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To Disburse  
Over N3bn To  
Vulnerable  
Communities

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## Mutfwang Hosts North Central Governors, Pledges To Advance Peace, Unity For Regional Development

- Governors condemn Christmas Eve deadly attacks
- Donate N100m to victims

By: **BUHARI B BELLO, Jos**

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang has reaffirmed his dedication to collaborating with fellow North Central governors to promote peace, unity, and substantial development in the region.

Speaking during a condolence visit yesterday by the North Central Governors' Forum led by Nasarawa State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, Governor Mutfwang

expressed gratitude for their support after the recent attacks in Bokkos, Mangu, and Barkin-Ladi Local Government Areas.

He emphasized the North Central's significance as a cohesive force in the nation and highlighted the region's abundant natural resources, stating their potential benefits for the entire nation.

Governor Mutfwang called for united efforts to combat armed banditry, terrorism, and criminal activities prevalent in the region.

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**Skills Acquisition City Will Develop Manpower For Kaduna State - Uba Sani**



Left: Gov Bago of Niger State in a handshake with Gov Mufwang of Plateau State with Gov Abdullahi of Nasarawa State in the middle.

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**Festival Suspended Due To Insecurity Resumes After 18 Years In Southern Kaduna**

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**We Organise Routine Prayers To Get Out Of Hardship, Promote Peaceful Coexistence - Kano Chief Imams**

# Governor Mutfwang Hosts North Central Governors, Pledges To Advance Peace, Unity For Regional Development

## ■ Governors condemn Christmas Eve deadly attacks

Condemning the recent acts of terrorism in Plateau, he appealed to the Federal Government for assistance in dualizing the Wamba-Panyam and Akwanga-Jos roads, crucial gateways for security operations in the North East. Forum Chairman, Governor Engr. Abdullahi Sule, conveyed condolences for the Christmas Eve attacks, describing Plateau as a true home for Nigerians.

He stressed the need to identify the root cause of the issue for a lasting solution, expressing confidence in Governor Mutfwang's ability to address it with wisdom and courage.

Engr. Sule characterized the incident as pure terrorism, urging the deployment of technology to identify perpetrators and curb their operations in the North Central.

He emphasized the collective responsibility of all Nigerians in addressing the challenge.

Governors Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia of Benue State and Mohammed Umar Bago of Niger State condemned the heinous act, calling for unity to safeguard the common destiny of the North Central people.

They encouraged investment in agriculture to harness the region's abundant natural resources.

Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, appreciated the governors' unity and urged them to focus on the region's mineral resources for the prosperity of its people.

The delegation from the three states, comprising top government officials, religious leaders, and traditional rulers among others.

The governors donated N100 million to the victims of the attacks.



# Family Raises Alarm Over Alleged Attempt By Ex-monarch's Son To Impose Himself As Next Onikoyi

## *\*Asks Lagos Govt, others to call him to order*

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Some members within the extended Onikoyi royal family in Lagos Island yesterday, alerted of alleged plans by a son of the immediate past Onikoyi, Oba Ibikunle Fafunwa, to impose himself as the next Onikoyi.

Speaking to journalists, the family members alleged that Prince Kunle Fafunwa, the youngest son of the late monarch, is making efforts to impose himself as the new Onikoyi against the will of the royal family as a whole, adding that Prince Fafunwa's alleged plan to become the next Onikoyi contradicts the rotational agreement which is part of the provisions of the 2006 Onikoyi declaration signed by the then governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu,

who is the current President of Nigeria.

According to a member of the family, Prince Olayinka Abidemi Onikoyi from Aluko Ajose branch, there are 10 branches within the Onikoyi royal family, and that all the branches had unanimously honoured the rotational agreement and endorsed a candidate among themselves.

They expressed concerns and wondered why the son of the immediate past Onikoyi will signify interest in becoming the next Onikoyi by all means, when he is aware of the rotational agreement among all the branches, Prince Abidemi called on the Lagos State Government and other relevant authorities to call him to order.

"My name is Olayinka Abidemi Onikoyi from Aluko Ajose

branch. What we are talking about is 2006 Onikoyi declaration. We used to have Chief before. The Lagos state government set up a tribunal, they looked at our history and we were given the order to have King. In the declaration, it was stated that there will be ten branches", he said.

Prince Abidemi added, "The first on the list is Fafunwa, the family that produced the late king. So, how will his son say that he will be the next king when we have others branches waiting? The Onikoyi royal family is more than 5,000 people. There is a declaration that says it should be rotated among all the branches. How can somebody whose father left the throne say it is his turn?"

"The entire Onikoyi royal family came together and unanimously

honoured the 2006 Onikoyi declaration. The Ojubira branch presented 3 candidates and out of them, one has been settled for. His selection was supported by all the branches. So, the son of the immediate past Onikoyi does not have the right to contest at this point in time. I also want to be king, but it is not our turn yet." Also, another member of the Onikoyi royal family, Alhaja Fausat Alli Onikoyi, while speaking to journalists, said that it will not be possible for someone whose father left the throne to become the next Onikoyi because of the provisions of the declaration which states that it should be rotated among all the branches, adding, "We have 10 branches because Muti had 10 children. It is not possible for Prince Kunle Fafunwa to be the next Onikoyi

because ascension to the throne is on a rotational basis".

"We don't have any problem with anyone. Anything apart from what the family has done is illegal. All the branches were present and well represented when the decision to choose the next Onikoyi was taken, and there is no going back on our decision", she said.

Alhaja Fausat Onikoyi alleged that Prince Kunle Fafunwa doesn't have respect for the Onikoyi royal family at large, accusing the son of the immediate past Onikoyi of considering himself bigger than the family.

Attempts by our correspondent to reach Prince Fafunwa as at the time of sending this story proved abortive as his number was not reachable.

# We Will Continue To Demystify Governance In Akwa Ibom - Gov Eno

## *\*Reels out 7 months' score card*

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has reiterated the commitment of his administration to run a simple and interesting governance to the embrace of all in the state.

Governor Eno who stated this in his New Year broadcast to the people of the state on Monday, maintained that his administration would respect the opinions of past leaders of the state and carry them along in government policies and programmes.

Eno explained that the direction was to encourage the spirit of patriotism, drive entrepreneurship as well as attract investors to the state. A development, he added formed part of his administration's economic blueprint - ARISE Agenda.

He stressed that what his administration has achieved for the state within the seven months on the saddle of governance are pointers to achieving the Golden

Era that his administration has promised to ferry the state into.

Realizing the important of effective security to safe guarding life and property as well as for a peaceful society, Gov Eno said that his administration through due consultation with stakeholders, has launched an internal security outfit called Ibom Community Watch over five thousand trained youths of the state as members.

His words, "My dear compatriots, what we have achieved in seven months gives us hope on what lies ahead in the New Year. We will continue to demystify the work of government and bring governance closer to the people. This we have already demonstrated in more ways than one.

"I have ensured that all the Wards in this state have a Personal Aide working and reporting directly to my Office. I have ensured that all the units have a Watcher of the Ibom Community Watch drawn from them and I have taken time

to consult with our stakeholders in most of my initiatives so far. I shall continue to run an all-inclusive government, paying respect to all our past leaders."

