include financial barriers, cultural factors, conflicts, or inadequate infrastructure.

He said, "By pinpointing these causes, tailored solutions can be developed to address the specific challenges in each region.

"Local communities play a crucial role in the success of any educational initiative", Danladi stressed, while highlighting the importance of engaging communities to gain insight into their unique challenges and perspectives.

"By involving community members in decision-making processes, initiatives are more likely to be culturally sensitive and sustainable.

"Governments and policymakers are urged to enact inclusive policies that address the diverse needs of children. This includes providing

financial assistance to families in need, creating safe and accessible learning environments, and implementing flexible education models that accommodate different circumstances", he said.

Danladi therefore, called for increased collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international bodies to pool resources and expertise.

"By working together, these entities can create synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the impact of interventions", it noted.

In an era of technological advancements, Danladi highlighted the potentials of leveraging on technology to provide inclusive learning opportunities.

This, he said, could involve online education platforms, mobile learning applications, and other innovative solutions that bridge the gap for children in remote or underserved areas.

"Caleb Danladi's proposed steps have gained attention from education advocates, policymakers, and international organizations.

"Discussions are underway to integrate these strategic measures into national and global education agendas, with the aim of creating a comprehensive and sustainable framework to tackle the out-of-school children crisis.

"As the global community rallies behind these transformative steps, there is hope that the vision outlined by Caleb Danladi will lead to tangible change, ensuring that no child is left behind in the pursuit of education.

"The collective efforts to address the out-of-school children crisis represent a significant stride towards building a more inclusive and equitable future for generations to come and above all to ensure crime free society", he pointed out.



From Left: Secretary, Photojournalists Association of Nigeria (PJAN), Lagos State Chapter, Kazeem Bakenne; PJAN life Patron/former Governor of Ogun State, Aremo Olusegun Osoba and PJAN Chairman, Princess Alaba Igaroola, during a courtesy visit to Aremo Osoba in his Bourdillon Residence in Lagos. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

VP Upstream NNPCL: Arewa Group Says Those Calling For Mrs Eyesan's Removal Are Sponsored Blackmailers

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A group, the Arewa Youth Alliance for Progress and Development (AYAPD) has said that those bent on sponsoring campaign of calumny against appointment of Mrs Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, as Executive Vice President (Upstream) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), have failed.

This was expressed in at a press briefing, with the text, jointly signed by AYAPD President, Amb Umaru Bala Babayaro and Secretary, Comr. James Ishaku, made available to our correspondent in Kaduna yesterday.

"The so-called idle, groundless and unwarranted gimmicks are sponsored by irreconcilable enemies of the success recorded so far within the petrochemical industry in the country. We make bold to say that their plans failed on arrival," the group said.

The group therefore, hailed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, saying he made the right decision by appointing her.

According to the text of the briefing, the group said, "The attention of Arewa Youth Alliance for Progress and Development (AYAPD) has been drawn to certain unfounded and spurious calls by invisible groups operating under the aegis of Niger Delta Forum For Truth And Justice, (NDFTJ) calling for the sack of a hardworking alpha woman, the Executive Vice President (Upstream) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited, (NNPCL), Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan.

"Without much thoughts it is obvious that these calls are maliciously laced with intentions to defame, the impeccable mettle of this hard working Nigerian who was only recently appointed. They saw no other allegation to drive their inconsequential point, but

the Pipeline surveillance contract which we are aware was awarded many months ago before her assumption of office." They described the actions of those they described as "sponsored blackmailers" as not only a sham but a claptrap, bogus, cheap blackmail and unsubstantiated allegations.

"The aforementioned unreliable, baseless, delusional, unpatriotic, democratic ants, ethnic bigots who fuel this false show of shame, misusing the privilege of "freedom of expression," have failed. And will continue to labour in vain. The President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's government is that of national unity, working hard to use our diversity for our advantage.

