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Kidnappings, Terrorism Threatening To Over-run Nigeria, Afenifere Warns

■ Says steps to combat it within ambit of stakeholders

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

The Yoruba socio-cultural and political organization, Afenifere yesterday, alerted that kidnaping and terrorism are now threatening to over-run the country. Raising the alarm in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi, Afenifere quickly declared that the steps to take for combating the kidnaping and terrorism threatening to over-run the country are within the ambit of the stakeholders "if they are sincerely ready to stop the deadly menace".

Afenifere stressed that the stakeholders have what it takes to put an end to "or at least drastically reduce the incidence of terrorism in

our midst if they are truly committed to doing so", adding, the said stakeholders are the government, security agencies and the people. Stressing that an adjunct to the list is network providers in the communication industry, Afenifere said, "To remedy this, it is incumbent on the government to buckle up. Parts of the way of doing this is to be more decisive in dealing with those apprehended as having hands in banditry. " Afenifere is again, calling on President Ahmed Bola Tinubu to urgently send out emissaries to conduct soul-searching meetings with stakeholders in respective areas across the country with a view to coming up with mutually

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Governor Uba Sani at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium in commemoration of the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day yesterday

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**Tinubu Committed To Ending
Banditry, Terrorism - Uba Sani**

Ododo Will Commence Massive Development Of Kogi - UPPP Leader

*Says incoming governor should include UPPP in governance

By MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

Mallam Bala Abdulghafar Dirisu, the Chairman of United Peoples Progressive Parties (UPPP), a grand coalition of parties that supported Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, the Kogi State Governor-Elect in the November 2023 Election, has assured the people of the state, that the incoming governor's performances would bring economic development, generate employment opportunities, rural development and foster unity among the people of the state.

Mallam Bala Abdulghafar Dirisu disclosed this in an interactive chat with the media at his country home in Lokoja on Monday January 15, 2024.

Mallam Bala Dirisu explained that based on his track records as the Auditor General for Local Government and his manifesto, it is certain that Kogites have got who they have been praying to Almighty God for.

"I can assure you that Kogi people have gotten the man they prayed to Almighty Allah for.

"Going by his blueprint and manifesto, the Governor-Elect will turn the state into a massive development site, where rural communities would be transformed, urban centres would get



more development, women and youth would be incorporated into the mainstream and massive employment opportunities would abound," he said.

The chairman of the UPPP, who said he wanted to be the first among the rest to congratulate His Excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo who would be sworn in as governor on January 27, 2024, reminded the governor of the need to carry all Kogites along, irrespective of their political, tribal and religious inclinations.

"Like I said, it is all about the Kogi agenda and not an individual or sectional agenda.

"Our appeal to the Governor-Elect, His excellency, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo is that he

should reach out to all people in the state and make sure everyone is carried along in line with his promise to run an all inclusive government.

"Development must reach Kogi East, Kogi West and Kogi Central and he should run an all inclusive government," he advised. Mallam Dirisu also assured the incoming governor of the unalloyed support of the grand coalition that worked tirelessly for the victory of his party at the polls.

He urged the governor to include members of the UPPP in the running of the affairs of the state.

"While congratulating our incoming Governor, I wish to assure him that the UPPP stands ready to make sure that the Governor Elect succeeds in moving the

state forward.

"To this end, I urge the incoming governor to ensure that members of the UPPP who stood by him, worked for him and supported him be drafted into the government of the incoming administration, so that the good people of the state would benefit from their wealth of experience," he added.

He also commended His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello for doing a good job in his eight years. "UPPP wishes to thank His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello for providing the leadership for Kogi when it was needed the most.

"History and Kogites would remember Governor Yahaya Bello with fondness," he declared.

Oyo Govt Sues For Calm As Late Night Explosion Rocks Ibadan

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Residents of Ibadan the Oyo state capital were yesterday, thrown into confusion with a loud explosion that rocked Bodija axis of the town. The explosion sound rocked the town at about 8pm, affecting mostly Bodija and its adjoining areas of Sango, Mokola, UCH, Agodi Secretariat among others.

In most parts of Ibadan, residents were forced out of their homes with the sound of the explosion, which smashed louvres and other things in some houses.

The number of casualties from the areas including buildings affected by the explosion is yet to be ascertained as at the time of sending this report. Already, Oyo State Government has asked residents in Ibadan to remain calm as an "uncommon explosion" rocked the city at about 8pm this evening.

The state government in a

statement by the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Prince Dotun Oyelade, said it has taken over and in the full control of the unfortunate occurrence in order to mitigate the incident.

"Residents of Ibadan and immediate environs experienced an uncommon explosion about 8pm this evening. There are various interpretations of the incident, but it is important for us to state categorically that the state government has taken over and in the full control of the unfortunate occurrence in order to mitigate the incident", he said.

The Commissioner added, "All security service Chiefs including Para military chiefs and Fire Operatives have been deployed by the governor to reign in the spillover from the explosion.

"His Excellency Governor Seyi Makinde therefore, implores citizens to calm down and be rest assured that their interests are being looked after".

National Register: CUPP Condemns Tinubu's Approval Of N3bn For Humanitarian Affairs

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Coalition United Political Parties (CUPP), has expressed dismay over the approval by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu through the Chief of Staff, Femi Gbajabamila, to the suspended Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Betta Edu to expend the sum of N3,000,000,000 (three billion naira) to verify the national register of the poor.

The coalition of political parties condemned mindless attack on the collective purse in the name of verification of the national register.

The National Secretary CUPP, High Chief Peter Ameh, in a statement yesterday, noted, "This reckless and mindless spending on verification of national register reflects a lack of fiscal discipline and responsibility that has become a hallmark of President Tinubu's government who in the guise of helping the poor, keeps elevating cronyism as an art, which we ignorantly thought had gone with President Buhari's administration."

CUPP believes, according to the statement that a prudent approach could have achieved the same goal with less of the tax money through the

acquisition of the same national register from the thirty-six states of the federation and FCT.

The statement observed that the rural areas are predominantly domiciled and is pained that the elementary form of conservation of public funds on what it called "was wilfully neglected on the alter of cronyism", raising CUPP's concern and that of majority of Nigerians about the financial stewardship and the efficient allocation of the scarce resources by the government to projects that will truly be beneficial to the masses.

"It is CUPP's belief that

this mindless spending through cronies such as New Planet Projects Limited, a company controlled by the family of Dr. Bunmi Tunji Ojo, the Minister of Interior undermines whatever little confidence Nigerians may have had in the present government, and therefore brings to the fore the urgent need for more rigorous budgetary oversights by the National Assembly, which has from day one begun to exhibit all the symptoms of a rubber stamp parliament that abdicates its oversight functions when most needed," the statement explained.



An office complex affected

CDS in Delta, Lauds Tompolo's Firm, Others

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Major General Christopher Musa has lauded the private security firm owned by ex-militant leader, Government Ekoemupolo also known as Tompolo. Tantita Security Services Limited and other security agencies for combating oil theft in collaborative efforts with other security agencies yielding good results in the Niger Delta.

The CDS together with top officials of Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC and top military brass commended the private security firm for working with other security agencies owned by the federal government.

Major General Christopher Musa gave the commendation on behalf of the President, while inspecting the impounded vessel (MT. Kali) by Tantita and other security agencies at Oporoza, Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State.

The CDS flanked by top officials of Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC and top military brass, vowed to deal ruthlessly with oil thieves and their sponsors.

While stressing that the arrested vessel will be destroyed in line with standard practice to serve as deterrent to others.

According to Major General Musa, "We're here based on the report of the arrest of this ship, and I think it's a major achievement. It shows that we're committed in ensuring that we stop this criminality within the maritime environment.

This is a collaborative effort and it will continue to collaborate with the NNPC, the others, private security agencies, the main federal government agencies are also working together. I don't want a situation where we create as if there's enmity between this group and that group. There is no immutability loss.

Major General Musa further

stressed that, "We're working for the same team, we're all Nigerians, this is our country. Whatever is happening here is acts of criminality that must be stopped by all means.

"So, I want to make that very clear that all Nigerians must put hands on deck to ensure that we stop these acts. The country is bleeding. We need all the funds, we need it so that this country can grow and develop and it just by stopping these criminals like this, that will make that very possible.

"While we're here, is to come and see to identify, the chief of Defense Intelligence is going to go straight into investigation as to who is involved, what was taken, who sent them, and this to the base because we want to not only catch the perpetrators.

"This ones are just the ground troops that are being used, the main actors are there behind, and I want to use this opportunity to warn all those that don't want to stop this. That enough is enough.

"The Armed Forces, the security agencies, the communities, private security agencies, wherever they are, they are contacted, as long as they're contacted by the federal government, we're going to work together as a team. There's not going to be any competition between us, and please, the media stop making it look as if there's a fight, there is no fight.

"Whatever arrest has been done, is done collaboratively, and we're going to continue to do that. And so that is very important.

"We're happy this has been arrested. We're going to take it off from here, and we're going to do more, because, henceforth, we're going to enhance our collaboration and our jointness in ensuring that we check these menace.

"Nigeria must grow, and individuals can not hold us ransom. There are very few individuals who are making profit from this. And they don't want to stop because I would

have expected that by now, from all the actions have been taken to distract people from doing it. But you can see that people are still hell-bent in common to steal our crude for their own selfish gifts and gains, that must stop.

"So, I want to thank you for this opportunity that we're here. And to make it very clear that we are all working together as a team.

"We will enhance this capacity, and this year, we will ensure that Nigeria oil production goes up, as much as possible, so that we can all benefit as Nigerians.

"The crude inside the vessel will going to be treated as the standard operating procedure, including the ship.

"I know those ships that are very new will not want to be used to commit this crime. They want to go look for those ones that are almost dead. So that if they succeed, they have gained and if they lose it, they don't lose anything. This will follow the standard operating procedure. "Major General Christopher Musa added.

Lagos Police Boss Fayoadé Tasks DPOs, Others On Respect, Humility

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Officers and men serving in the Lagos State Police Command, especially Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) have been charged to treat members of the public with respect and humility.

The Commissioner of Police Lagos State Police Command CP Adegoke Fayoadé, who gave the charge, said he is determined not to tolerate wrong doings on the part of officers and men of the command.

Speaking in an interactive session with members of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN), CP posited that is determined to correct the negative impression of Police not friend of the people.

Fayoadé said he is prepared to ensure a situation where Nigerians see the Police Stations as theirs and go to lodge complain without being subjected to any rigour or conditions.

While assuring of a transparent and open door policy, the Police Commissioner called for constructive criticism, saying it would help to improve the system.

His words, "Please, if you see me doing wrong things, my DPOs or any of my officers, please don't hesitate to call my attention. Am not here to support any wrong doing.

"I want the police to be a place anybody can walk into and lodge their complaint without being

subjected to any rigour. Am also here to make sure that policemen and officers provide the best of services, attend to members of the public with respect and humility, follow up cases with complainants, suspects and investigation to ensure that everything is done in a professional manner.

"Am also here to ensure that reports and complaints are well received and properly investigated.

"If you notice we are not doing things the right way, don't hesitate to call upon me. We're all humans and as an organization, we can not be perfect all the time. Mistakes will come, but once our attention is drawn to it, we will make corrections and I think it is good for us and it will even help us to improve our performance.

"Support, constructive criticism is all I expect from you because if you don't do that, we will not improve. We want to improve, we're determined to correct the negative impression that police is not friendly. We want Nigerians to see police stations as their own, where they can go and make complains without any condition."

Speaking further, Fayoadé assured residents that one of his major agenda is to fight cultism, traffic robbery and kidnapping among other prominent cases in the state.

He noted that the Command will ensure that the economy activities and standard of living is improved in Lagos State

because a crime free environment will make the state buoyant.

In a bid to curb cultism in the state, Fayoadé disclosed that three notorious gang members were arrested in Ikorodu with arms, ammunition, pump action among others recovered from them.

He added that the suspects will soon be paraded. "We are fighting cultism, one of my major agenda in Lagos is to fight cultism, traffic robbery and kidnapping; these are the prominent cases we have in the state.

"We are partnering with the judiciary so that any of them arrested will be taken off the society for long so that others can learn."

He added that the Command Complaint Response Unit. (CRU) will be more empowered and strengthened to take more complaints because he know that there will be more complaints this season."