Speaking more on the achievements and what the people of the state should expect in the new, Governor Eno said, "Today, seven months after our inauguration, I make bold to say that in spite of the hazy economic horizon, the fundamentals of our development are strong and resilient. Akwa Ibom State is Rising with the ARISE Agenda and the Golden Era we had promised is already here. Even though we still have many miles to go, what we have collectively achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow and beyond."

"In the area of Agriculture, we have started the steady but firm commitment to engendering agricultural revolution in our State. The Ibom Model Farm, a collaborative effort with the world renowned Songhai Farms of Porto Novo, Benin Republic,

was flag-off a little over two weeks ago, in Ikot Edibon, Nsit Ubium local government area. It promises to be the most integrated farm in this part of the Nation. It will not only guarantee food security but will also create jobs for thousands of people and stimulate tourism.

"We have requested the Local Government Council Chairmen, to donate lands for the establishment of demonstration farms in each of the local government areas. We have revitalized the Dakkada Palm Oil Estate with new seedlings and have equally invested funds in Cocoa plantations in the state.

"In fulfillment of our campaign promises to complete ongoing projects initiated by the immediate past administration, we have released over Ten Billion Naira to get contractors back to various sites across the state. Works are ongoing at these project sites such as the Victor Attah International Airport Road Expansion and others located all over the State.

"In the Aviation sector, we have released about 6.5 billion Naira to support ongoing projects at the Victor Attah International Airport. We have also kept all our financial obligations with Airbus Corporation and about a month ago, we received the first of the ten Airbus A220-300 Series into the Ibom Air fleet.

"In the Power sector, we have directed that an operational audit of Ibom Power Plant be done. Our aim is to reposition that critical plant to yield the expected dividends for our people. We believe strongly that with adequate power, our entrepreneurs in the state can do better and our economy will be better for it." The governor listed among others.

While thanking God for His mercy that endured in the state, Governor Eno sued for prayers and support from the citizens for government to succeed.

He however, prayed and wished the people of the state a prosperous new year while also wishing the entire country well

# SGF Calls For Understanding, Support For President Tinubu

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator Dr. George Akume has called on the people of Mbagwaza Community of Benue State President Ahmed Tinubu administration as decisive efforts are currently in place to change the negative narratives in the country. The SGF stated this at the NKST Vehe, Kôr-injô Consistory of Faajir Classis, during the commissioning of a church project initiated by the Executive Secretary and

Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Shippers Council, Hon. Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah equally solicited for prayers for their son who initiated the project. According to the statement signed by the Media Director of the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Shipping Council, Comr. Levi Orbem Atume, the SGF was represented by Professor Babatunde Bolaji Iorwuese said the church project was commissioned to the glory of God and service to humanity. Senator George Akume who also a former governor

of the Benue State called on the people to continue to pray for good things to come to Tiv nation as well as support the administration of president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to surmount the challenges confronting the nation. The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Shippers Council, Hon. Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah, who donated the church project, appreciated God for blessing him and his family, and thanked Senator Dr. George Akume for his fatherly support in building him to impact on the

society. Other speakers, including District Head of Mbagwaza, Zaki Tyoor J. I Kpenkpen, Ushongu APC leader, Major J. O. Mayange retired, Comrade Atir, among others lauded the developmental strides of Hon. Pius Akutah and encouraged Mbagwaza people to continue to support him. Rev. Pastor Aondoakaa Achiatse of NKST Kôr-injô in his contribution described Barrister Akutah as the Nehemiah of Mbagwaza, thanked Senator George Akume for lifting Mbagwaza clan to a

higher position through Barrister Akuta and prayed God to continue to bless him. Earlier in his sermon, Ortese P. T. Awanya of NKST Faajir, read from Psalms 127 and 118 verses 23 and 24 and said it is God who empowers people to work for him and impact on others. He encouraged Christians to humble themselves to work for God as He exalts those who humble themselves and despite the proud, even as he thanked Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah for committing his resources to the church project.





## Festival Suspended Due To Insecurity Resumes After 18 Years In Southern Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Executive Chairman of Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Hon. Francis Sani Zimbo has disclosed that the Nom Bajju which is an annual Bajju Cultural Festival, which has not been marked since May 2005 largely due to instability, insecurity, and unforeseen circumstances, has resumed 18 years after. He disclosed this at the 2023 Nom Bajju Cultural Festival held in Zonkwa on Sunday.

He explained that the event taking place is a signal of the gradual return of relative peace and stability in Zango Kataf Local Government Area, which has eluded them for over a decade.

He said, "My administration has worked tirelessly and assiduously to achieve this. The feat has earned me a national recognition from the Peace Academy of Management and Administration (PAMA) as one of its Peace Ambassadors."

Guest Speaker of the occasion, a former Minister of Information, Prof. Jerry Gana, called on the people of Southern Kaduna to think creatively and engage strategically for the sustainable development of the region. According to him, because of the love the Bajju Community has for God, He is going to transform their land for it to rise again.

He challenged the people to think creatively, work creatively, organize productively, invest boldly, seek strategic partners as well as govern wisely, and find solutions to guarantee a prosperous society.

The Chairman of the occasion, former Governor of Kaduna State, Sen. Ahmed Makarfi said the essence of the ceremony was to showcase culture

and sustain the bond of unity of the Bajju people.

Senator Makarfi noted with satisfaction that the Bajju people have always excelled in every position of responsibility given to them and expressed gratitude to the Bajju Community Development Association, BADA for inducting him into the 'Bajju Hall of Fame.'

The Kaduna State Governor, Sen. Uba Sani, Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State as well as the Chief of Defence Staff, who were represented through the Senator representing Kaduna South Senatorial District, Barrister Sunday Marshall Katung, harped on the need for the people to promote peace at all times to guarantee a versatile and progressive society.

On personal grounds, Senator Katung said people's characters are molded by their thinking and urged all to acknowledge the significance of unity as a veritable tool that propels any human society to success.

Earlier, the Paramount Chief of the Bajju people, Agwam Kajju, Mr Luka Kogi Yabuwat hailed many sons and daughters of the land occupying positions for demonstrating a high sense of responsibility in discharging their duties to move the Kajju land forward.

The Royal father appealed to Governor Uba Sani to consider the possibility of completing the construction work on the Agwam Kajju's palace to make work much more convenient for him.

Highlights of the occasion include the award of traditional titles to Governor Uba Sani, Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State, Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, Professor Jerry Gana and General Martins Luther Agwai by the Agwam Kajju.

## Dep Gov's Security Aides, Protocol Officer In Police Net Over Theft From Foreign Investors

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

Two security aides and a Protocol Officer in the office of the Nasarawa State Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe, are cooling off in police custody for stealing money belonging to foreign investors in the state.

They were alleged to have conspired and stolen the money in US Dollars before the Christmas break from the Deputy Governor's office.

A close aide of the Deputy Governor who confirmed the incident said the amount stolen was equivalent to ₦20 million.

The aide who spoke under condition of anonymity yesterday, said the trio (names withheld) stole the money and shared amongst themselves with the security aides getting the lion share.

"The security aides bought vehicle and motorcycle for themselves while the protocol officer bought a house with his share of ₦3.5 million.

"The money in foreign currency belong to foreign investors interested in Lithium mining in the state.

"They left the money inside a bag at the Deputy Governor's office after a meeting involving three companies involved in

mining right dispute over sites in Nasarawa LGA of the State chaired by Dr Akabe.