"We won't regret to tag this show of shame and commercial stage-out, envious move and unpatriotic efforts as undemocratic attempt to deny Nigeria the peace in the oil region and increase in Nigeria crude production, especially the relative peace enjoy by our brothers in the Niger Delta Region, who have experienced oil spill as a result of pipeline deterioration.

"We as Arewa Youths are happy to say that in just few months in office, we have observed that the competence, intellectual capacity, courage of Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan are enormous.

"Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa has shown enormous propensity to national economy recovery plan with clarity of vision and certainty of purpose.

"Her actions have shown that she is Pan-Nigerian, a lover of our nascent democracy, and her character is an embodiment of rule of law.

"We wish to put it on record as it is general knowledge that Pipeline Infrastructure Nigeria Limited, PINL, was awarded a Surveillance contract through a rigorous due process under an Ijaw man from the Niger Delta region,

who happens to be the immediate past Executive Vice President Upstream NNPCL, Engr. Adokiye Tombomiyee, after meeting all criteria set out for the award of the job at the same time other companies like Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, were awarded theirs.

"We have confidence that the Federal Government headed by a born tactician, President Bola Ahmad Tinubu, will not capitulate to this greedy, flunk script, selfish and uncoordinated show of shame. Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan appointment as Executive Vice President Upstream is cement with holistic track record and her remarkable trajectory in public service," they pointed out.

They stressed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu made a right choice with appointment of Mrs Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, adding that one of her distinguished features include being self-confident, productive, optimistic, a go-getter, a fear-tackler, transparency, advocate for due process, unafraid to stand up for what she believes in, proud, unbothered by what others say or think, and undistracted in serving the best interest of Nigeria.

"We urge those who are masquerading, claiming to stand for Truth and Justice to engage in meaningful business or employ their youthfulness to prepare for rigorous process that led to the award of Surveillance Contract to Pipeline Infrastructure Nigeria Limited since they believe they have what it takes to get the contract, instead of engaging in ethnic-base blackmail.

"The Bad news for these politically misplaced instruments of anarchy is that we trust that the President of Nigeria will not succumb to their mischief.

Zulum Commissions Projects By Maiduguri Metropolitan Council

By ; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, on Friday, commissioned two projects executed by Maiduguri Metropolitan Local Council.

The projects include a 20-bed capacity maternity clinic and a computer center to enhance digital literacy.

The digital center, named after Governor Zulum, was equipped with 100 sets of computers to train youth in 13 different trades.

The trades include a Certificate in Computer Application, a Diploma in Computer Application, a Diploma in Computer Programming, a Diploma in Computer Networking, a Diploma in Computer Engineering, a Diploma in Webpage Design and Development, a Diploma in Database Management System, a Certificate in Internet Application, a Certificate in AutoCAD Application, Graphic and Multimedia Design, Database Management System Development, Software Development, and Mobile Application Development.

Speaking after commissioning the projects, Zulum commended the MMC council Chairman, Ali Bolori, for the different projects during his tenure.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Borno State commissioner for health, Professor Baba Mallam Gana, noted that while Maiduguri Metropolis executed the construction work, the State Ministry of Health provided the clinic with necessary medical facilities.

Zulum was accompanied by the Governor of Gombe, Mohammed Inuwa Yahaya, the Deputy Governor of Borno, Umar Usman Kadafur, Member of the House of Representatives, Engr Bukar Talba and other senior government officials.



SWAN Congratulates Amusan, Foresees Improved Olympics Outing For Nigeria

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has expressed delight with the record breaking feat of Sprint sensation Tobi Amusan who on Saturday January 27 opened 2024 season on high at the World Indoor Tour in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Amusan dazzled spectators with a 7.77secs in the 60m hurdles in the event's final where she beat African record set by Gloria Alozie 25 years ago.

SWAN President, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, while reacting in a statement issued by the Association's Secretary-General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, said her victory early in the year

has ignited hope of foreseeable better Olympic Games outing for Nigeria later in the year at Paris, France.

"Amusan is no doubt one of Nigeria's shining lights in recent times. The victory she has recorded so early in the year will certainly boost her morale ahead of other competitions in 2024.