"The enforcement of Okada will be more aggressive this time because most crime are committed with Okada.

On the issue of land grabber, Police does not have anything to do with investigating land matter, we only act as peace makers so as to avoid loss of lives. I will talk to my officers on this and we will ensure that we distance ourselves with land grabbers because we don't have any business with it.

"We are working very hard to eliminate cultism in the state and

I realize that the capacity of Divisional headquarter in charge is not enough, so I have created a tactical unit where more than fifty members have been deployed into the fight against cultism. They have taken off already and I know that they will get rid of cultism very soon. We are also looking at Ikorodu where we are already making progress. Recently, the No. 1, 2, 3 leaders of the cult groups have been arrested. I will ensure that cultism becomes a thing of the past in Lagos.

The Police boss also said his administration will be transparent while assuring that he will not support any wrongdoings even on the part of his officers. "I am here to sanitize the police, I want everyone to be able to come into any police station to lay complain.

"Criticism will help to improve our performance as we are determined to be public friendly and we want Nigerians to see the Police Station as their home."

"We want to ensure that crime is reduced to the barest minimum, so that Lagosians can go on with



Lagos CP

their normal business," he stated. President of Crime Reporters Association (CRAN), Mr Lekan Olabulo in his speech, welcome the CP formally to Lagos. He noted that the Association have good relationship with the Command. He assured him of the association's support.

He urged that the information that journalists need updates on what the command is doing so as to portray what it's doing so as to keep the public informed.

Vice President of the association, Mrs Evelyn Usman said the only way Lagosians will get to know what is happening is when the command put out the right information out.

Kidnappings, Terrorism Threatening To Over-run Nigeria, Afenifere Warns

■ Says steps to combat it within ambit of stakeholders

agreed solutions to the menace of insecurity in the areas concerned.", It said.

Afenifere added, "Criminal acts peculiar to the given area be identified. And appropriate mechanisms for dealing with same must be devised and implemented. Serious sanctions for infractors or violators be agreed upon and applied accordingly without fear or favour".

Charging President Tinubu, "to give a Presidential Order empowering states and local government areas that are willing to set up local police services", Afenifere said "such local police outfit must have necessary wherewithal to operate as Police.

"We start from the seemingly

weakest yet very significant sector, the telecommunication", adding, "a few years ago, when Nigerians were stampeded to register for the National Identification Number, Bank Verification Number as well as registering their telephone numbers and matching some of these numbers".

Afenifere noted, "The argument put up was that doing so would make it easier for criminals to be nabbed by security agencies. Years down the line, years after the registrations have taken place and years after virtually every person using or owning telephone number(s) are in the database accessible to the government, criminality and terrorism are not only still with us, they are also festering with

unprecedented ferocity!

"Failure to use tracking method to nab criminals, especially those using telephone sets to communicate, is a serious indictment on those who were supposed to include such in their intelligence gathering and criminal fighting strategies".

Afenifere pointed out that, "It is on record that police do use 'tracking' to trace culprits when a high-ranking personality is the victim whose high-valued phone etc. were stolen. Why the same police, the Department of State Services (DSS) and the military (Army) have not effectively utilized this important technology in fighting criminality is confounding.

"Yet, there is no record so far that any telecommunication

company that owns the telephone line used by suspected criminals failed to co-operate with security operatives in this respect."

It emphasized that to make this permanent, mechanisms must also be put in place for restructuring the country such that constituents would be better positioned to take their fates in their own hands – in line with what we used to have before the military truncated the regional arrangement in 1966.

"Some victims of kidnapping have narrated that there is usually an insider or insiders in how they were kidnapped. In other words, there are collaborators. This is why Afenifere, as stated in our public statement last week, is repeating

that leaders in given areas need to consult among themselves and be blunt with one another - as well as with their youths.

"As is often said, without local collaborators, it would be difficult for marauders from outside to successfully carry out their obnoxious mission and go scot-free! Some victims of killings and arsons in Plateau State last Christmas eve stated that they severally sent distress calls to the security agencies, especially the military, when their areas were taken over by terrorists without any helps coming when expected. That the terrorists were able to operate for so long a time and in areas covering three local government geographically was an indictment".

SERAP Urges National Assembly To Reduce Budget Of N344.85bn

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, have been urged by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), to promptly reduce the National Assembly budget of N344.85 billion, to reflect the current economic realities in the country. In a letter dated January 13, 2024, and signed by SERAP deputy director Kolawole Oluwadare, the organisation urged them to request President Bola Tinubu to present a fresh supplementary appropriation bill that would reflect the reduced National Assembly budget for the approval of the National Assembly.

SERAP also urged the National Assembly to promptly publish its budget of N344.85bn, including the proposed spending details of the N3 billion for the Senate Car Park and N3 billion budgeted for the House of Representatives Car Park, saying that passing appropriation bills that are inconsistent with the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution is a fundamental breach of the constitutional oath of office by the lawmakers.

SERAP alleged that the arbitrary increase by the lawmakers of their own budgetary allocation, if not cut, would have significant fiscal consequences and exacerbate the country's debt

crisis, adding that the unilateral and self-serving increase by the lawmakers of their own allocation also offends the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances and the notion of the rule of law.

The letter reiterated that the increase in the National Assembly budget raised serious questions in the minds of the Nigerian people about how the lawmakers are spending their commonwealth, stating that it ought to be more responsible to the public interest and more responsive to it as the National Assembly has a constitutional responsibility to combat waste and abuse in its own spending if it is to effectively exercise its oversight functions and hold the government to account.

According to the letter, "Transparency and accountability in public administration is an essential element of democracy. Transparency in the spending of the National Assembly budget would give the public a tool to hold the lawmakers accountable. It would also protect Nigerians from any potential abuses of governmental or legislative power that may exist."

It said that Nigerians have a right to scrutinize how their lawmakers spend their tax money and commonwealth, especially given the precarious economic realities in the country and the impact of the removal of fuel subsidy on

vulnerable Nigerians.

Cutting the N344.48 billion National Assembly budget, according to the letter would be entirely consistent with their constitutional oath of office, and the letter and spirit of the Nigerian Constitution, adding that cutting their budget would promote efficient, honest, and legal spending of public money as well serve the public interest and restore public confidence in the National Assembly.

It expressed hope that if the recommended measures are taken within seven days of the receipt and/or publication of the letter or if they do not hear from them by then, SERAP shall take all appropriate legal actions to compel them and the National Assembly to comply with their request in the public interest.

SERAP urged to clarify the details of the N8.5 billion budgeted for National Assembly liabilities and to disclose the nature of any such liabilities and how and why they have been incurred and also clarify why N225 million is budgeted for the National Assembly E-Library and N3 billion is budgeted to buy books for the National Assembly Library while the 'take-off grant' for the National Assembly Library is N12.1 billion.

It noted that the budget of N344.48 billion by members of the National Assembly is a fundamental breach of the Nigerian Constitution and the



country's international human rights obligations, saying that according to their information, the National Assembly increased its own allocation in the 2024 budget to N344.48bn as the new budgetary allocation to the National Assembly is over 70 per cent of the N197bn proposed by President Bola Tinubu for the lawmakers in the budget proposal submitted to the National Assembly.

It said the N344.48bn National Assembly budget, which is an increase of about N147bn, is reportedly the highest ever budgetary allocation to the National Assembly.

It stated that Section 14(2)(b) of the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 [as amended] provides that, 'the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.'

It added that under Section 16(1)(a)(b), the National Assembly has the obligations to

harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy, and to 'secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen.

According to the letter, Section 16(2) of the Nigerian Constitution further provides that the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good, while Section 13 of the Nigerian Constitution imposes clear responsibility on the National Assembly to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of Chapter 2 of the constitution.

It observed that Section 81 of the Nigerian Constitution, and sections 13 and 18 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act constrain the ability of the National Assembly to unilaterally insert its own allocations in the budget without following the due process of law.

Tinubu Committed To Ending Banditry, Terrorism - Uba Sani

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Monday, assured the state of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's readiness to end the battle against banditry and terrorism in the state and the country at large.

Senator Uba Sani made this known in an interview with newsmen shortly after the wreath-laying ceremony at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium in commemoration of the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day.

The governor said, "we are here to honour our servicemen and veterans of Nigerian Armed Forces."

According to him, "The commemoration of the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day gives us the opportunity to

reflect on the sacrifice and commitment of our fallen heroes, who lost their lives in defence of our territorial integrity."

Uba Sani appreciated the Armed Forces generally, both Army, Air Force, Navy and all other security agencies in Nigeria, "for the efforts in trying to ensure that we have peace in our own country."

The governor pointed out that the fight against banditry and terrorism in Nigeria is something that is on course.

"In the recent weeks, we had some set backs, but I have no doubt on my mind. I have a lot of confidence and believe in our armed forces.

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has made it clear that we have to come up with time frame that this battle against this banditry and terrorism has to end," he said.



Rivers Police Neutralises Wanted Cultists Kingpin, Accomplice, Recovers G3 Rifle, 7.62x51mm Ammunition

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Police operatives in Rivers State have recorded a major breakthrough in the fight against cultism, with the killing of a wanted notorious cultist kingpin and an accomplice in a gun duel.

Identified as Silas Oderereke, popularly known as "General" in Oderereke, the deceased notorious cultist, who has been elusive in the last four years, was said to have engaged police detectives in a shoot out in company of three others where he met his waterloo and one other.

Our correspondent gathered that the exchange of gun battle occurred outside town of Oderereke, on 12th January 2024

after a robbery attack and vandalization of the property of the late monarch, Eze Robinson O. Robinson along with members of his gang.

Two other clan leaders, identified as Danger-boy and 2-Man, who frequently collaborated with Oderereke were said to have escaped from the scene and are currently at large.

The Rivers State Police Command Spokesperson SP Grace Iringe-Koko made the disclosure in a release on Sunday.

It reads, " In a major breakthrough, the Rivers State

Police Command successfully apprehended a notorious armed robber and cult leader, Silas Oderereke, in Oderereke, Ahoada - West Local Government Area. Oderereke, also known as 'General,' had been on the run for the past four years, evading arrest.

" However, his reign of terror came to an end when he resisted arrest and opened fire on the police, resulting in his death.

" As the head of the Greenlanders' cult group in the Ubie clan of Ahoada West, Oderereke and his gang were infamous for their criminal activities, which included armed robbery, land grabbing, unauthorized sales of buildings, and brutal attacks on those who dared to oppose them.

" The cult leader would even order the destruction of houses in communities that resisted his criminal enterprises.

" On January 11, 2024, the police received information about Oderereke's gang's robbery operation, which also involved vandalizing the property of the late monarch, Eze Robinson O. Robinson.

" Responding swiftly, the police chased the criminals out of town. However, the defiant 'General' rallied his gang and launched an attack on a community-owned tank farm in Oderereke, intending to loot its contents. It was during this sabotage attempt



Exhibits recovered from the camp of the suspected Cultists

that the police managed to apprehend the gang.

" Silas Oderereke and one other member of his gang opened fire on the police team, leading to an exchange of gunfire. In the shootout, Oderereke and his accomplice were neutralized while others sustained injuries.

" Two other clan leaders, Danger-boy and 2-Man, who frequently collaborated with Oderereke, managed to escape and are currently at large.

" Upon searching the gang's hideout, the police discovered a G3 Rifle and nineteen

7.62x51mm ammunition.

" Further investigations uncovered a camp Oderereke had established between Oderereke and Olokuma Communities. This camp served as a base for the cult leader and his numerous followers, from where they launched robbery attacks on innocent members of neighboring communities.

" The affected communities expressed their relief and shared accounts of residents who had relocated to Port Harcourt due to the mayhem caused by the cult group.

" The Commissioner of Police, CP Olatunji Rilwan Disu, congratulated the officers for their exceptional work.

" He issued a stern warning to cultists in the state, urging them to abandon their criminal activities and renounce cultism, or face the full weight of the law and assured the residents of Rivers State that the Police Command, under his leadership, remains fully committed to maintaining peace and bolstering security in the state."

Lagos Taskforce Impounds 344 Okadas On Restricted Routes

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least a total number of 344 commercial motorcycles popularly called "Okada" have been impounded in a swoop by operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce for plying restricted routes.