"I think the money was left in the deputy governor's office to set him up and indict him in a bribery scandal in order to rubbish his image for refusing to compromise or do their bidding," the source, stated further.

Acting on the alleged theft, an independent investigation was launched by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe, which confirmed the involvement of the trio in the act. They have since confessed to the crime and explained how the money

was shared amongst themselves.

"The Deputy Governor has given them ultimatum to return the money as stolen in dollars so that it would be given to the owner.

"The concerned security authorities are currently handling the matter," the source added.

Efforts to reach the office of the Deputy Governor for comment over the matter proved abortive at press time.

The two security aides involved however, belong to the Nigeria Police Force and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

## We Organise Routine Prayers To Get Out Of Hardship, Promote Peaceful Coexistence - Kano Chief Imams

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

A special prayer session was held at Dungurawa Town for Nigeria and other countries across the world on economic progress, national security and peaceful coexistence by Imams and other Islamic scholars in 2024. Shekh Zubair Adam who led the prayers, disclosed that Nigeria needs more prayers from both Muslims and Christians because the country is

facing so many challenges are becoming serious threat to peace and economic progress nowadays.

He added that, "We organised such special prayers at the end of Islamic and Gregorian calendars because our country deserves prayers to ensure that the present hardship becomes a history, and from what we understand, prayers remained a great remedy to any situation"

Sheikh Zubair Adam then

called on the present administration to bring out more programmes that would ease hardships especially to the vulnerable citizens residing at rural communities across the country and to constitute a special monitoring committee that consists trusted people to supervise what the government offers as palliatives.

Commenting on the special prayers, the Chief

Imam of Dungurawa in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area of Kano State, Alhaji Hassan Halliru told our correspondent that, "We also conduct special prayers every Friday to seek God's intervention for the present economic situation that brings hardship and uncertainty in Nigeria and other nations, in this regard, we agreed to continue praying to solicit Allah's blessings". He concluded.

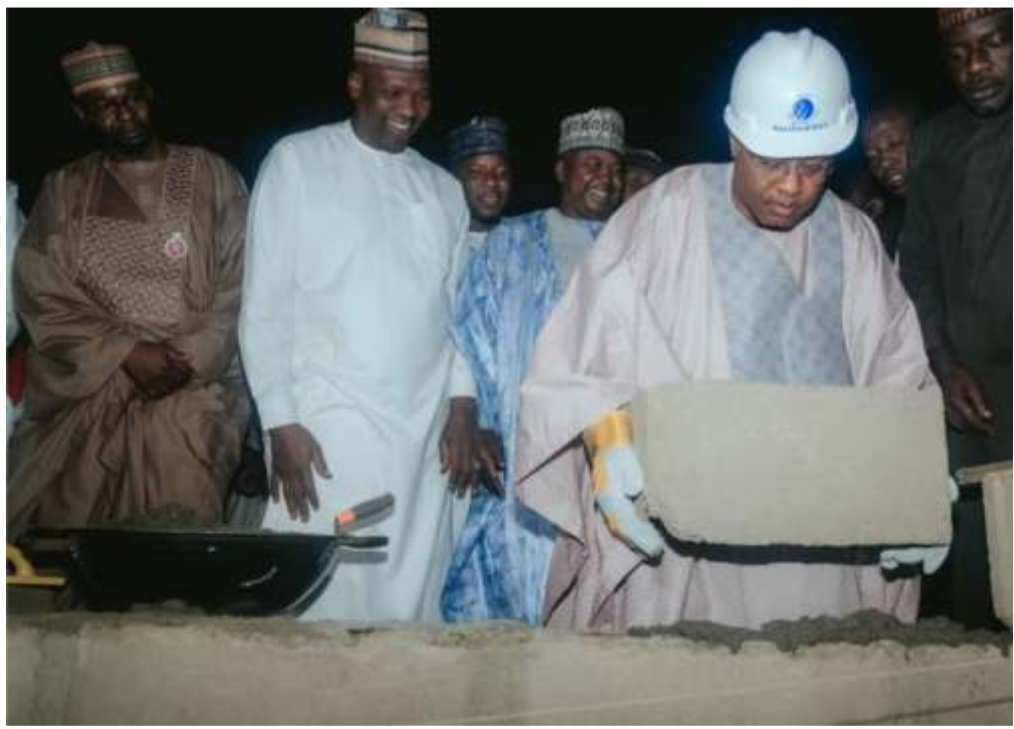
# Skills Acquisition City Will Develop Manpower For Kaduna State - Uba Sani

**By; FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna**  
Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani has performed the groundbreaking and foundation laying for the Kaduna State Vocational and Technology Skills Acquisition City in Soba Town, Soba Local Government. The Soba Skills City is the third after the

ones in Rigachikun, Igabi LG and Samaru Kataf, Zangon Kataf LG. According to him, the Skills Acquisition City will develop the manpower of Kaduna State with focus on employability in various fields, and ensure that the right vocational and technical skills needed by industries are available in Kaduna State.

He said, the trainees will be equipped with a variety of vocational and technical skills including: Welding and Fabrication, Articulated Vehicle Driving, Automobile Gas Conversion, Automotive Mechatronics, Solar Power Installation, Electrical Installation, Tiling, POP Making, Carpentry and Joinery, Fashion

and Design, Aluminum Fabrication, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. "Our administration will spare no efforts in equipping our citizens, especially the youths with the requisite skills to make them employable, wealth creators, and major contributors to the development of our dear state," he assured.



# Zamfara CSDA To Disburse Over N3bn To Vulnerable Communities

By; **A D A M MUHAMMAD, Gusau**

The Zamfara State Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA) under the third cycle of the NG-CARES programme is to disburse the sum of three billion, three hundred and five million, forty thousand Naira (₦3,305,40,000.00) is to be disbursed to 245 vulnerable communities/groups across the state.

The General Manager of the agency, Alhaji Umar Muhammad Nakwada disclosed this during the pre-projects implementation training to 245 community project

management committees held in Gusau, the state capital.

According to him, the programme is part of the agency's efforts to support the poor and vulnerable/groups community to eradicate poverty in the area of health, education, water, sanitation, nutrition and environment.

He added that the training is to sanitize the participants their responsibility for monitoring the projects in their respective localities.

"Agency would ensure prompt monitoring of the projects under its jurisdiction, and for the communities to ensure

proper record of their projects transaction". He said

According to him, the beneficiaries must abide by the rules of the project agreement and effective utilisation of fund to be allocated to them.

It would be recalled that more than fifty communities have recently received similar training and was allocated the tune of over seven hundred million Naira to undertake various projects in their respective domains.

This category of the community is among four thousand five hundred communities designed to

benefit with basic services projects under NG-CARES Result Area 1 programme in Zamfara State.

Papers presented to CPMC by the resource persons are, the responsibilities of the CPMC in the projects implementation, conflicts management, environmental safe guard, store management report Writing, purchasing technics, book keeping and monitoring and evaluation.

The training session was followed with questions and answers interaction respectively.

## Transmission Company of Nigeria To Be Reconstituted Soon - Minister

*\*Says they are ready to support President's Electricity Turnaround Agenda*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu has hinted that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) will be reconstituted in the short term.

Chief Adelabu who dropped this hint in a statement made available to journalists in Ibadan on Monday, also reassured Nigerians of his ministry's commitment to prioritize electricity supply in the country in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's electricity turnaround agenda in his New year message.