"Ofcourse, this year is full of many sporting events - from African Games to Olympic Games, World Championship and others. So, Amusan is good to go," he said.

The Nigeria's number one Sports Writer also used the opportunity to highlight the need for all stakeholders to join hands and ensure early preparations to the various international competitions where athletes will be

expected to do the country proud.

He said, "I sincerely appeal that Amusan's victory should ignite the timely plan and execution of Nigeria's participation at the lined up sporting events, particularly the African Games and Olympics.

"Under the current leadership of Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, who has so far shown commitment in administering the sector, it is our expectation that Nigeria will surpass previous performance." While African Games takes place in Ghana, March 8 to 23, Olympic Games is scheduled for between July 26 to August 11, 2024 in Paris, France.



Katsina United Chairman Eyes NPFL Title, Continental Ticket

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Chairman of Katsina United Football Club, Alhaji Kabir Danlami has said that the target of his team is not to only pick a continental ticket, but to win the Nigeria Premier League title.

Speaking to journalists, Alh Kabir Dalanmi said going into the second round, his team will ensure they pick points away and keep 100 per cent home record.

"We will ensure we pick more points away and keep and one hundred per cent home record. We want to win the title and not just to get a continental ticket," he said.

He added that the new found form of Katsina United towards the end of the first round of the NPFL was because the management focused on the welfare of the players and coaches to motivate them.

In another development, the GM of the team, Alh Gadaffi Mohammed has said that clubs are not always patient for developmental process which is part of the problem facing the league which as seen players and coaches moving often.

"When government puts pressure on management, management will also put pressure on coaches, this does not give room for developmental process".

He gave exception to Remo Stars, whom he said, is owned by someone he respects so much in the person of Kunle Soname.

"You can see Remo doing so well on the table, a private club owned by Kunle Soname, I am a fan of Kunle Soname, he has a developmental programme for his team and they are doing well in the league, that is because it is a privately owned team," he said.

He praised the officiating in the league this season.

"So far, officiating has been good and we hope it will get better," he declared.

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 254

Monday 29th January, 2024

Rajab 17, 1445 AH

Defection: Nobody Can Stop Me From Contesting In 2027 - Kwankwaso

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Amidst the rumour of his defection from the opposition New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP), the former Governor of Kano State, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso has declared that he will run for the coveted office of the president in 2027.

Kwankwaso said that Nigerians are dissatisfied with the way and manner President Bola Tinubu is running the affairs of the country, decrying the escalating poverty level in Nigeria since his assumption of office on May 29, 2023.

An impeccable source close to the former presidential candidate, told newsmen at the weekend that the former Kano State Governor made the revelation during a meeting of his close allies after a meeting with President Tinubu recently. The source said



Rabiu Kwankwaso

Kwankwaso told them about the invitation extended to him to join the All Progressives Congress (APC), by the President. The source, a prominent North-West politician, who pleaded anonymity, further told newsmen that at the meeting,

Kwankwaso revealed that even if he eventually joined the APC, he would still contest for the presidency, noting that with the dwindling popularity of the President, he believes strongly that he could pick the party's presidential

ticket in 2027.

According to him, Kwankwaso's surreptitious move was buoyed by some policies being implemented by the Tinubu administration which are seen to be 'anti-Northern Nigeria'.

The source said: "We had a meeting with our leader after the meeting with President Tinubu.

"He sought our opinion on the invitation to join APC many of us were against the idea. But he took time to explain to us the benefits of joining the ruling party.

"But one interesting thing during the meeting that we cherished most, was when he told us it's an opportunity for him to be President in 2027.

"He told us in clear terms he would run for the office of the President. He gave us so many reasons why he thinks he stands a chance in 2027 which I won't disclose."

Obasanjo To Gov Adeleke: You Are Doing Very Well, Don't Derail As People's Governor

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo at the weekend, declared that Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State is performing very well in office.

Chief Obasanjo said this, while speaking at the conferment of the title of Baba Oba of Joga-Orile on Governor Adeleke on Friday evening by Oba Adeyemi Adekeye who is also celebrating his birthday.