The bikes were mopped up in a major raid carried out in Abule Ado axis of Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Lagos Island, Berger/Grammar School areas of the State.

The exercise, is part of move to completely halt the activities of recalcitrant okada operators in prohibited routes in the state.

In a statement by Gbadeyan Abdulraheem Director, Press & Public Affairs of the agency, the week long exercise was anchored by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who vowed to cripple the activities of okada operators in the state.

According to the statement, Jejeloye

disclosed that the activities of recalcitrant okada operators along some highways in the State have continually put the life of commuters in harms way.

It reads, "The Lagos State Taskforce has vowed to bring the operations of recalcitrant okada operators in the State to a complete halt as it carries out the week long raid across various parts of the Metropolis.

" The week long exercise was anchored by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye who vowed to cripple the activities of okada operators.

" He disclosed that their activities along some Highways in the State has continually put the life of commuters along those axis in harms way.

" We have taken it upon ourselves to end okada operations in the State and we are putting all mechanisms in place to ensure we achieve this goal. There is ban on their activities along selcted routes and Local Governments Areas in Lagos therefore

they should not be allowed to operate as they please".

" Jejeloye stated that the raid in Abule Ado axis saw them impound 174 bikes, Lagos Island 50 bikes, Berger/ Grammar School 50 bikes while 70 bikes were impounded in Abule Egba axis.

" He sounded a note of warning to uniform men and urged them to obey extant rules and regulations of the State regarding okada operations or be prosecuted.

" There will be no sacred cows in the enforcement of okada operations in the State therefore any uniform man caught conveying passengers on a bike for commercial purposes will be thoroughly dealt with. We should be the ones setting the right examples not breaking them. It will no longer be business as usual". Jejeloye stated.

" The Chairman further stated that the stubborn okada operators should not test the might of enforcement compliance of the Agency as it is more determined than

ever to eradicate their activities for good. Any operator found wanting will be severely dealt with according to the laws of the State.

" It is our resolve in Y2024 to ensure that the terminal end of every enforcement is the court, therefore, the fixed mindset of all environmental and traffic violators who think they can get away with every infraction through "man know man" or godfatherism will not be tolerated. Enough is enough"

" CSP Jejeloye enjoined Lagosians to work together with the State Government and her Agencies in ensuring that mischief makers do not derail the vision and mission of the State Government as enshrined in the THEMES PLUS agenda of the present administration.

" He appealed to well meaning residents to desist from patronising okada operators in order to make our roads safe, hazard free and motorable for all.

2000 Households Captured As Lere Reps Member Shares Food Items To Constituents

By: AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

In his quest to alleviate hardship faced across the country due to fuel subsidy removal, member House of Reps Hon. Ahmed Munir has distributed food items to over 2,000 households in his constituency. Hon. Munir represents Lere Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives. The member, while sharing out edible food items, ranging from rice, spaghetti, groundnut oil among others, decried rising number of households who could not afford to provide decent square meals for their families. He described the development as worrisome and capable of worsening the current state of insecurity. Hon. Munir called on elected officers in the present dispensation to do more by paying special attention to the welfare of

people, especially those at the grassroots. He assured of continuous support to Lere constituents, urging those in need of assistance, particularly on education, vocation and health to feel free to get across to his office. Beneficiaries spoken to by our correspondent commended the member for his generous and kind gestures. A beneficiary, Musa Isa described the gesture as timely, coming when most people could hardly purchase enough food for family consumption. A widow, Larai Yusuf was full of prayers for the member for reaching out to the needy with food items, saying it would go a long way in alleviating difficulties faced by families. She charged well-to-do individuals in the society to emulate Hon. Munir by giving out to the needy.



How Massive Crowd Welcomed Governor Abba Kabir Back To Kano After Supreme Court Victory



By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Governor Abba Kabir has returned to Kano after his recent victory at the Supreme Court, where his election was affirmed by the apex court.

Kano was agog when his supporters trooped en mass to Chiromawa Town to welcome their executive governor.

Our correspondent who witnessed the long journey, reports that a massive crowd from Chiromawa was seen walking on foot to Kano city.

From there, they proceeded to Dan Agundi Filin Mahaha, where the governor addressed the crowd in a very congested field, filled with

supporters.

He reassured the people of Kano State that his administration will work selflessly towards the development of the state.

He added that his government would be transparent and beneficial to the electorate, who gave him the mandate to rule in a democratic system.

"I thank you very much for being here to welcome me, and from what I have seen, Kano people are solidly behind us therefore, we will never let you down.

"I solicit your support and cooperation as usual and our door is open for counselling, especially on the development and continuous peaceful coexistence in our great state," he declared.



Vehicle Knocks Man Trying Snatching Phone Down In Kano

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A man attempting to snatch a phone from the owner has been knocked down by a car while crossing Zoo in Kano.

Abdullahi Haruna

Kiyawa, the Kano State Police Command spokesman, confirmed the incident on his social media handles on Sunday evening.

The police spokesman said that he has received a report from Zoo Road that

someone took a woman's phone, saying that he was crossing the road when a car hit him.

He explained that the suspect was receiving medical attention following injuries he sustained.

Kiyawa further explained, "After we took (the man who stole the phone) to the hospital, he was moving a bit, his spine was broken and his head was cracked, the hospital is thinking of taking him to the emergency department."

Saboteurs Of Tinubu's Efforts On Improving Electricity Supply Will Fail - Adelabu

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu on Monday, said saboteurs of President Bola Tinubu's efforts on improving power supply in Nigeria will fail.

The minister said this in Ibadan during his working visit to the Ayede Power Sub-Station of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Ibadan.

Addressing Managements and workers at the Power sub station, he declared that said saboteurs are now at work towards truncating efforts by President Tinubu-led administration to stabilize and improve the power sector in the country.

Chief Adelabu emphasized that the government on its part is ready to curtail the saboteurs, saying President Bola Tinubu means well for Nigeria and Nigerians in the power sector which is crucial to the growth of the nation's economy and will deliver. Stressing that President Tinubu is determined to ensure that Nigerians enjoyed stable and regular power supply, Chief Adelabu cautioned the saboteurs to desist from the act of vandalising electricity installations, saying security agencies have been put on red alert to safeguard electricity installations in and across the country.

"Some saboteurs are not happy that we are improving supply, they are



Minister of Power Chief Adebayo Adelabu addressing staff of Ayede sub Power station in Ibadan on Monday

out to sabotage all our efforts to improve power supply in the country but we cannot be intimidated. They will meet us there. We have the support of the President and the National Security Adviser to deal with saboteurs", he said. The Minister added "We must live up to expectations. We will not relent until we achieve improvement in power supply. We are working with everyone to protect national assets. We are working with the NSA for adequate protection of power facilities. We can see the saboteurs at work," "Some people are working to destroy our national assets, it is our

responsibility to protect them collectively. When you noticed any strange movement around our national assets, let us escalate it".

The Minister while pointing out that President Tinubu is committed to improving Power supply in the country tasked residents at the installation centres to report any strange and usual movement in and around the power installation centres across the country. "Any strange movement should be reported to the security agencies. We can do it individually. We have the support of Mr. President and the National

Security Adviser and all security agencies. We have seen destruction of transmission wire in some parts of the country. These are the assets that cost of billions of Naira to install. It is a fight that must be jointly fight".

According to the minister, this is necessary in order to reduce the increasing rate of vandalism and destruction of critical power infrastructure in some parts of the country. Specifically, the minister said the President Tinubu administration is working with the security agencies to ensure that critical power infrastructure are well protected.

Oil Theft: Asonja Lauds Tantita's Bayelsa Arrest, Hails Tibunu, Tompolo

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The commandant in charge of Ondo State chapter of the Tantita Security Services Limited (TSSL), Senior High Chief Felix Idowu Asonja, has expressed plaudits for the steady wins of TSSL in the fight against oil theft, pipelines damages and related crimes in the country.

Asonja's laudation is coming on the heels of a major arrest of a vessel conveying thousands of metric tonnes of 'stolen crude' oil offshore Bayelsa state during the weekend. The vessel, named MT Kally, was apprehended during a joint operation by the officials of TSSL and operatives of the Nigerian Security and the Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

"In his reaction, Senior High Chief Asonja, said Tantita is result-driven and committedly pursues its mandate with sincerity of purpose. And that is the reason it continues to soar with results in spite of the campaign of calumny by naysayers. It is a matter of time, Nigeria will see very clearer who is truly committed, sincere and patriotic.

"I must sincerely applaud and appreciate the President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for his confidence in Tantita, his encouragement and commitment to the rule of law. My illustrious boss and coach, Government Oweizide Ekpemupolo, aka Tompolo, has also being on top of the game. He continues to give inspiring leadership and prioritises results over grandstanding." Tantita Security Services Limited (TSSL) is a private security firm with the mandate of ridding Nigeria of oil thieves.

According to Tantita, the engineer and captain of the vessel, who were identified as Promise Eze and Adeboye David, respectively, along with accomplices from some Bayelsa state oil communities, were kept on board the vessel on Friday night as investigation into the vessel continued. Tantita said before they were

crew and their local accomplices were allegedly syphoning crude oil onto the vessel from the offshore Sokebolou field in Bayelsa state.

A preliminary report of the incident, according to Tantita, revealed the first manifold of the vessel was being loaded before the intervention of the security team.

Warredi Enisuoh, Executive Director, Tantita operations, interrogated Eze and Adeboye, who said the vessel was mobilised from Lagos to transport crude oil illegally from offshore locations in Bayelsa state. According to the duo, they departed Lagos following assurances by their boss, whom they declined to name, that all security agencies along the shore had been compromised, allowing them to carry out their illicit business.

Tantita disclosed that they refused to name the security agencies involved in the alliance, but revealed they work for a company named San-San. Enisuoh said the vessel has been anchored at a location of Nigerian National Petroleum NNPC Limited in Oporoza in Delta state, saying the suspects were kept on board the vessel.

Meanwhile, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has ordered a probe into the arrest of an oil bunkering vessel, MT Kali, in the offshore location of the Anglo-Dutch energy giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in Bayelsa State.

The investigation team is headed by the chief of defence intelligence (CDI), Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Undiandeye. The team has the mandate to unmask the barons of the illicit business deal.



A'Ibom First Lady Treats 250 Elderly To Party, Builds Hope

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

It was ecstasy defined, while love proven as most potent cosmetic to freshening souls and bodies was established when the wife of the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Patience Umo Eno hosted 250 elderly persons in the state to a party at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Uyo on Thursday.

With attendees drawn from the 31 local government areas of the state, the ceremony was in fulfillment of the Renewed Hope Elderly Support Initiative of Wife of the President of Nigeria, Mrs. Oluremi Tinubu.

It featured among others, free medical outreach, dancing competition, riddles, pageantry, a renewed experience that the elderly themselves won't forget in a hurry.

Pastor Patience Eno in her remarks, said the event was held at the instance of the wife of the President who had graciously approved the names of all in attendance, and made available the sum of Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000.00) only to each individual.

She said the party which would have been held in the month of December 2023, was shifted to

the New Year due to many engagements and said it was the beginning of the many in the series to come.

The Governor's Wife who expressed happiness at seeing the senior citizens, said she was happy that the event coincided on the day the apex court in the country certified the electoral victory of her husband.

"This event did not happen today by chance. It happened on the day the Supreme Court certified my husband as the authentic winner of the last gubernatorial election. It means that I will always be here to celebrate with

you people as your Governor's wife," First Lady Patience Eno stated.

Setting the tone for the event earlier, the Personal Assistant to the Governor's Wife on Special Duties, Hon. Ann Abraham, said that the new year celebration with the elderly was prompted by the First Lady's resolve to enhance and cater to the well-being of the aged in the state.

Presenting a health talk at the event, the Personal Physician to the Governor, Dr. Ekem John and Dr. Uduak Nkanta, harped on the need for regular medical check up to help identify early warning

signs of disease or illness.

They listed ailments common among the elderly to include high blood pressure, stroke, Diabetes and others, noting that early detection of any health condition enables one to take precautions, get the best healthcare and reduce the risk of developing more health issues. Some beneficiaries who spoke at the event expressed elation over the gesture of the wife of the President to host and empower them and as well thanked the Governor's wife for implementing the scheme in the state.