The minister said in order to improve the transmission infrastructure, "we have reactivated the Presidential Power Initiative (Siemens Project) which will strengthen the national grid, and minimize technical losses. We will also be implementing the Eastern and Western super grid projects to strengthen the grid and increase electricity supply to demand centers in the country.

"The Transmission Company of Nigeria will be reconstituted in the short term, separating Transmission services from System and Market operations in the first quarter of this year", he said.

Chief Adelabu added, "In the medium to long-term the Transmission grid will be separated into regional grids to enable effective management".

"Generating at installed capacity is a goal for government-owned plants, while private companies are encouraged to invest further. Off-grid and distributed generation, utilizing renewables, will be a focal point, solar PV plants, small hydro plants, and wind farms will be strategically deployed".

The Minister maintained that the Ministry, agencies and DISCOs worked

tirelessly during the yuletide season to enhance power supply while also acknowledging positive improvements.

He pointed out that "in recognizing the critical role of electricity in economic growth, the initial three months on his assumption of office focused on diagnosis, stakeholder consultation, and strategy formulation" adding, "With a well-documented implementation plan, adding that it is now time to take decisive action".

"Our primary focus is enhancing distribution and transmission infrastructure to minimize technical and commercial losses. The lack of liquidity continues to be a significant challenge in the electricity market".

"We are currently reviewing the implementation process of a cost reflective tariff, while Government will continue to subsidize power supply to those that are vulnerable in our society."

The Minister noted "Closing the meter gap is imperative, and ongoing initiatives, including World Bank programs and the Presidential Metering Initiatives, will gain momentum. The Ministry will intervene in distribution infrastructure, supplying transformers to communities without burdening citizens financially".

He disclosed that rural electrification would remain a priority, with plans for solar-powered mini/micro grids and street lights while collaborating closely with DISCOs and State Electricity Boards, "our efforts will align with local needs".

Commenting on Power theft, Chief Adelabu said tackling power theft and vandalism is paramount and that "This national responsibility requires joint efforts to protect our assets".

# Be Patient, Show Understanding With Tinubu Government - NUJ

*\*Says change takes time*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) on Sunday, asked Nigerians to be patient and show understanding with the government of President Bola Tinubu

NUJ gave the charge in a New Year message signed by its President, Dr Chris Isiguzo MFR.

According to the union, the President Tinubu government, "is navigating the complexities of governance with a vision encapsulated in the Renewed Hope Agenda.

"As we embark on this new journey, I wish to address our fellow citizens with a plea for patience and understanding. The federal government, under the leadership of President

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is navigating the complexities of governance with a vision encapsulated in the Renewed Hope Agenda", he said.

The NUJ National President added, "Change takes time, and in the spirit of unity, let us be patient as the administration works towards achieving its goals for the betterment of our nation'. President Tinubu's agenda carries the promise of revitalized governance, economic prosperity, and social cohesion.

"It is incumbent upon us, as responsible citizens, to engage constructively, hold our leaders accountable, and actively contribute to the building of a nation we can all be proud of".

The NUJ National

President however, expressed gratitude to each journalist across Nigeria for their tireless dedication to the pursuit of truth, praying, "May 2024 be a year of resilience, growth, and collective achievement. Let us move forward with hope in our hearts, unity in our actions, and an unwavering commitment to the ideals that make our profession and our nation great".

"As we stand on the precipice of a new year, I extend my warmest wishes to you all. The dawning of 2024 brings with it the promise of a fresh start, renewed hope, and the opportunity for collective growth. In the spirit of reflection and anticipation, I address you today with a message of optimism and a call for unity.

"Our noble profession of journalism holds a unique responsibility in shaping the narrative of our nation. In the face of challenges, the pen remains mightier than the sword. As journalists, we are entrusted with the crucial task of disseminating information, uncovering truth, and safeguarding the principles of democracy".

Dr Isiguzo stressed "The year ahead holds immense potential for progress and positive change. It is a canvas upon which we can paint a future built on the foundations of transparency, accountability, and shared prosperity. I implore each of you to approach your work with an unwavering commitment to journalistic ethics, ensuring that the public is informed and empowered.



Rt Reverend Williams Aladekugbe

## Think Of What Is Workable, Practicable In New Year, Bishop Tells Nigeria Govt

**\*Says palliatives a distraction**

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Bishop, Ibadan North (Anglican) Diocese, Rt Reverend Williams Aladekugbe on Sunday, called on governments at all levels in Nigeria to think of what is workable and practicable in the New Year as against the palliatives it gives.

Rt Reverend Aladekugbe made the call in his New Year message to Nigerians to usher in the year 2024.

According to the Bishop, Ibadan North (Anglican) Diocese aside from such palliatives not going round the populace, many politicians whom he described as unscrupulous, also use the means to enriching themselves.

The cleric emphasized that the government should invest more into local government interests than federal government issues, adding that this way, people can feel the effect of having a government rather than chaos in most parts of community living.

"We appeal to government at all levels to make life meaningful and livable for the citizens, no doubt, the citizens are hungry and angry. Cost of living is astronomically high and

unbearable", he said.

Rt Reverend Aladekugbe added, "We implore the government to invest more into local government interests than federal government issues. This way, people can feel the effect of having a government rather than chaos in most parts of community living".

He further urged the government to ensure that in the new year, no religion or tradition should be allowed to take precedence over the constitution in every part of the country, adding that unless that happens, the nation would not be one people.

Speaking further, the Bishop said "we also plead that no religion or tradition should take precedence over the constitution in every part of the country. Unless this happens, we are obviously not one people".

"Citizens generally do not feel safe in the country, and that is why they decide to relocate to countries they think have better security services. Due to the high rates of crime and insecurity in Nigeria, the country ranks low on the 2023 Global Peace Index, at the 144th position out of 163 countries".

## Nasarawa Govt To Partner Shippers' Council On Inland Dry Port

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Nasarawa State Government has expressed willingness to partner with the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) to facilitate the establishment of Inland Dry Port (IDP) in the state to enhance its socio-economic development.

The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Shippers' Council, Barr. Pius Ukeyima Akutah, disclosed this after a closed door meeting with the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency, Engr. Abdullahi Sule.

The Akutah who briefed

newsmen after the meeting in Lafia, said the governor has already issued directives on how the project can be actualized for the benefit of the state.

The NSC Chief Executive Officer further disclosed that the State Governor has directed the Hon. Attorney General of Nasarawa State (Barr. Labaran Magaji) to coordinate and meet with the management of the Nasarawa Investment Agency to actualize the aspiration.

According to him, Nasarawa State produces a large volume of sesame seed which necessitates the advocacy drive and establishment of the Inland Dry Port in the

state.

The NSC boss said that the state government is planning to visit the Nigerian Shippers' Council as part of the efforts to fast-track the development of the Inland Dry Port project in the State.

He also stressed that Nasarawa State is an advocate of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA), and would partner with NSC to ensure awareness creation in respect of the importance of the trade agreement for exporters in the state.

It would be recalled that Nigerian Shippers' Council as the ports

economic regulator also champion awareness creation for its stakeholders and facilitates the development of Inland Dry Port projects in the six-geo political zones of the country.

The idea is to bring shipping facilities nearer to the hinterlands as well as decongest the seaports.