According to the former President, Gov Adeleke should not derail as a people's governor by keeping up with his commendable performance.

Chief Obasanjo who emphasized that almighty God has guided Senator

Adeleke to be performing very well prayed that God will not forsake him.

"You are doing well with God's grace. You must continue on that path. The good Lord who is guiding and directing you will not forsake you", he said.

The former president lauded Gov Adeleke for his respect for elders, saying, the governor explained that he won't go for the event unless he (Obasanjo) blessed the occasion.

Governor Dapo Abiodun while speaking at the event, said the conferment of the title on Governor Adeleke is a celebration of the good memories of the late Isiaka Adeleke, saying, "we are for families, not politics.

The Ogun State Governor who stressed that the

chieftaincy title brought golden memory of the first executive Governor of Osun State, Senator Isiaka Adeleke noted that the event was his first public function at Yewa since he won at the Supreme Court.

Oba Adekeye disclosed that the first holder of the title was late Governor Isiaka Adeleke, saying, "after the transition of the Gov, we deemed it right and proper to bestow the honour on my brother, Governor Ademola Adeleke.

"God who took away my brother, Isiaka is the one who returned the Governorship to the Adelekes through my brother, the new Baba Oba. You will live long with grace, mercy and divine shield", the royal father prayed.

Governor Ademola Adeleke

while responding to the new title declared that dedicated that the occasion was "a celebration of life" and a worthy remembrance of his brother, Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke.

While thanking Oba Adekeye for returning the title to the Adeleke family and keep the flag flying expressed his appreciation to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Governor Dapo Abiodun and his team; Chief (Mrs) Yeyeluwa Dupe Adeleke Sanni; the state Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi; the House Speaker, Hon Adewale Egbedun; the Secretary to the State Government, Hon Teslim Igbalaye; Chief of Staff, Hon Kazeem Akinleye; publisher of Ovation Magazine, Chief Dele Momodu; members of

SWAN Congratulates Amusan, Foresees Improved Olympics Outing For Nigeria

Story on Page 23

SCKLA Tasks Southern Kaduna Communities To Embrace Peace

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Christian Leaders Association (SCKLA), has called on communities in the area to embrace peace by breaking away from the past of strife and crisis.

According to the association, the time has come for communities in the area to seek friendship as well as rebuild their ravaged homes.

Speaking during the 22nd edition of the annual Southern Kaduna Prayer Summit convened by the group in Kafanchan at the weekend, the chairman of the group, Apostle Emmanuel Kure said, "Leaving the past behind and embracing the future with hope had become necessary to allow the people to rebuild their land and move forward."

He believes that it is no time to begin to look for faults, saying that they want to see the Muslims and other tribes that are settled in the area as partners in progress, adding that it is time to move forward and part of the reason for moving forward is that they need to start rebuilding their institutions and creating new ones.

He explained that the governor was already setting the pace for them by setting up skills acquisition centre to move them away from the past.

The chairman commended the Nigerian Army for its peace-building efforts in Southern Kaduna and called on them to do more to guarantee a more

secured society.

He stressed that the annual event is convened to pray for Southern Kaduna and all her people all over the world.

The National President of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, Rev. Israel Akanji, in his remarks stated that it was encouraging to see stakeholders and communities in the area coming together to pray over their land.

He believed that 2024 would see a turnaround and progression in Southern Kaduna and the lives of its people, while calling on the people to work together towards achieving God's purpose for the zone.

Governor Uba Sani, represented by Mrs Phoebe Yayi, Commissioner and Administrator of Kafanchan Municipal Authority, reiterated the need for communities in the area to live in peace as there could be no development without peace.

The governor appealed to religious leaders to continue to preach peace, unity and obedience to constituted authority.

He maintained that his administration remained committed to creating an inclusive society where all citizens, regardless of their ethnic and religious backgrounds, can thrive and prosper.

The prayer summit which had the theme: "Arise and Move Forward", featured song ministration and prayers for Southern Kaduna, the state and the nation at large.