Kano Guber: NNPP Chieftain, Ajadi Commends Supreme Court For Upholding Justice

**Felicitates Yusuf, Kwankwaso Others*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

A New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP), chieftain, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Friday, said that the Supreme Court judgment on Kano State governorship election has saved Nigeria's democracy. The NNPP chieftain in a statement he issued immediately after the judgement to felicitate Governor Abba Yusuf on his victory at the Supreme Court, said the, "victory is a well deserved one and a good development for Kano State. " We know all along that the wishes of millions of Kano voters will be upheld. I thank our supporters nationwide for their peaceful conduct in the face of provocation by the All Progressives Congress, (APC) which wanted to take victory through the backdoor", he said. The NNPP chieftain added, "I now call on Governor Abba Yusuf to continue his good work for the progress of Kano State. I also felicitate our leaders, led by Senator Rabiul Kwankwaso for their maturity, and peaceful conduct while the case lasted. "We thank God for the victory and NNPP will from now on go from leap to leaps", New Nigerian recalls that the Supreme Court in its judgment on Friday, certified the election of Abba Yusuf as Kano State governor with the five-member panel of the apex court held that the tribunal and the Court of Appeal erred by sacking Yusuf, candidate of the New Nigeria

People's Party (NNPP), as governor of the state.

The Supreme Court had reserved judgment after hearing the appeals on December 21, 2023.

It would also be recalled that In March 2023, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared Yusuf as the winner of the Kano governorship election.

The Kano governor scored 1,019,602 votes to defeat Yusuf Gawuna of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who polled 890,705 votes.

In September, the Kano governorship election petition tribunal sacked Yusuf as governor of the state.

The tribunal deducted 165,663 votes from the 1,019,602 recorded for Yusuf because the ballot papers were not stamped, signed and dated as required by law. The tribunal then declared Gawuna as the winner of the election.

Displeased with the verdict, the NNPP and its candidate challenged the judgment at the appellate court.

On November 17, 2023, the court of appeal upheld the tribunal's verdict and added that Yusuf was not a member of the NNPP when he contested the election.

However, controversy trailed the verdict days later when a certified true copy (CTC) of the appeal court judgment surfaced, contradicting the November 17 ruling.



Ambassador Ajadi (left) with Governor Abba

Lagos Business Woman Remanded Over Cyberstalking, Threat To Life, Intent To Steal N5m

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A Lagos based business woman, Mrs. Folashade Olalude has been remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre over allegations of Cyberstalking, threat to life, amongst others.

Olalude was arraigned before the Magistrate Court 4, Igboosere, Ebute-Metta, Lagos on 11th January, 2024 in Charge No. D/3/2024 for having committed felony to wit : Intent to Steal the sum of =N=5,000,000, Written Threats to Kill Lawal Abdullateef, Demanding Property with Menaces and Cyberstalking.

The charges were pressed against her by the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Annex, Lagos, following the conclusion of an investigation and consequent on the receipt of a Legal Advice which affirmed that there were strong evidential grounds to initiate criminal charge against the offender.

The accused, who pleaded not guilty to the four-count charge, was admitted on bail and remanded in Kirikiri Custodial Center pending the perfection of the bail terms.

According to a release by the Police Public Relations Officer, FCID Annex Alagbon, ASP Mayegun obtained by our correspondent, the petition was submitted on 10th August, 2021 by Law Grit Attorneys Firm on behalf of Mr. Lawal Abdullateef and his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Anjorin on allegations of Cyber Stalking, Threat to Life, and sundry criminal acts against Folashade Olalude.

It reads, "Following a petition submitted on 10th August, 2021 by Law Grit Attorneys Firm on behalf of Mr. Lawal Abdullateef and his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Anjorin on allegations of Cyber Stalking, Threat to Life, and sundry criminal acts, against Mrs Folashade Olalude, an investigation was launched by detectives of the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Annex, Lagos.

"At the conclusion of the investigation and consequent on the receipt of a Legal Advice which affirmed that there were strong evidential grounds to initiate criminal charge, the offender, Folashade Olalude, was arraigned before the Magistrate Court 4, Igboosere, Ebute-Metta, Lagos on 11th January, 2024 in Charge No. D/3/2024 for having committed felony to wit : Intent to Steal

the sum of =N=5,000,000, Written Threats to Kill Lawal Abdullateef, Demanding Property with Menaces and Cyberstalking.

"The accused who pleaded not guilty to the four-count charge was admitted on bail and remanded in Kirikiri Custodial Center pending the perfection of the bail terms."

Meanwhile, AIG Owohunwa Idowu, the AIG FCID (Annex) Lagos, has assured the public that the FCID (Annex) under his watch will remain resilient and unwavering in advancing the course of criminal justice within the dictates of fairness, strength of evidence, and adherence to the criminal law procedures. According to him, this will be done regardless of the status of the offenders, their social networks or the ill-informed actions by any person or group to threaten public peace in a pre-meditated attempt to blackmail or obstruct the Police with intent to truncate arraignment of such offenders and frustrate the criminal justice delivery process.

" In so doing, it is recognized that the accused remains innocent until proven guilty. Hence, citizens are called upon to

support the police in the advancement of its criminal justice delivery mandate rather than resort to actions that could threaten public peace in a manner that is manifestly inimical to the interest of criminal justice delivery, as such may attract firm police actions in overriding public interest.", AIG Owohunwa added.

In a related development, the Assistant Inspector General ,AIG Owohunwa Idowu has conducted a visit to Cell of Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU), where he engaged with 20 detainees, some of whom have exceeded the period of detention.

During the visit, the AIG cautioned the CP PSFU and emphasized the importance of consistent monitoring of the cell to prevent custodial violence.

Furthermore, the AiG highlighted the necessity to respect the rights of citizens in custody. This visit serves as a reminder of our commitment to ensuring humane treatment and upholding the fundamental rights of individuals in detention.

He urged all Sectional head to take a proactive approach by routinely visiting the cell within their purview to ensure

Kaduna To Establish Security Trust Fund, Partner Corporate Bodies

*Thanks security agencies for maintaining peace through Yuletide *Commends Operation Safe Haven in Southern Kaduna for stabilizing Zangon Kataf, Jema'a, Kaura
*Urges renewed focus, coordination on Kaduna-Abuja highway *Excited more Forward Operating Bases will be established in state

By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani has hinted that the state government is looking at establishing a Security Trust Fund in partnership with corporate organisations to enhance logistics support to security agencies.

He disclosed this in his opening remarks at the meeting of the Kaduna State Core Security Council Meeting with Traditional Rulers and Local Government Chairmen of Frontline Areas, yesterday, January 15, 2024.

"The Kaduna State Government is looking at the possibility of establishing the Kaduna State Security Trust Fund as a means of collaborating with corporate organizations, the business community, industrialists, professional groups, individuals and all critical stakeholders towards enhancing material and logistic support to our security forces," he said.

According to him, on the side of security agencies, and in light of the challenges they are confronting, it has become vital for them to further close ranks, rub minds and revisit our collaborative structures.

"Deepening and strengthening of human intelligence networks is an obvious area requiring urgent review, towards restoring peace and security along these critical highways, and to the troubled communities," he added.

While welcoming all to the Kaduna State Security Council Meeting with Traditional Rulers and Local Government Chairmen of Frontline Areas. Traditional Rulers from areas of interest, he said that those attending the meeting, include, their Royal Highnesses, the Emir of Zazzau, Emir of Birnin Gwari, Etsu Chikun, Agom Kachia, the Chief of Kufana, Emir of Kuru and Chief of Dnata.

"We also have here the Chairmen of Kuru, Kajuru, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Chikun and Kachia local government councils," he added.

He thanked the security agencies for helping them maintain the peace all through the festive period and into the beginning of the year.

"The state enjoyed relative peace over this time, with the exception of the unfortunate incident at Tudun Biri, which was eventually managed with dexterity by our esteemed traditional and religious leaders, supported by security forces. We are deeply grateful for all the positive steps taken in that regard and in several other key areas," he affirmed.

He explained that the purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm on the situations in certain areas of interest, notably Kuru, Kajuru, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Chikun, Kachia, Kagarko and the Kaduna-Abuja Road.

"There was security on the Kaduna-Abuja Road for about 18 months, until the sudden unfortunate and disturbing attack and kidnapping. The recent occurrences on that axis clearly indicates the re-opening of a front on that route, and this points us strongly to the need for renewed focus and coordination," he said.

Uba Sani pointed out that with the attacks on citizens and military personnel along the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Road, and in the Birnin Gwari general area, bandits and terrorists have exploited gaps - particularly around Maganda, Kuyello and other villages surrounding Buruku, Udawa, Damba, Kuriga, Polewire and other flash points - to carry out ambushes on citizens, as well as security forces attempting to respond to distress calls.

He noted that Chikun, Giwa and Igabi have become areas of concern as well; from Maraban Rido and Kudendan axis in Chikun, Sauran Goma, Kerawa and Dunki areas of Igabi have also witnessed attacks and killings.

"I also followed the developments in Giwa from Kidandan, Kaya, Sabon Layi and Idasu" he added.

Governor Sani equally noted that the Kuru general area has equally witnessed



a resurgence of deadly attacks and kidnappings in recent weeks around Dokan Karji stretching into Kajuru, and also Kachia from the Bishini general area.

"I have equally followed the operations in Kachia, Giwa, Birnin Gwari, Chikun and other locations. We commend the military and all the security agencies for their commitment and sacrifices," he said.

He commended Operation Safe Haven in Southern Kaduna for significantly stabilizing Zangon Kataf, Jema'a, and Kaura.

"The officers and men of Operation Safe Haven have helped immensely in containing recent threats to peace and safety," he said.

The governor however, appealed to the military and the police to step up their presence in the Tudun Biri general area in view of threats arising from efforts to rebuild the community after the unfortunate incident of last year.

"Our administration is fully committed to the security and safety of the whole of Kaduna State, because security is the cornerstone for the realization of our

SUSTAIN Agenda.

"I have been pursuing the deployment of more boots on the ground through more military formations. I am happy to inform you that very soon, there will be establishment of some Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in the State. This move will greatly assist the expansion of our campaigns against terrorists and bandits in frontline locations.

"The Kaduna State Government is working with the Defence Headquarters towards actualizing these plans. I have directed the Overseeing Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs to follow this process closely and provide me with regular reports on the establishment of the FOBs and other relevant issues which we are vigorously pursuing," he revealed.

He was optimistic that it is my they will deliberate openly, extensively and productively, and proffer lasting solutions to these problems.

"I look forward to receiving your valuable contributions," he said.



Kwara Gov Salutes Gallant Security Officers At Armed Forces Remembrance Day

By BILIQIS ONAOLAPO
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq on Monday, joined other eminent Kwarans, heads of security agencies, and the Nigeria Legion to lay the wreath in honour of the fallen and serving men of the Armed Forces for their tremendous services to the country.

"The first and most important thing is to appreciate our Armed Forces for the sacrifices they have rendered (and still rendering) during the first and second world wars and internal security operations up till today," the Governor told reporters in Ilorin at an event to celebrate the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day.

The Governor also thanked the security agencies for their excellent roles in special operations in some parts of the state.

"They hardly sleep at night in the barracks, bushes, and offices. We have to appreciate them, and we equally appreciate their families, their tremendous roles, and how they contribute generously to the efforts to rehabilitate some of them," he added.

"In Kwara (in particular), we appreciate the Armed Forces. They are doing a yeoman's job. We thank them for their services all over Nigeria to make the country safe and peaceful. Let us be united in Nigeria."

Other dignitaries who also laid the wreath at the event included the State Chief Judge Hon Justice AbiodunAdebara; heads of security agencies;



representative of the Speaker Kwara House of Assembly and House Leader Hon. Oba Magaji; representative of Deputy Governor and Commissioner for Tertiary Education Dr. Mary Arinde; Commissioner for Social Development

Hon. Kemi Afolashade; representative of the Emir of Ilorin Sheikh AbdulRahman Kelani; Chairman of the Nigeria Legion Kwara state branch, retired Brigadier General Abdulkadir Anigiobi; Vice Chancellor University of Ilorin Prof.

Wahab Egbewole; Chief Medical Director University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UIITH) Prof Yusuf Abdullahi; and Hajia Ramat Sallaudeen, a widow of one of the fallen heroes.