The Chief Executive Officer of the NSC, Akutah believes that the dry ports project in many parts of the country will boost employment opportunities for Nigerians and increase substantial revenue generation for the

## SGF Akume Rallies Support For Shippers Council Boss

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator Dr. George Akume has called on Mbagwaza people to support their son, Hon. Pius Ukeyima Akutah to succeed.

According to the SGF Media Director, Comr. Levi Orbem Atume, Senator gave the advice at NKST Vehe, Kôr-injô consistory of Faajir Classis during the commissioning of a church project initiated by the Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Shippers Council, Hon. Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah.

The SGF who was represented by Professor Babatunde Bolaji, said the church project was commissioned to the glory of God and service to

humanity and called on the people to continue to pray for good things to come to Tiv nation as well as support the administration of president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to surmount the challenges confronting the nation.

The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Shippers Council, Hon. Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah, who donated the church project, appreciated God for blessing him and his family, and thanked Senator Dr. George Akume for his fatherly support in building him to impact on the society.

Other speakers, including District Head of Mbagwaza, Zaki Tyoor J. I Kpenkpen, Ushongu APC leader, Major J. O. Mayange retired, Comrade Atir, among others lauded the developmental strides of Hon. Pius Akutah and encouraged Mbagwaza people to continue to

support him.

In a vote of thanks, Rev. Pastor Aondoakaa Achiatse of NKST Kôr-injô who described Barrister Akutah as the Nehemiah of Mbagwaza, thanked Senator George Akume for lifting Mbagwaza clan to a higher position through Barrister Akutah and prayed God to continue to bless him. Earlier in his sermon, Ortese P. T. Awanya of NKST Faajir, read from Psalms 127 and 118 verses 23 and 24 and said it is God who empowers people to work for him and impact on others.

He encouraged christians to humble themselves to work for God as He exalts those who humble themselves and despite the proud, even as he thanked Barrister Ukeyima Pius Akutah for committing his resources to the church project.

## Plateau: DHQ Raises Alarm Over Plot To Tarnish Soldiers

By; BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has said that its attention has been drawn to a misleading video circulating on social media, depicting soldiers allegedly mistreating women under the caption "Operation Rainbow in Plateau State".

"It has come to our attention that the video in question actually originated from an incident that took place in

Sambisa forest in 2021, involving the spouses of Boko Haram members during the capture of strong holds of the Boko Haram insurgents and not in Plateau State as falsely claimed.

DHQ wishes to clarify that the soldiers involved in the aforementioned incident were then promptly sanctioned and dealt with by the military authority at the time it occurred for their unprofessional conduct.

"The dissemination of this

old video, with a misleading location tag, is causing unnecessary alarm and has the potential to exacerbate the security situation on the Plateau.

"We urge the individual responsible for recirculating this video to cease and desist from further dissemination, as their actions are only serving to add fuel to the security challenges currently being addressed by Operation SAFE HAVEN.

"Our forces are actively

engaged in aggressive operations and are dedicated to bringing the perpetrators of recent dastardly acts to justice.

DHQ remains committed to fostering peace and stability in Plateau State and we call on all stakeholders and members of the public to support our efforts by refraining from spreading misinformation that could undermine our collective goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents."



## Prophetic Year 2024 Message:

# Better Days Await Nigerians - Prophet Oluwadare

By; AYO OJEDOKUN,  
Lagos

General superintendent of Christ Redemption Bible Church, World -Wide (CRBCW), John Abiodun Oluwadare, has predicted that better days await Nigerians in the nearest months of 2024.

He however, enjoined Nigerians to be patient and careful of what they say about government both at state and federal respectively, starting from the top to the least position in the country in general. Oluwadare declared this during the cross over night from 2023 to 2024, at his church headquarters by Oluwalogbon Street in Ketu, Lagos.

According to the man of

God who is just fresh from the mountain where he had gone to pray for the nation, churches of God and its citizens in general heard the voice telling him that the country's economy will bounce back in a grand style.

However, he warned and called for patience from all Nigerians, cut across the federation.

"You will recall, last time that I predicted Nigeria been recognized amongst world class of nations, it came to pass. So, we must believe and pray as God has revealed this to me, saying between now and April, the economic situation/development will commence in earnest," he assured.

He earlier spoke on the future of the children,

particularly the youth, saying that God asked for Wednesday prayers and fasting in a month of their choice.

"Particularly, parents are advised to do this on behalf of their children immediately," he added.

On the state of the nation, Oluwadare, called for immediate prayers to avert lossing of three prominent Nigerians, one of which is a Christian and two Muslims.

Oluwadare, further concluded by cautioning Nigerians on night traveling and heavy rain fall, saying many houses not well built, will be affected.

He enjoined government to work against such unforeseen situations.

For the youth, he noted

that 2024 is a happy year for them, as the federal government is set to creating more jobs to prevent social vices amongst rampaging youth.

"Thus we must be obedient and pray towards such, to allow this come to pass according to God's revelations on our country, Nigeria," declared the man of God.

Meanwhile, highpoint of the cross over night was witnessed as New Year packages were given to the needy, according to the Bible, especially the widows, noting that it has been the standard of Christ Redemption Bible Church, in extending hands of fellowship across to the needy accordingly.

## New Year: Forget Past, Concentrate On New Things God Will Do, PFN Urges Nigerians

By; BAYO AKAMO,  
Ibadan

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) on Sunday, asked Nigerians to forget the past and concentrate on the new things that God will do in the New Year.

In a New Year message by its National President, Bishop Wale Oke, PFN said that God will do new things in Nigeria in 2024.

Bishop Oke emphasized that year 2024 will come with both opportunities and challenges and that Nigerians should work hard and confront the challenges with divine wisdom and help, which guarantee victory.

"It is with great joy and profound gratitude to God that we welcome you into 2024, on behalf of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN. First and foremost, we should be thankful to God Almighty who has preserved us, and has brought us into the new year", he said.

Bishop Oke added, "Thankfulness should mark our attitude at this time, individually, and as a nation. No matter what happened in the past, the Lord saw us through, and now we are here".

"We should have a heart for gratitude and sincerely give thanks to God for His mercy and grace. Were it not for God's mercy we would have been like Sodom, we would have been as Gomorrah. We are thankful"

The PFN President noted that "The new year holds a promise of great opportunities, opportunities for a rebirth, opportunities for new things, opportunities for prosperity, and opportunities for greatness. God has said in

His word: "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:18-19".

Bishop Oke said, "May we, individually, and as a nation, know and experience the new and great things that the Lord shall do in this new year, as we take advantage of the amazing opportunities that this year offers".

According to PFN, This year also has its diverse challenges. We should, however, know that challenges are the food of champions. Rather than pretend that the challenges are not here, we should look them straight in the eyes and tackle them one by one with the help and the wisdom of God"

"Let us therefore be resolute to make this year great. Let us pray, seek the help of God and receive clear direction from Him on how to handle our challenges. We should thereafter go to work, decisively, diligently and conclusively resolving whatever challenges we face, individually or corporately. The Scripture is clear that "With God all things are possible" Mathew 19:26b.

"It is with pleasure that we welcome you to a year of great possibilities, a year of great opportunities, year of great prosperity, a year when the Lord shall make all things new in our lives individually, and as a nation. He has said in His word: "And he that sat on the throne said, Behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, write, for these words are true and fruitful." Revelation 21:5.



## Insecurity: Gombe NSCDC Deploys Personnel To Guard Tertiary Institutions

By; RABILU ABUBAKAR,  
Gombe

To ensure the safety of students, the Gombe State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), has deployed armed personnel to all tertiary institutions across the state.

The Gombe State Commandant, Muhammad Bello Mu'azu who disclosed this in an interview with our reporter in Gombe, said the deployment was done under the 'safe school' programme, an initiative of the federal government aimed at protecting the students from all attacks including kidnapping for ransom

by hoodlums.

Mu'azu explained that the initiative will give both parents and students confidence in their safety in schools with the presence of armed personnel and halt the activities of hoodlums who usually launch an attack on institutions.

"Despite inadequate mobility

faced by the Command, it will never be an impediment to me in carrying out the initiative holistically for the programme to succeed with the posting of armed personnel to all tertiary institutions who would keep a vigil on the schools," he said.

Mu'azu, assured parents of the safety of their children studying in universities, polytechnics, and

colleges in the state as their security is guaranteed.

He said "I'm doing everything possible to ensure that all schools and students across the state are safe and protected from all forms of criminal acts, adding that NSCDC has synergy with other sister security agencies in the state to ensure that Gombe is a crime-free state.

# Rate Of Drug Abuse In Katsina Worries Buhari

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Former President Muhammadu Buhari has expressed concern over the rate of drug abuse in Katsina State, saying all concerned indigenes must unite to end the menace.

Buhari stated this at a dialogue in Katsina, organised by a group of concerned Katsina elders, Katsina Consultative Forum (KCF), with the theme, 'Tackling the menace of drug abuse among youths in Katsina State.'

According to him, the issue of drug abuse among the youth and women in the state is a great concern, therefore, there is the need to fight and address the menace in the society.

"Our youths represent our beloved assets, and protecting them is crucial for our nation's future. We can't afford to watch drug abuse dismantle their potential and the country's future.

"I urge all of us to unite and act decisively against drug abuse in Katsina State. We must not turn away from this self-inflicted suffering of our youths.

"We need to confront this issue collectively with determination

and resolve the challenges," he said.

The former president pointed out that youths were the future administrators of the state, and their potentials were immense, saying "you cannot realise these potentials if too many of you succumb to drug abuse addiction.

"Believe in yourself, ability and your future. I know the challenges you face are many, be up to it; we'll work together to offer you the support and the opportunity needed."

Buhari said leaders, educators, and policy makers should lead with compassion and set an example through investment in youths, providing them with education, employment and social support.

He further urged leaders to also collaborate on prevention, treatment, reintegration and strategies for those youths battling with addiction.

"This is not a challenge that one person can tackle alone, we all have a role in curbing drug abuse, let's all stand together for the sake of our youths and prosperity of our state.

"The law enforcement agencies should also increase efforts



Buhari

against drug trafficking and distribution," he added.

Governor Dikko Radda, represented by his deputy, Alhaji Faruq Lawal-Jobe, commended Buhari for gracing the occasion, and the organisers for coming

with such giant efforts.

According to the governor, the administration will not relent in collaborating with all the relevant agencies in fighting the drug abuse challenges.

Also, the Commander, Zone 'F'

of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Mr. Sule Momodu, appealed to the state government to provide them with additional patrol vehicles to enhance their operations.

# Paradise Estate Development Unveils Paradise Luxury Lofts in Lagos

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Paradise Estates Development Company, a subsidiary company of Property Crew Group is a Lagos leading luxury real estate development company and has just recently unveiled paradise luxury lofts otherwise known as Ogebuya's Court to cater for Nigerians yearning for affordable luxury.

Paradise luxury lofts located in Osapa London area of Lekki, Lagos is sitting on a governor's consent premium land designed to accommodate 14 units of luxurious and fully automated two-bedroom lofts.

Facilities in Paradise luxury lofts include 24 hours uniformed security involving round the clock smart surveillance system, guaranteed electricity, treated and constant water supply, excellent road network, eco-friendly green areas for



Christy Kanu CEO, Paradise Estates Development Company

relaxation, elevator and a gym for healthy living, swimming pool, central sound system and smoke detector, intercom and ample car parking space and many more.

In addition, Paradise luxury lofts is carefully situated among advanced landmark and modern development by both government and private corporations including schools, shopping malls, residential estates, corporate businesses, restaurants and more in the heart of Lekki.

Christy Kanu, Chief Executive Officer of Paradise Estates Development Company said Paradise luxury lofts is meticulously crafted for exquisite taste, unparalleled satisfaction and unquestionably, finest investment opportunity.

"We are commencing the construction of Paradise luxury lofts immediately which is set to

redefine luxury lifestyle living. Set to be completed in the last quarter of 2024, there will be two units of two-bedroom penthouses and 12 units of two-bedroom apartments that will each surpass the expectations of subscribers with short and long-term payment plans available," Christy explained.

She said, "We are offering premium property development at affordable price with the launch of the Paradise luxury lofts project keying into all the numerous opportunities either as residence, short-let, enterprise business or retirement home in the heart of Lekki, Lagos."

Paradise Estates Development Company, developers of Paradise luxury lofts is an urban, redefined luxury estate company with footprints of superb property development across Lagos and environs.

# Traditional Institution Vital To Development Of Society - Senator Alli

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

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District, Senator Sarafadeen Alli on Friday, said traditional institutions are vital to the development of the society. Senator Alli expressed this during a gratitude visit to traditional rulers and political leaders in Ibarapa zone area of Oyo State.

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

Speaking at the palace of the Olu of Igboora, Senator Alli who cited his role as a fellow senior traditional Chief and Maye Balogun of Ibadan land emphasized the importance of the role of traditional institutions in the progress of our society.

Senator Alli said that he deeply understood and appreciated the value of the traditional institution, vowing to do everything within his power to support the elevation of these revered leaders.

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

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



*Senator Alli with traditional rulers in Ibarapaland*

ensure the completion of the power line running through Ibarapaland and that he has determined to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Works and the Hon. Minister of Works in reviving the abandoned Badagry/Sokoto expressway as part of his continued commitment to the district's development.

A former Chairman of Ibarapa Central Local Government and Olukotun of Iberekodo, Chief Akinyemi Akinlabi while speaking lauded Senator Alli for his unwavering dedication to the welfare of Ibarapaland.

Chief Akinlabi who stressed that no previous Senator has ever accorded Ibarapa such immense attention, expressed confidence

in the Senator's continued commitment to the development of the district.

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

Igangan, Oba Rafiu Ariwoola.

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

## New Year: Remain Steadfast In Prayers For Oyo, Nigeria, Ibadan Chief, Adegoke Tells Citizens

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The Aare-Onibon Balogun of Ibadanland and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Solutions 93.9FM Ibadan, Olooye Adegboyega Adegoke has urged Nigerians to remain steadfast in prayers in the New Year, 2024

Olooye Adegoke in his New Year message on Monday, charged the people of Oyo State and indeed all Nigerians to rededicate themselves and remain steadfast in prayers,

According to the Aare-Onibon Balogun of Ibadanland, remaining steadfast in prayers, has an immense impact on the peace, security, unity and stability of the country.

He maintained that it is important for the people of Oyo State and Nigerians as a whole to inject the healing and unifying



*Olooye Adegboyega Adegoke*

spirit of love for their neighbours into the nation's consciousness this season.