L-R: Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON); Commissioner for Tertiary Education Dr. Mary Arinde; Majority Leader Kwara State House of Assembly Hon. Abdulkadir Oba Magaji; Chief Judge Justice Ayodele Adebara; Commander 22 Armoured Brigade Brigadier General Adebayo Abdulrahman Babalola; Nigeria Air Force Commander Dan Apyeyak; Navy Captain Anastasia Ossal; and Commissioner of Police CP Victor Olaiya; during the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day, in Ilorin, on Monday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Foundation Trains Stakeholders On Unarmed Civilian Protection Methods In Conflict Areas

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maidugri

The Executive Director, Alamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Hajiya Hamsatu Allamin has said that a workshop to train stakeholders on unarmed civilian protection methods in conflict areas was organized specifically for the various community stakeholders across all the strata of the community or society in Borno State as leaders and experts to participate in the research project.

She added that the research project which forms part of a UK Research Council (Arts and Humanities Research Council/AHRC) funded research, experts to explain why the participating stakeholders were invited to participate in the training workshop and the project because they are adult civilians (over 18 years of age) and living in one of the communities like where the JSCP learning video was screened as a conflict area.

She said the training workshop was held in collaboration with the King's College London and Youths Initiative Against Violence and Human Rights Abuse on Thursday January 11 and Friday 12, 2024 at Hajja Manga Memorial Hall, Allamin Foundation Office, Giwa Barracks Area, Maiduguri, Borno State capital.

Hajiya Allamin noted that, "You are either government officials involved in community security initiatives with a focus on protection of civilians or you are an NGO staff, or members or civil society organisation (CSI) members, implementing civilian focused peace building programmes (including for youths and women).

"You are adults (18 years and over), and have the experiences of conflicts or are currently involved with community security initiatives in Maiduguri. So, What will happen if I take part? If you choose to take part in the project, you will be asked to take part in these two days workshop in Maiduguri organised by Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development," Hamsatu said.

The Facilitator, Ibrahim Jidda, who is also the Executive Director, Africa Mental Health Awareness and Care Initiative (AMHACI) a peace building and development expert said UCO means Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) and was drawn from Unarmed civilian protection for collective impact: Learning from the Jos Stakeholders Centre for Peace

(JSCP) for enhanced civilian protection in Maiduguri, North-Eastern, Nigeria, stressing that, the project is all about civilian agency and civilian self-protection in the context of communal conflict in local experiences of UCP for building protection infrastructure to sustain safe spaces in the context of inter-communal cleavages in Jos North Jos Stakeholders Centre for Peace (JSCP).

He said there is the need following the successful implementation if the project in Jos city, Plateau State during and after the Jos crisis the significant need for the transfer of the product to Maiduguri and build the capacity if Maiduguri stakeholders with the specific aims and objectives of conducting, Advocacy, capacity building and knowledge transfer to Maiduguri to build the capacity of people at the grassroots advocacy among those in positions of local power and influence.

To prevent conflict escalation and violence directed at civilians in the North East (Maiduguri), knowledge transfer on unarmed community security initiatives which will be done through primary research in various wards and communities if Maiduguri Borno State as obtained in Jos, through filming of a short video documentary screening in Maiduguri based on Dr. Sukanya Podder's explanation

The facilitator also said that various presentations on videos and audios through zoom would also be shown to the participants including follow up interviews lasting up to 1 hr via Teams/Zoom with the PI, Dr S Podder, a short explanatory briefing on unarmed civilian protection through collective impact: Learning from the Jos Stakeholders Centre for Peace (JSCP) for enhanced civilian protection in Maiduguri, North-Eastern Nigeria.

He further said that before any participant should participate, it is important for him or her to understand why the research is being carried out and what individual level of participation will involve.

While advising participants to discuss it with others about the purpose of the project which is in three-fold of First, to generate original empirical data and a short video documentary around the collective impact model of unarmed civilian protection (UCP) developed by the Jos Stakeholders Centre for Peace (JSCP) in the area of community security.



Secondly, to encourage inter-regional learning amongst the governmental, civil society and community-based stakeholders in Maiduguri, Nigeria in the area of UCP and community security through capacity building workshops, mobile documentary screening and a policy tool kit and thirdly, to learn from existing intergenerational initiatives in Nigeria being applied by youth focused civil society organisations.

He added that what specific contextual and identity related challenges do communities in Maiduguri face with regard to UCP, and how best can their agency and resilience be enhanced through a collective impact model of UCP?

According to the facilitator, the JSCP network includes 39 representatives from communities and organisations in Jos North, half of which are youth led organisations while the network is dedicated to preventing and reducing local level conflicts through collective action that emphasises intergenerational collaboration.

He explained further that such a model enables people at the grassroots and those in positions of local power and influence to prevent conflict escalation hence the JSCP offers an ideal case for exploring 'how' local efforts modelled on collective impact function intergenerationally to empower civilians in this context of vulnerability to violence.

Ibrahim said the project is being funded by a sub-award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded Creating Safer Spaces Global Challenges Research Fund Network Plus grant based at Aberystwyth University where the results of the project will be summarised in academic outputs such as book chapters and an open-access journal article.

He also emphasized in the need for sustainability of the

community peace building initiatives and committed participation by the members of the community from various groups with their leaders as major stakeholders right from the ward level to local government level and upward to the state level.

The facilitator suggested also the involvement of people of integrity in the communities and leaders of all secta and groups in regular trainings or orientations and establishment of monitoring machinery including security agencies and vigilante and hunters in all communities as well as leaders of the physically challenged, vulnerable in the society, students, women, youths, trades, unions, CSOs and others.

A resource person, Dr. Sukanya Podder said the project is guided by three research questions which include What lessons can be drawn from the UCP principles and the JSCP's collective impact model of community-level violence prevention (video) for the concept and practice of unarmed civilian protection in Maiduguri? She added that What can be learnt from intergenerational collaboration across civil society led peace building efforts in North Eastern Nigeria for enhancing the effectiveness of community security initiatives, pointing out that, the project participation is completely voluntary.

"You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Once you have listened to the information in this sheet, please raise any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part. If you decide to take part we will ask you to provide oral consent.

"What are the possible risks of taking part? We foresee no significant risks associated with this project, if you feel any stress

during the community screenings, you can ask the Allamin Foundation staff to refer you to necessary psychosocial support (counselor present during screenings).

"Except, the possible benefits of taking part. Participants are reasonably expected to have the opportunity to voice their views about unarmed civilian protection and intergenerational collaboration in Nigeria including Data handling and confidentiality.

"Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018). To ensure compliance with the UK data protection law you must outline the following points in this paragraph:

"We will follow anonymity and confidentiality in this research pertaining to personal data.

We will however take a record of oral consent including names, affiliation, email address and phone contact for the study purposes.

"We can confirm that data will only be shared within the research team.

Participants that consent to being photographed, or video-recorded during workshops and group discussions (community video screenings) will be identifiable in these photos and videos but further details such as names and affiliation would be available only if this consent is offered explicitly," Dr. Podder said.

She noted also that these digital outputs, will be retained by the KCL and Creating Safer Spaces project team website upto 25 years after the project closes in 2024, saying,

We can confirm that data will only be shared within the research team.

We can assure data will be held in compliance with UK data protection law. The data from recordings will be stored until 31/01/2027, " Dr. Sukanya added.

Fadojoe Commends Tinubu on New Int'l Passport Policy, Humanitarian Ministry Probe

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The National Leader of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria, Comrade Faduri Oluwadare Joseph has commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the prompt response in the implementation of the policy that will ensure effective curbing of any kind of racketeering, related to the issuing of international passports. It would be recalled that, the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, announced in December that the Federal Government was working to ensure a full automation system of passport application in the country.

This came to fruition on Monday January 8, 2024 as the Minister launched the first online portal for Nigerian International Passport application in Abuja.

Reacting to the development, Comrade Faduri in a statement sent to media houses, noted that President Tinubu's policy on passport issuance and regulations has completely eradicated bureaucratic bottlenecks and any form of corruption.

The former Presidential aspirant under the Labour Party further praised Tinubu for suspending the Minister For Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Betta Edu,

adding that the President has demonstrated zero tolerance for corruption.

"All Nigerians following the trend of events in Nigeria today will agree that the handling of the International Passport processing and the suspension and probe of Betta Edu deserve commendation."

He further explained why he had commended President Tinubu "Opposition is not just about criticism, but when the government gets it right, there is need to commend such efforts, if truly what we are after is good governance."

"On this note, the leadership and the entire members of Rescue Movement hereby commend the President

Bola Tinubu led administration on the new policy for International Passport seamless processing.

Fadojoe as he is popularly known, further called on the present government to do more to make Nigerians proud of their country.

"This commendation doesn't mean that everything has fallen in line yet, because there is still many ground to cover if Nigerians must enjoy good governance.

"We urge president Bola Ahmed Tinubu and members of his cabinet to give their best in delivery of dividends of democracy as the country has sank too deep and needs to be rescued as a matter of urgency.

Northern Governors Forum Extends Condolences To Zulum Over Death Of Spokesman, Isa Gusau



Late Gusau

The Chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has extended heartfelt condolences to Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State over the demise of his Special Adviser on Media and Strategy, Malam Isa Gusau who passed away on Thursday.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that Governor Inuwa Yahaya, who expressed deep sorrow over the sad event, acknowledged Gusau's professionalism, dedication and remarkable service to Governor Zulum and the government of Borno State.

He also praised the commitment of the late media strategist in managing information,

especially during the challenging times faced by Borno State and the entire North East region. The NSGF Chairman described the loss as particularly poignant, especially during a time when the late Media Adviser's expertise and support are most needed. "The late Media Adviser worked diligently for the governor and government of Borno State, and left an indelible mark in the field of journalism, media strategy and information management. He will surely be remembered for his hard work, commitment to duty and professionalism", Governor Inuwa noted. He urged strength for family members, Governor Zulum, the government, and the people of Borno State over this profound loss, praying Almighty Allah to forgive the shortcomings of the deceased and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus.

Poverty Should Not Deny Brilliant Students Education - ASUU

*As LAUTECH ASUU awards seven students scholarship

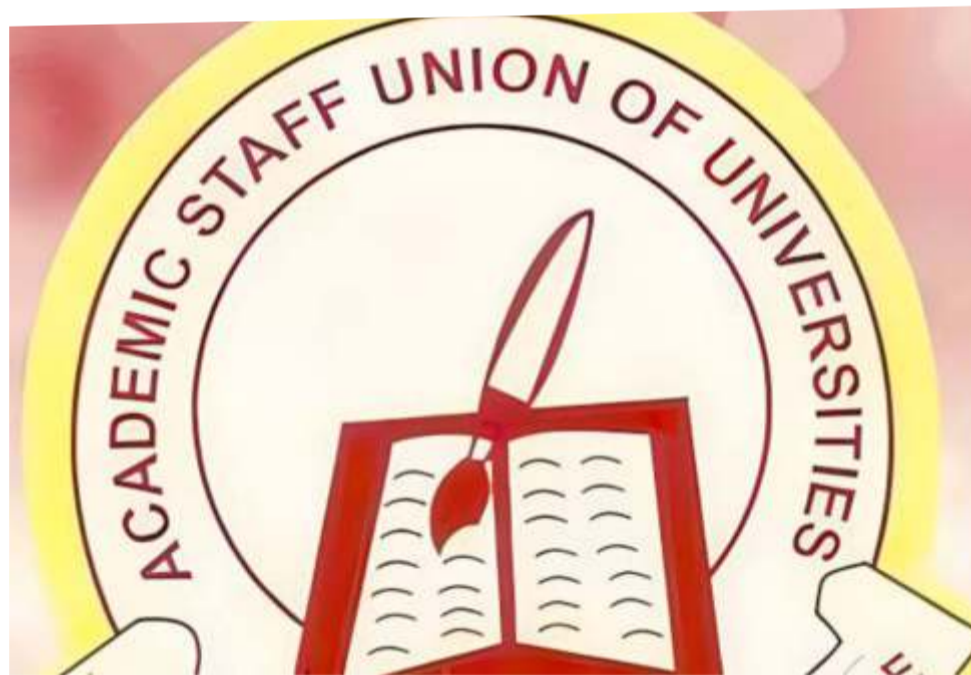
By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Ladoke Akintola University Chapter, Dr Babatunde Akeem Lawal on Thursday, said that poverty should not deny brilliant students education

Dr. Lawal made this known at the empowering of seven indigent students of the university in the ASUU 2023 indigent student scholarship awards

He pointed out that ASUU remains committed to encouraging brilliant students to become better persons in society by supporting their education and will continue to champion the cause of qualitative public education and at the same time, pursue the important welfare issues for its members

Dr. Lawal stressed that while the union takes their students seriously, it will continue to spend from her meagre



resources on improving the life chances of brilliant but indigent students.

"Poverty should not deny brilliant students the opportunity to access and pursue their education. For us in the union, we fight for qualitative public education so that the children of the poor will not be blocked from becoming future leaders and great thinkers of the society", he said.

The beneficiaries included Akerele

Ifeoluwa David, (N200,000), Food Science; Jokotola, Funmilola Adelayin, (N200,000), Medicine; Akanbi Kehinde Y., (N100,000), Computer Engineering; Abdulkabir Islamiyat Adenike, (N100,000), Agric economics; Olorode Christianah Oluwatoyin, (N100,000), Agric economics; Abideen Fathia Ajoke, (N100,000), Biochemistry; and

Oladeebo Nurat Oyindamola, (N100,000), PA Chemistry

The elated beneficiaries thanked the Union for supporting their education, promising that they will continue to work to make the best of the opportunity granted them.

New Nigerian learnt that the screening of the applicants for the scholarship was coordinated by Professor Teleem Asafa.

Intervention Fund: NANS Set To Constitute Monitoring Team, Lauds Tinubu's Approval of N683bn

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has applauded the President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu for approving N683,429,268 as the 2024 intervention fund for public tertiary institutions.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the Universal President, National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). Comrade Lucky Emonefe.

He said the decision is seen as a significant step towards improving the quality of education in Nigeria.

According to the statement, "In light of this commendable effort by Mr. President, NANS has decided to establish a committee that will closely monitor the effective utilization of this fund. The committee's primary objective will be to ensure that the allocated funds are used optimally and transparently for the development and enhancement of public tertiary institutions across Nigeria.

"NANS believes that this intervention fund will go a long way in addressing the numerous challenges

faced by these institutions, such as inadequate infrastructure, outdated facilities, and a lack of resources. By closely monitoring the utilization of the fund, NANS aims to ensure that it is utilized in a manner that directly benefits the students and improves the overall educational experience.

"The committee will work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and management of various tertiary institutions, to ensure that the funds are allocated appropriately and utilized for their intended purposes. NANS will also engage in regular dialogue with the institutions to assess the impact of the intervention fund and address any concerns or issues that may arise.

"NANS appreciates President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his commitment to the development of education in Nigeria. The association believes that this intervention fund will contribute significantly to the improvement of public tertiary institutions and ultimately enhance the quality of education in Nigeria."

Miyetti Allah Sues For Probe Over Alleged Extra-judicial Killings In Kaduna Communities

By: USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) on Thursday, condemned the alleged extra judicial killings maiming, outright stealing, looting and extortion, unlawful intrusion and harassment of law abiding Fulbe youth of Tilde Fulbe community and other area of Ladduga Grazing Reserve in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State by suspected men of Nigerian Army.

In a statement signed and issued on Thursday in Kaduna by Haruna Usman Tugga, Chairman MACBAN,

Kaduna State Chapter, the group alleged that the MACBAN as an umbrella body of Fulbe in Nigeria has received with serious concerns, information via calls and other means of communication from individuals, groups, media and government functionaries over allegations of extra judicial killings and incursion by Nigerian Military personnel from the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy Armament Technology School of Artillery (NASA) all located at Kachia, headquarters of Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State into Tilde-Fulbe community and other communities within the Ladduga District, Kachia LGA of Kaduna State, spanning three to four weeks ago and particularly on Saturday December 30, 2023, where killings, maiming, outright stealing and extortion were allegedly

perpetrated by the Nigerian Army against innocent, law abiding and peace loving residents of the said Fulbe communities.

According to MACBAN, in order to substantiate the information, it promptly called an emergency executive meeting of the association with a view to getting into the root of the matter and to finding out the triggers, remote causes, perpetrators and names of the victims.

Tugga said, "arising from the emergency Executive Council meeting of MACBAN Kaduna State Chapter held on Wednesday January 9, 2024 in Kaduna City, over the premeditated and systematic extrajudicial Killings of Fulbe youth currently being undertaken by some badly trained elements in the Nigerian Army with bad motive not only for the Ladduga Grazing Reserve, but the entire peace in many other parts of the state like Giwa, Jema'a, Makarfi and other LGAs of the state, the MACBAN dispatched some of its members on a fact finding mission to the affected areas and came up with the following findings.

"That about two (2) weeks ago, the operatives of the Nigerian Army seized one young man by name Safiyanu Adamu, 22 years old, who was sick and being conveyed to the hospital by his biological father and other relations. After six (6) days in the custody of the officials of Nigerian Army, the dead body of the young Safiyanu was found in the bush.

Mallam Adamu Idris, the father of late Safiyanu, made

a complaint at the Police station in Kachia. Having keenly listened to the complainant, the authorities of the police, after taking pictures of the lifeless body of the deceased Safiyanu and other information, ordered that the deceased be buried the same day according to the Islamic rite."

"The said operatives of the Nigerian Army came back again to the village (Tilde Fulbe) on the 30th day of December, 2023 at about 10am and perpetrated the following atrocities:

They shot and killed one Nura Yusuf at close range in Crossing Katul Market in full glare of thousands of people in the market and dumped his lifeless body along with his motorcycle in their military van and went away with it.

"Thereafter, his dead body was also found around Oduma Village of Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State about two (2) days after they demanded for the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Naira (N400,000.00) only from the deceased brother which sum was allegedly meant for his treatment, but they failed to call again after the brother insisted to hear the voice of the victim before he could give them the money," It narrated.

Tugga revealed that, "the trigger hungry military personnel also arrested four (4) young men from the same village and later shot and killed all of them in cold blood and dumped their lifeless bodies in the bush around Antai village in Kachia LGA along the road leading from Crossing to Maro of Kajuru LGA.

"The already decomposed bodies of these innocent youth were recovered and buried by our members with the help of the Nigerian Police on Monday, January, 2024 alongside one other person who was also arrested and killed in the same circumstance, therefore making the victims of the gruesome killing to five in number, they are:

Magaji Umar a.k.a Nouru Akilu Abdullahi
Musa Abubakar Ibrahim Sani
Abdulazeez Yusuf a.k.a Azeez

"These innocent youths were killed in spite of the fact that one of the soldiers used the arrested young man's phone to call the family and demanded for the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Naira (N300,000.00) only, for his release which release never materialized. The Soldier had even sent the following account details to the relations of their victims as follows:

-ACCOUNT NAME: Halidu Altine
- NAME OF BANK: First Bank
-ACCOUNT NUMBER: 3124149608"

It called for immediate intervention of his Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Governor of Kaduna State by immediately causing investigation into these killings by ensuring that all the erring military personnel involved in the perpetration of these heinous crimes

against humanity are brought to book and victims families compensated

Kadpoly Mass Comm Alumni Mourns Its Ambassador, Isa Gusau

**Condoles VP Shettima, Borno State Govt, Family*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kaduna Polytechnic Mass Communication Alumni Association (KAMASSCAA) has expressed shock over the death of its Ambassador, Alhaji Isa Gusau, who passed away in India on Thursday after a protracted illness.

A statement signed and made available to journalists in

Kaduna on Saturday by the Alumni Coordinator, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida), describes Gusau's death as a huge loss to his immediate family, public relations, and the entire journalism profession.

Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida) said Gusau's death has created a significant void in Governor Zulum's Administration in

Borno State, the Nigerian media landscape, and the entire alumni family.

Alhaji Gusau was among the first set of Higher National Diploma (HND) students of Kaduna Polytechnic Mass Communication, alongside, John Femi Adi, Adamu Alhaji Yusuf, Dr. Musa Idris Barnawa and a host of others.

He was a professional journalist to the core with over a decade of

experience at Media Trust, having served as Deputy Editor, Regional Editor, Bureau Chief and correspondent of Daily Trust.

He also served as a media aide to Vice President Kashim Shettima during his tenure as governor of Borno State between 2011-2019. Alhaji Gusau was a dedicated and committed professional who always informed the public accurately and effectively.

The KAMASSCAA

Coordinator, Sharifudeen Dan Jarida, prayed to Allah to forgive his shortcomings, bless his immediate family, admit his soul into Aljannatul firdaus, and give the family and friends the ability to bear the irreplaceable loss.

Until his demise, Alhaji Gusau was the Special Assistant on Media and Strategic Communications to Borno State Governor, Professor Baba Gana Umara Zulum.

Army Remembrance Day: Uba Sani Donates Medical Equipment To Hospitals

By ; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor Uba Sani on Monday, after attending the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony, visited NAF Base Hospital and 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital. The visit was also part of the activities commemorating the 2024 Armed Forces Remembrance Day. The governor donated wheelchairs, blankets and other medical equipment to the hospitals.



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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

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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

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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

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3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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

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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

Kaduna State 2024 Budget: Building On The Gains Of The Community Development Charter PROCESS

By: YUSUFISHAKU GOJE

The palpable fear that the current administration might not build on the gains of the ongoing participatory budgeting reforms, despite its campaign slogan of SUSTAIN, was punctured with the 2024-2026 budget call circular. The Planning and Budget Commission in its 2024-2026 budget call circular, as part of efforts to adhere to its key fiscal objectives, mandated all MDAs to ring-fence a percentage of the State budget to the Community Development Charter (CDC).

The call circular reads, "MDAs ensure that 5% of its capital expenditure goes to projects under CDC." This is another huge milestone following the approvals for the CDC protocol and citizens demand portal (www.citizensdemand.org) by the State Executive Council in 2022. More so, the Kaduna Local Accountability Mechanism (KAD-LGAM), supported by PERL/FCDO to develop an advocacy strategy and brief, had consistently advocated for the ring fencing of a percentage of the budget

for the CDC.

This is in order to align with the now accepted global model of participatory budgeting first started in the 1980s in Brazil as a poverty reduction strategy. Participatory budgeting is the process of enabling and empowering citizens to directly be involved in making decisions about budget issues. For those who might not be aware, the CDC is Kaduna's model of participatory budgeting. This action places Kaduna State in the ranks of other subnationals at the global level such as Porto Alegre in Brazil, New York in the United States of America, among others.

This bold step is a demonstration of responsiveness, in the spirit of Open Government Partnership (OGP), by the leadership of the Commission under Hon. Muktar Ahmed. Importantly, it increases the confidence of communities and civil society partners that the government is going beyond the rhetoric of nurturing citizens' engagement as captured in the SUSTAIN blueprint.

This will also build on the gains recorded with the completion of CDC nominated State projects in Giwa, Sabon Gari in 2022; and hopefully the yet to be confirmed completion of others in Kajuru, Zaria, Jema'a, Igabi, Zangon Kataf and Sabon Gari as captured in the ended 2023 State budget. Currently, KAD-LGAM during the forthcoming civil budget post-mortem will be assessing the performance influence of the CDC in the 2024 approved State budget in line with the directive given to MDAs in the budget call circular.

While the CDC has its own fair share of challenges, it remains a potent strategy for rural transformation, poverty reduction and closing the trust deficit between the government and people of Kaduna State. For the past five years, it has shown huge potential to meet local needs through a bottom-top, inclusive, participatory and consensus-driven approach. Evidently, it has informed the 23 LGAs annual budget within the stated period on average by 50%.

Despite low implementation due to

paucity of funds at the LGAs, it has impacted some communities. For instance, it led to the rehabilitation of a burnt school in Igabi, where the pupils had been studying under trees and neighboring houses. Likewise, in Ikara, it led to the addition of a block of classrooms in a school that had a block of classrooms, despite an increase in population, since it was built in 1976.

Now that it is clear that the current administration means business as regards Rural Transformation, the CDC offers an added strategy for not just delivery of the projects but gaining community buy-in and ownership. A political capital the current administration desperately needs. Therefore, we are optimistic that the State government will prioritize the CDC as it has done through the LGA budgets in line with section 56 (1), 57 (2) and 72 (1, c and d) of the Local Government Reform Law.