"On this significant occasion of the new year, I felicitate with people of Oyo state and Nigeria for witnessing new year 2024. In the spirit of the season, I call on everyone to unite for the greater good of our dear state and the country", he said.

The Aare-Onibon Balogun of Ibadanland added, "This period reminds us of the need to uphold the virtues of love, selflessness and tolerance. I call on all Nigerians to reflect on the lessons of the season, which present an opportunity to love and share.

"The season is one of the unprecedented self-sacrifice to redeem humanity, so, it is the season of love, joy, generosity and forgiveness. Even as we celebrate with friends and family, we should also spend time to pray for a more peaceful and

prosperous nation".

Olooye Adegoke noted, "As a nation, we can achieve more if we stay united, extend hands of fellowship to one another and be law abiding. We must also rededicate ourselves to the virtues of faith in God, love for one another and make these virtues more evident and practical in our daily living."

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Adegboyega Adegoke Resource Centre (AARC) then tasked Nigerians to be intentional in embracing and embarking on productive thinking and actions that can make Oyo state and the country at large better and greater in the new year as the revival of the country's economic glory is everyone's responsibility.

# Payment Of Children School Fees, Rent Forced Me Into Drug

## Trafficking, Says Qatar Bound Businessman

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A Qatar based businessman apprehended for being in possession 1.30kg cannabis sativa by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), has claimed he engaged in the business to raise money for the payment of his rents in Doha and Nigeria, including the school fees of his three children.

The Qatar based businessman identified as Agu Evidence Amobi and one other named, Uchegbu Onyebuchi Obi were reportedly intercepted with consignments of psychoactive substances at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja Lagos. While Amobi was arrested on

Saturday 30th December at the departure point of terminal 2 of the MMIA on his way to Doha, Qatar on a Qatar Airways flight, Obi was taken into custody same day following the seizure of a consignment of 72,000 pills of tramadol 225mg, which he attempted shipping to Kano on a local flight.

Amobi who claimed he has been living and working in Doha, Qatar for over 10 years, was caught with 1.30kg cannabis sativa concealed in a bag of foodstuff.

He claimed he bought the substance in Enugu to deliver in Doha to enable him raise enough funds to pay his rents in Doha and Nigeria and school fees of his three children.

The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency Femi

Babafemi made the disclosure in a statement made available to newsmen on Sunday.

Babafemi also disclosed that the operatives in the same vein at the domestic wing of the airport intercepted a carton containing a total of 72,000 pills of tramadol 250mg with a gross weight of 38.50kg.

" This was closely followed with the arrest of Uchegbu Onyebuchi Obi who brought the consignment to the airport for shipment to Kano.

" On Christmas day 25th December in Yobe state, NDLEA officers on patrol along Nguru-Gashua road intercepted the trio of Musa Sani, Mohammed

Ibrahim and Adamu Usman in truck conveying 39 blocks of cannabis sativa weighing 15.7kg and 128,500 pills of opioids.

" Follow up operations the following day 26th December led to the arrest of the actual owner of the cannabis consignment, Ali Ibrahim (a.k.a Ramos) in Geidam where additional 208 blocks of the same substance were recovered from his house, bringing the total to 247 blocks weighing 94.74kg, while the owner of the seized opioids, Mustapha Goni (a.k.a Lolo) was equally arrested", he added.

The NDLEA spokesperson also hinted that " In Imo state, NDLEA operatives on Christmas eve, Sunday 24th December while on patrol along Owerri - Onitsha expressway intercepted a commercial bus driven by Peter Orji, 42, with 400 bottles of codeine syrup; 7, 590 pills of opioids including tramadol 225mg heading to Port-Harcourt, Rivers State.

" While David Michael, 52, was



The accomplice Onyebuchi Obi and the consignment



Qatar based businessman.

arrested at Unguwa Ukku area of Kano on Sunday 24th December with 49 blocks of cannabis weighing 42.6kg, Umar Abdullahi, 27, was nabbed with 27, 350 pills of opioids at Gadar Tamburawa area of the city same day.

" This is even as 45-year-old Yusuf Yahaya was arrested same Christmas eve along Lagos-Ilorin expressway with 31.00kg of compressed cannabis in a commercial bus coming from Ibadan, Oyo state to Kebbi State.

" Preliminary investigation revealed that he supplies illicit drugs to bandits in Kebbi and Zamfara axis".

Meanwhile, the Commands across the country balanced their drug supply reduction operations with War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaigns to schools, markets, worship centres and communities.

According to Babafemi some of these include: WADA sensitisation lecture organised by Kano state command of NDLEA in collaboration with

Kibiya LGA and District Head of Kibiya; WADA sensitisation lecture for students and staff of Ansar-ud-deen Grammar School, Surulere, Lagos as well as WADA advocacy lecture for muslim faithful at Iworo Central Mosque, Ajido Olorunda LCDA, Lagos state, among others.

While commending the efforts of the officers and men of MMIA, Yobe, Kano, Kwara and Imo Commands of the Agency for jobs well done in the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) tasked them and their compatriots nationwide not to rest on the achievements of 2023 but continue to raise the bar in their offensive action against drug barons and cartels with an equipoise of intense WADA advocacy campaigns in the new year.

He wished all officers and men as well as their families, stakeholders and the general public a rewarding and fulfilling new year.

# Tudun Biri: Governor Sani Inaugurates Project Monitoring, Fund Management Committee



By: FUNMI ADERINTO,  
Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Sunday, inaugurated a state committee on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism for Tudun Biri Projects and Funds.

Senator Uba inaugurated a broad-based Committee charged with the responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of projects and funds for the Tudun Biri Community, the injured and families of the departed victims. The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, H.E. (Dr.) Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe.

The Committee has been constituted for the purpose of accountability, inclusivity and transparency. Membership of the Committee are drawn from Representatives of Victims of the Unfortunate Tudun Biri Incident (Next of Kins of the departed and injured), Community, Religious

and Political Leaders from Tudun Biri Community and Igabi Local Government, and the Kaduna State Government.

The Committee headed by the Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe is expected to among others, take inventory of all the donations made by the Federal Government, National Assembly, Nigeria Governors Forum, Corporate Organizations and well meaning Nigerians and develop a framework for disbursement of the funds as well as ensure prompt disbursement to actual beneficiaries.

Inaugurating the committee at Government House Council Chamber, Governor Sani said, the state government wants to ensure that the donations made for the community go to the actual beneficiaries, just as the government desires to monitor the implementation of the projects to ensure their speedy and effective implementation.

According to the governor, "The unfortunate military drone attack

took the lives of many of our citizens and injured others. The shocking incident elicited reactions from Nigerians and the international community.

"The Kaduna State Government moved swiftly to evacuate the injured to hospitals, took care of their medical bills and provided relief materials to the families of the victims and the Tudun Biri Community.

"We have commenced the construction of access roads to Tudun Biri and other affected communities in the area.

"The Federal Government, National Assembly, Nigeria Governors Forum, corporate organizations, and well meaning Nigerians have made donations and announced intervention programmes aimed at bringing succour to the distressed community, rebuilding the community, and giving the people renewed hope and sense of security.

"As a responsive, responsible and accountable government, we

must take keen interest in how donations and intervention programmes for the Tudun Biri Community are disbursed and executed. We want to ensure that the donations go to the actual beneficiaries. We want to monitor the implementation of the projects to ensure their speedy and effective implementation.