Goje is a member of the civil society and lead of the Secretariat of Kaduna Local Government Accountability Mechanism (KAD-LGAM)



Salihu Muhammad Bappa: Tribute To A Cultural Ambassador

By Jibrin Ibrahim

YESTERDAY, friends, relations and colleagues of Salihu Bappa met at the Pavilion in Abuja in remembrance of his contributions to society, his commitment to progress and in recognition of the role he played as an anchor of networking across generations, disciplines and numerous associations. The memorial event was chaired by his friend and school mate, Ahmadu Muazu, former governor of Bauchi State who emphasised Bappa's role as a bridge builder across communities and networks since their childhood days in Gindiri where they grew up in a very mixed convivial Plateau State.

Bappa and I started our careers together as graduate assistants in Ahmadu Bello University in 1978. I called him O. C. Drama because of the way he always infused his professional training in theatre arts into his personal behaviour and conduct. There was no dull moment for him as he was always acting out the happenings of the moment and providing dramatic effect to instil happenstance into historical memory. He always appeared to be on a mission of playing out mundane happenings into memorable drama.

A Muslim who attended a missionary school made Bappa at ease with both religious communities. He had lots of friends across the religious and ethnic divides in the country and was well respected by all who came to know him. He was someone who was also blessed with social skills and knew lots of people all over the country but also maintained contact with them. It was for this reason that Ahmadu Bello University appointed him as Liaison Officer for their Alumnae Association and he travelled all over the country to activate branches and network them. Bappa's school mates from primary school through to the university, generations of his former students, all turned up for the event to respect his memory.

The theme of the memorial event was: "Service and Humanness in Perpetuity" in recognition of what he lived and worked for. The lecture was delivered by Prof Oga Steve Abah, his departmental colleague who emphasised Bappa's life-long commitment to theatre as a tool for emancipation and development. Bappa was very much part of the Ahmadu Bello University tradition of radical scholarship for liberation and the methodology he was inducted into in the drama department was theatre for development.

Three young British lecturers in the late 1970s worked hard to create symbiosis between radical scholarship in the history and social sciences departments of the university and English and Drama Department. Michael Etherton, Tony Humphreys and Brian Crow groomed students and the young lecturers they were

training on engaging with poor communities around the Samaru campus on the lived reality of ambient poverty and repression communicating techniques of amplifying the voices of the oppressed and seeking collective routes to liberation. Bappa maintained life-long engagement with such communities, especially Bomo where he had many friends.

The linkage that was created was that radicalism in theory was of no value if it was not transmitted to and adopted by ordinary people who suffered the most of capitalist exploitation and military authoritarianism. The idea was that the radical literature students and lecturers were reading should be transmitted to ordinary people using techniques of popular theatre. With this transmission, transformation would remain an unfulfilled dream. When the history of radicalism in Ahmadu Bello University is written, one of its highlights would be the insufficient buy in of the radical left of the importance of ordinary people playing the role of an enlightened vanguard in the struggle for emancipation.

Bappa played his part in bridging the divides in society. He was a man that was always vibrant and full of energy, motion and speed. He was once told that some people had gone off to look for him at a place they were told he was discussing with some people. His legendary response was that was a mistake, don't roam about looking for me. Stay where you are and you will see me come there, after all, I am the wind that goes everywhere; recalled his colleague, Prof Steve Abah.

A lot of the discussion at the event was about the terrible way Nigeria was tearing at the seams of its ethnic, religious, cultural and regional divides and the dearth of bridge builders such as Salihu Muhammad Bappa who have the commitment, zeal and skills to build a common culture of belongingness. For this reason, his friends and colleagues

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Jibrin Ibrahim

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A lot of the discussion at the event was about the terrible way Nigeria was tearing at the seams of its ethnic, religious, cultural and regional divides and the dearth of bridge builders such as Salihu Muhammad Bappa who have the commitment, zeal and skills to build a common culture of belongingness. For this reason, his friends and colleagues miss him a lot. We also miss him for his kindness, willingness to help others, his empathy and his commitment to play his part in moving the dial forward in pushing Nigeria towards progress and better understanding.

Finally, his family pillar and wife, Aisha, and children have always provided refuge and accommodation to numerous visiting friends, acquaintances and comrades. May God continue to protect them and make them prosper while he continues to rest in perfect peace.

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

Insanity And Israeli Plans To Relocate Palestinians To Africa

By Owei Lakemfa

THE ISRAELI plans to deport Palestinians from Gaza to Africa which have been informally confirmed, formally denied, but widely condemned. Despite the wide condemnation including by the United States (US) and European Union (EU), two bodies that have traditionally backed the Israeli actions in the Palestine, it is difficult to say which condemnations are genuine and which along the way, would be reversed.

The ongoing condemnations in the New Year began following the official voice given by two Israeli cabinet Ministers to a military proposal for the 'voluntary emigration' of Gazans. This is a euphemism for the forced deportation of Palestinians from their ancestral lands to make way for full occupation of the Palestine by Israelis.

The plan by Zionists to create a separate state and take over the Palestine was first muted in 1897 at the First Zionist Congress convened by Austrian journalist, Theodor Herzl, in Basel, Switzerland. It declared that its primary goal is: "The promotion by appropriate means of the settlement in Eretz-Israel of Jewish farmers, artisans, and manufacturers."

To the Israeli establishment, deportation of millions of Palestinians is the only solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and guaranteed security of the southern Israeli borders.

The Israeli National Security Minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, told his party Otzma Yehudit members that the current war gives an "opportunity to concentrate on encouraging the migration of the residents of Gaza." The deportation of Palestinians he argued, would be "a correct, just, moral and humane solution."

Israeli Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, who heads the Zionism Party, said the Palestinian deportation policy would: "encourage the voluntary migration of Gaza's residents to countries that will agree to take in the refugees."

The Zman Israel Newspapers, the Hebrew version of 'The Times of Israel' reported on January 3, 2023 that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition is secretly conducting meetings with countries that would accept the deported Palestinians. It quoted an Israeli senior source in the security cabinet as saying: "Congo (DRC) will be willing to take in migrants, and we're in talks with others." The others that have been mentioned include Egypt, Chad and Rwanda.

The DRC, currently led by President Felix Tshisekedi, is apparently being lured by Israel as despite its enormous resources, 52.5 per-cent of the population lives below the poverty line, it is the eleventh largest country in the world and has within three months of its June 30, 1960 independence, being unstable. So, it might not be difficult to seize large swathes of land to resettle the Palestinians Israel hopes to deport. Chad may also have been targeted because, like the

DRC, it has been unstable for over four decades, is poverty-ridden and the military regimes of Idris Deby, the father, and Mahmat Deby, the son who have ruled the country for thirty three years now, are from the Zaghawa ethnic group which constitutes one per-cent of the population. So, it may cost it nothing to give large areas of the 'conquered' country to Israel for resettlement of Palestinians it wants to deport.

Rwanda might have been targeted because it already has a migrants' deportation deal with the United Kingdom under which it agrees to receive illegal migrants for a fee.

As for Egypt, it has been a long-drawn plan with American support to relocate Gazans to the Sinai Peninsula.

French President, Emmanuel Macron, called Israeli War Cabinet Minister, Benny Gantz, to warn against the deportation plans. He told Israel that: "statements relating to the forced displacement of Gazans were unacceptable and contradicted the two-state solution which constitutes the only viable solution for a return to peace and security for all."

The French Foreign Ministry followed up Macron's warning with a statement warning that: "the forced transfer of populations constitutes a serious violation of international law within the meaning of the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute."

The Gaza has been a main Israeli target for long not just because it has huge oil and gas reserves and good lands like the West Bank, but specifically, it is the gateway to the Israeli plan since the 1960s to build a canal, called the Ben Guiron Canal that would link the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. This canal, if built would not only rival the Suez Canal but also give Israel



enormous power over the supply routes for oil, food and shipping. The problem is how do you build the canal right through Gaza if the Palestinians remain in the land? So, the solution is to deport the Gazans.

It added that: "it is not up to the Israeli government to decide where the Palestinians should live on their lands. The future of the Gaza Strip and its inhabitants will be part of a unified Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside Israel."

German Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sebastian Fischer, condemned the deportation statements as: "they are neither useful nor helpful." The close Israeli ally said: "there must be no expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza, there must be no territorial reduction of the Gaza Strip...from our point of view, a two-state solution remains the only sustainable model for Israelis and Palestinians to live together peacefully."

In a very rare condemnation, the US, which is Israel's closest ally, arms supplier, protector in the United Nations and grants an annual \$3 billion to Tel Aviv, said the calls were: "inflammatory and irresponsible."

US State Department Spokesman, Matthew Miller, said: "We have been clear, consistent and unequivocal that Gaza is Palestinian land and will remain Palestinian land, with Hamas no longer in control of its future and with no terror groups able to threaten Israel."

Stung by the US reproach, Ben Gvir responded: "with all due respect, we are not another star on the American flag." He then reiterated his position: "The United States is our best friend, but first of all, we will do what is best for the State of Israel. The emigration of hundreds of thousands of people from Gaza will allow the residents of the

border communities to return home and live in safety."

In his own response, Smotrich told the US: "More than 70% of the Israeli public supports a humanitarian solution of encouraging the voluntary immigration of Arabs from Gaza and their absorption in other countries."

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The Jewish Social-Democratic Workers Party built on this at its October 4-6, 1906 Jaffa Conference. It decided that Jews would not only establish their separate state from the Palestinian population, but also and that there must be segregation of Jewish and Arab peoples and economies. This has been the Israeli programme which was further deepened after the German pogrom.

The Gaza has been a main Israeli target for long not just because it has huge oil and gas reserves and good lands like the West Bank, but specifically, it is the gateway to the Israeli plan since the 1960s to build a canal, called the Ben Guiron Canal that would link the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. This canal, if built would not only rival the Suez Canal but also give Israel enormous power over the supply routes for oil, food and shipping. The problem is how do you build the canal right through Gaza if the Palestinians remain in the land? So, the solution is to deport the Gazans.

The Israeli plan to depot Palestinians to Africa is an insane one, but so also was the pogrom before it was put into practice.

My Friend, Isa Gusau — A Tribute

By: KASHIM SHETTIMA

There couldn't have been a more poignant last chapter to a man's life than my final text exchange with him. He reached out on December 31, 2023, to draw my attention to a Qur'an recital competition in Damaturu, Yobe State, stating that it transpired without deserving prizes.

In his typical fashion, he outlined interventions that could align with the noble ambitions of the reciters and organisers. What he didn't say this time around, while preferring the cloak he wore to redirect our concerns away from his health and towards others, was that he was on the brink of existence. He was in a hospital bed far away from home.

About a year earlier, Mallam Isa Gusau visited me at home in Abuja, and I couldn't help but notice his sickly physical transformation. He opened up about his health struggle only when I insisted. I disagreed with his philosophy of not wanting his health to be the subject of interest in his line of work. However, he followed the direction we suggested for medical intervention and returned to prioritizing his job. With him, it's always duty first, and that drive for excellence was once a source of trouble for us when we were on opposite sides of the table.

In 2007, when I assumed the role of Commissioner of Finance in Governor Ali Modu Sheriff's government in Borno State, Mallam Gusau was the Daily Trust correspondent and later Bureau Chief covering the Borno-Yobe axis. He had been a problem for the government before my arrival. Fresh out of the private sector, I conducted sentiment analysis of my new station, and this inviolable reporter was a recurring problem in our efforts to manage the perception of the state and the government's commitment to the people, especially during the critical phase of an ideological invasion in the North-East by a group that has since become the global calamity known as Boko Haram.

I had always admired objective contrarians and critics, and it didn't take long to understand why Mallam Gusau's journalistic overtures had been a nightmare for the government. His principles were as unyielding as ancient mountains, deeply rooted in the



Shettima (right) with Gusau

bedrock of his conviction as a chronicler of state affairs. I found myself compelled to acquaint with the fearless man. Ms. Kwapchi Bata Hamman, who was then a reporter at NTA Maiduguri, became our eyes on him and eventually our bridge to him. She, along with the late Zubairu Maina Shani, a fellow Commissioner in Governor Sherrif's government, formed our troika to untie the Gordian knot that was Isa Gusau. That one man could stir us this much, stand up to us with no fear or susceptibility to compromise, was a credential like no other. So, I knew just then that I wanted to be friends with such a man, a rebel with a noble cause. Our destinies aligned sooner than I had expected. In 2011, when I was sworn into office as the Executive Governor of Borno State, I knew immediately that I must be surrounded by perceived trouble-makers if I were to make a difference, and Gusau easily came to mind. I was unconcerned about his origin, only what he was bringing to the table. I have always seen a leader who functions in an echo chamber as a tragedy.

Mallam Gusau agreed to be my spokesperson, testing the political divide that his path had crossed as a journalist. He mastered the art of shaping perceptions, traversing lengths unknown to me at the time. He was invested in the well-being of his colleagues and those he serves, and distinguished

himself as a mediator and bridge builder in resolving office conflicts. Only many years later did I discover the depths to which he went to protect me, skilfully managing or quashing crosses without seeking the spotlight or credit.

Along with his team, he breathed life into the communication of government policies in Borno State, making us realize that even the finest idea or policy by the government is doomed to fail without strategic communications. Their legacy turned Borno State into a viable landmark on the topography of governance in Nigeria. He explored traditional and new media to dispel every attempt to caricature the state, whether in mischief or honest ignorance.

Gusau's loyalty to friends, matched only by his competence and devotion to duty, sets him apart. This sense of responsibility led him to decline an invitation to serve as a commissioner in his home state, Zamfara, choosing instead to stay with his friends in Borno State. He played a central role among the multicultural aides that we assembled, contributing to our service to the people.

In that inclusive team of ours, where Borno State was warmly embraced as home, was Lanre Obadiah from Kwara State. Kester Ogalili and Victor Izekor were from Anambra and Abia State respectively. Christopher Godwin Akaba, an Urhobo man from Delta State,

and Jack Vicent Fidelis, an Igala man from Kogi State, were also valuable members. Expanding our connections to neighboring states, Ahmed Ishaq Ningi from Bauchi State and Usman Majidadi Kumo from Gombe State were part of this dedicated ensemble.

The team was valorised by Mallam Gusau, who also served as my Special Adviser on Strategy while overseeing communications. It's not surprising that he's the longest-serving adviser in the history of the state. He praised your triumphs and intervened when you erred, always having the perfect books for every scenario he painted. This book-exchanging culture made him a refuge and a mirror. So, I had no speck of scepticism in recommending him for employment as an adviser to Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, whom he served for four and a half years after advising me for eight years.

Until three weeks ago, when I brought this up, Governor Zulum himself had no idea that Gusau was a leading voice advocating and justifying my choice of him as a successor. He never mentioned this to his new principal, just as he was always reluctant to divulge his health history. This lifestyle, which we opposed and came to acknowledge as the depth of his fidelity to duty, was, to him, a way to never curry favour and pity.

In a twist of fate, Isa Gusau,

once perceived as a provocateur during his radical years, found himself forging unexpected alliances in a profound display of irony. Without accommodating compromises, he reconciled with those who had once deemed him a problem. The crescendo of this surprising journey was reached when he, against all odds, entered into matrimony with the sister of none other than Sen. Ali Modu Sheriff. This unexpected union not only symbolised the mellowing of Gusau's feuds or differences with others but also cast a vivid contrast onto the canvas of his life.

What also never made the news was his philanthropy, reaching from the younger generation to the elderly. His generosity extended to the procurement of vehicles for media personnel and correspondents working in the hinterlands of Southern Borno. There was a poignant moment when he generously handed over his only vehicle to an indigent journalist colleague. I became aware of this act of kindness when I witnessed him trekking to his residence, a stone's throw away from the Borno State Government House.

This incident invoked thoughts of Adam Grant's acclaimed work, "Give and Take," which categorises humanity into two reciprocity styles: Givers and Takers. Givers, characterized by their altruism, quietly assist others without seeking the spotlight, while Takers are driven by greed, desiring more than they contribute. The book celebrates legendary figures like C.J. Skender, the late Stu Inman, and George Meyer as quintessential Givers. Undoubtedly, my dear friend, Isa Umar Gusau, belongs to the distinguished category of these selfless and beautiful souls.

The void left by Gusau's demise, as he departed from the sphere of his influence, transcends Borno State. It even extends beyond those who had feared his honesty. His loss is immense for the entire nation, which requires courageous advisors around our public office-holders, and for the humanity he served until his last breath on Thursday, January 11, 2024. May Allah repose his soul and comfort all those he left behind. Ameen.

Senator Kashim Shettima was the Executive Governor of Borno State between 2011 and 2019, and Nigeria's current Vice President.

Africa Games Qualifiers: Nimrod Optimistic As Nigeria's Beach Volleyball Teams Depart For Ghana

*Plans playing tour ahead Paris 2024 Olympics *Team departs today

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Engineer Musa Nimrod Nimrod has no doubt on his mind, as the nation's male and female senior Beach volleyball teams depart for Ghana for final qualifications ahead of the Africa Games. Speaking to sports writers at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna, where both teams have been camping, the NVBF President is optimistic of a good outing for the teams. "Beach volleyball teams are going for Africa Games qualification. They are to depart Kaduna on January 17 and Arrive Ghana on 18. "I have seen a shock in the team,

especially the female team. Young players are in charge now and they are ready to give their best," he said. Speaking further, he said that they are not just preparing for Africa Games, but Confederation Cup which includes Olympic Games Paris 2024. "This time Nigeria would want to go to Paris 2024. After going to Ghana, we are planning to see how they would go for international tour. We feel Morocco or Egypt will be better for the tour," he revealed. He explained that for Africa Games, only two payers will represent each team, while the Olympics, will be four players each. "When they come from Ghana,

they would all come back to camp, including the indoor volleyball teams. "This time we want to get the ticket for Paris 2024, we are pulling resources together, so that we get this ticket," he said. Commenting on funding of the teams, he explained that for now, the federation is responsible until the teams are qualified for international competitions, before the Federal Ministry of Sports Development takes over. "We all know the current situation in Nigeria, it is not easy now, so we have to bear with the president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, because even he has reduced his entourage for trips abroad due to our economic situation," he added. Also speaking, Inodu Francis,

Head Coach National Beach Volleyball, said that they are used to the terrain in Kaduna and have worked hard during the camping, hence, what is expected from the teams at the qualifications for Africa Games in medals. "We have never eluded All Africa Games since beach volleyball event came on board. We are assuring the country that we are coming back with a medal. "The medical team has been up to the task, so we don't have the AFCON experience. In anything sports in Africa World, the Arab world is always a threat, so we are weary of them," he said. One of the make players, Hilary Simon in his response to

questions, said that, "by God's grace, Nigeria has never lost at this stage of the qualifiers, this will not be a different. "All our players in camp are exposed, with the support we are getting, we believe all will go well. "NVBF President, has put all in place and we look forward to making Nigeria proud." Also speaking, a female player, Esther Mbah Onyiyechi said they are ready to do Nigeria proud. " We will be facing the likes of Ghana, Togo, Benin Republic and we are sure we will come out tops. "My ultimate goal is to get the ticket and make Nigeria proud at AllAfrica Games," she declared.



Africa Games Qualifiers: Nimrod
Optimistic As Nigeria's Beach Volleyball
Teams Depart For Ghana

*Plans playing tour ahead Paris 2024 Olympics
 *Team departs today

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Nigerian Military Best Trained, Exposed In African subregion -- AA Chairman

By: ISAAC ODEH, Abuja

The National Chairman of Action Alliance (AA) Dr. Adekunle Rufai Omo-Aje has said that the Nigerian military is about the best trained and exposed in the African subregion, saying their exploits in and out of the shores of the country is so amazingly glorious in terms of expertise and exploitation.

He expressed this in a statement to commemorate the 2024 Nigerian Armed Forces Day,

made available to the media in Kaduna on January 15, 2024.

Omo-Aje however, expressed dismay that it seems Nigerians are not as appreciative enough as they ought to be of them, because of the "Nigerian system and factor" that exposes them more than necessary to the point that people get too familiarly used to them than normal.

According to him, the Armed forces sacrifices of the civil war of the past were too numerous and these gallant heroes paid the

supreme price to keep everyone alive today.

He added that, "their feat is also visible when you talk of the internally orchestrated intrigues of terrorism and banditry, and everyone will agree that these men in green uniform deserve our accolades.

"I want to appreciate the doggedness and spirited boldness of our gallant military men.

"I pray that their services to the nation and us all will surely not

go unappreciated and want to appeal to the current administration of our President, the highly rated Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to devise a means for better appreciating the services of these gallant men and women who stay awake to keep us safe and secure.

"I am happy that the president is already doing something in line with immortalizing the fallen heroes and also reaching out to their families. Initiatives like this inspire more resolute zeal in these men to put in more in

serving the nation as expected of them."

The AA National chairman opined that one of the highest guided responsibilities of any government around the world is the security of lives and property of its citizens.

According to him, Nigeria is not in isolation from the rest of the world with the same focus and aspiration.

The military in Nigeria he added, has over time, proven to be responsible and up and doing.

FCID Apprehends Fleeing Delta Coy Driver, 2 Others, Recovers Stolen Vehicle

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Detectives attached to the Force Criminal Investigations Department (FCID) Annex, Alagbon Lagos has apprehended a fleeing company driver from Delta State and two others over a stolen company vehicle in Lagos.

Two accomplices were also arrested along with the suspects, while attempting to sale the vehicle in Epe area of Lagos.

Identified as Ibrahim Babangida, a 35-year old suspect from Bida, Niger State, the suspect was said to have been employed as a driver at SKECC Nigeria Limited, a Warri-based construction company on the 31st December 2023 and assigned to convey company items to Sapele Staff Quarters. Having delivered the goods, he was said to have eloped with the vehicle and headed to Epe, Lagos State to link up with his syndicate members with intent to sell the vehicle off for ₦10M (Ten Million Naira).

The Assistant Inspector General of Police FCID Annex, Alagbon Lagos AIG Idowu Owohunwa who paraded the suspects yesterday, identified the two

other suspects as Wilson Onobukoko and Daniel Paul.

The Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mayegun Aminat, who represented the AIG disclosed that all the suspects have confessed to the crime, adding that the stolen vehicle with Reg. No. WWR 846 AH along with its original documents were also recovered.

Her words, "On 1st January, 2024, at about 0800hrs, the operatives of the Force Criminal Investigation Department (Annex) Lagos, conducted an intelligence-led undercover operation which led to the arrest of one Ibrahim Babangida, a 35-year old suspect from Bida, Niger State in the course of finalizing the disposal of a stolen Toyota Pick-up van in Lagos.

"Upon his arrest, Ibrahim Babangida confessed to intending to dispose the vehicle through his contact whom he identified as Emmanuel Olalekan, a Mechanic at Epe, Lagos State who is currently at large.

He also indicated that Emmanuel Olalekan who had knowledge of his crime, linked him with Wilson Onobukoko and Daniel Paul for purpose of sourcing buyers for the stolen



The suspects and the recovered stolen vehicle

vehicle. It was in the course of colluding with the duo to find appropriate buyers that undercover police detectives from FCID (Annex) Lagos swooped on him, arrested him and recovered the stolen vehicle from him.

"Ibrahim Babangida was employed as a driver at SKECC Nigeria Limited, Warri-based construction company on the 31st December 2023 and one of his first tasks by his employers was for him to convey company

items to Sapele Staff Quarters. Upon delivering the goods, however, he stole the vehicle in his charge and headed to Epe, Lagos State to link up with his syndicate members with intent to sell the vehicle off for ₦10M (Ten Million Naira).

"Wilson Onobukoko and Daniel Paul have been arrested and they also confessed to the crime. The stolen vehicle with Reg. No. WWR 846 AH along with its original documents were also recovered. Detectives of this Department are in contact with

Delta State Police Command towards transferring the suspects and the stolen vehicle to them for conclusive investigation and prosecution.

"AIG Idowu Owohunwa assures that under his watch, FCID Alagbon, Lagos will continue to deploy intelligence-led policing model in the advancement of the investigation, crime detection and crime prevention mandates of the Department in line with the charge of the Inspector General of Police."