"This Committee has therefore been constituted for the purpose of accountability, inclusivity and transparency. The Committee will serve as the Implementation and Monitoring Mechanism for Tudun Biri Projects and Funds.

"Membership of the Committee are drawn from Representatives of Victims of the Unfortunate Tudun Biri Incident (Next of Kins of the departed and injured), Community, Religious and Political Leaders from Tudun Biri Community and Igabi Local Government, and the Kaduna State Government.

"The Terms of Reference for the

Committee include: Develop a database of the injured and next of kins of the victims of the unfortunate Tudun Biri military drone attack. Take inventory of all the donations made by the Federal Government, National Assembly, Nigeria Governors Forum, Corporate Organizations and well meaning Nigerians.

"To Develop a framework for disbursement of the funds and ensure prompt disbursement to actual beneficiaries. Liaise with relevant Federal and State Government Agencies for the effective execution of intervention projects for the Tudun Biri Community," the Governor said.

While urging members of the Committee to approach their work with utmost commitment and dedication, Governor Sani said the Committee is also expected to submit monthly reports on its work.

# Start New Year, 2024 With Spirit Of Positivity, Peller Tasks Nigerians

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Ayedero of Yorubaland, Hon Shina Peller on Monday, called on Nigerians at home and in the diaspora, to start the New Year with the spirit of positivity.

Hon Shina Peller in his New Year message, said Nigerians should hope for the best notwithstanding challenges being experienced in the country. The Ayedero of Yorubaland said that for Nigerians to coexist peacefully, there is need for all to appreciate, tolerate and love one another irrespective of their ethnic, religious and political affiliation.

He emphasized that, "Leadership is about taking responsibility even when we make mistakes. However, one of the numerous problems we are confronted with

especially in Nigeria is our failure to take responsibility for our actions, particularly when we err. To err is human; giving unreasonable excuses for our mistakes instead of admitting and correcting them is what we should do away with this year."

According to him, "The nonchalant attitude of not taking responsibility happens virtually in all tiers of government, private and public organizations and even at our various homes. So, it is not just about people in government; it's about everyone of us."

"To achieve a Nigeria of our dream, we all must learn to take responsibility for our actions and correct them where and when necessary. This is my message to us all this new year", he said.

Hon Peller added, "I congratulate everyone of

us that made it to 2024. May we witness many more years with good health. Amen. Every new year presents to us an opportunity to reflect deeply on our actions and inactions in the preceding year for the purpose of doing better in the new year; so, 2024 shouldn't be an exception, we must strive to be better in everything we do or say this year.

"Importantly, we must start the new year with the spirit of positivity in everything with firm belief that everything will be fine at the end, no matter how tough the situation may seem. We must be driven by good deeds as commanded by God, our creator and make positive impact in the lives of others"

Tasking Nigerians to embrace good deeds and make positive impact in other people's lives, the

former federal lawmaker congratulated everyone for conquering 2023 and witnessing the beginning of 2024.

The Ayedero of Yorubaland advised all to reflect deeply on their actions and inactions in the preceding year with a view to leveraging the lessons learnt to do better in 2024.

"As we make our new year resolutions, let's appreciate, tolerate and love one another so that we can coexist peacefully together irrespective of our ethnicity, religion and political affiliation.

"We should show good leadership starting from our immediate environment regardless of our status. Strive to contribute our own quota individually in order to make the world a better place."

## Put More Interest On Governance Of Nigeria, Ajadi Tells Citizens

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP), chieftain, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo has called on Nigerians to put more interest on how they are governed.

The NNPP chieftain made the call in his New Year message, made available to journalists to felicitate Nigerians on the New Year 2024.

Ambassador Ajadi said in doing this, there is the need for Nigerians to be more involved in the governance of the country, adding that Nigerians should include in their new year resolutions, increased interest in the nation's electoral process as well as governance.

He maintained that Nigerians renewed interest in the electoral process "is a sure way of strengthening the process and ensuring the emergence of credible individuals in governance."

The NNPP chieftain stressed, "when we have credible people in governance, then the dividends of democracy will get to the electorate".

While acknowledging the resilience and industrious of Nigerian youths, Ambassador Ajadi charged them to continue to identify with positive forces in the country and be ready to contribute their quota towards the nation's political growth.

The NNPP chieftain also advised the Nigerian youth to join forces with the NNPP across the country as a way of rescuing the country from corrupt and inept leaders, saying, "It is on record that Nigerian youths have been deceived all all this while by selfish politicians who discard them after riding on their backs to power.

"The time has come for Nigerian youths to say no to such selfish politicians

and join forces with politicians who are genuinely interested in the people's welfare and the collective advancement of the Nigerian nation".

Stressing that NNPP, as its name suggests stands for a reinvigorated Nigeria where things would work perfectly well, he said the party had also articulated a sustainable inclusive programmes for youths, women and children to enable them unleash their potentials and energies towards the development of the country, and the actualisation of their personal aspirations.

"While I greet the millions of hardworking women and youths in our country for the opportunity of seeing 2024, I urge them to close ranks with right-minded individuals and parties across the land to bring about positive change in the country. God has endowed you and prepared you for such a time as this, so that you should identity with genuine goals and intentions of liberating the land for real and sustainable development. That is why I talk about playing participative role in the governance of our state and country.

Maintaining that as an individual entrepreneur and philanthropist, he would be unfolding some employment opportunities as well as wealth-creation and capacity - building programmes to help engage Nigerian youths and women in this new year, he said, "it is all part of the effort to reduce the level of poverty and suffering amongst our people. We did some interventions during the Yuletide, we will continue to reach out and support people, as our God blesses us. And I pray and believe God that it will be a good year for all of us",



From left: Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun. Widow, Mrs. Betty Akerdolu and Ekiti State Governor Biodun Oyebanji during a condolence visit to late Governor Akerdolu's Ibadan residence last Friday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

## 2024: Senator Alli Extends Heartfelt Wishes, Urges Unity For Prosperous Nigeria

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chairman Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Senator Sharafadeen Alli on Sunday, advocated collectivism, dedication, and perseverance in overcoming the challenges facing Nigeria. The Senator representing Oyo South Senatorial District Senator Sarafadeen Alli made the call in his New year message to Nigerians by his Special Adviser on

Media, Mr Akeem Abas. He maintained that in doing this, Nigerians should be hopeful for a brighter future towards achieving the goals of a prosperous nation. Senator Alli who expressed optimism and hope for a year filled with progress and development, said despite the economic hardships, security concerns, and social issues plaguing the country, Nigerians should remain steadfast and resilient in the face of

adversity. Emphasizing the importance of unity, Senator Alli urged Nigerians to embrace love, understanding, and tolerance regardless of ethnic, religious or political differences. He maintained further that Nigerians should, remain hopeful as they strive for a brighter future, saying, "we are laying the foundations of a brighter future". Senator Alli while assuring his constituents

of his unwavering commitment to their welfare and progress, pledged to work tirelessly towards attracting developmental projects that would be impactful and meaningful to their lives. He Senator Alli also reiterated his determination to effectively represent their interests at the National Assembly, responsive to their yearnings, and ensure that their voices are heard and their needs prioritised.



## Zamfara Governor Signs N426bn 2024 'Budget Of Rescue' Into Law

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

On Saturday, Governor Dauda Lawal signed the 2024 Appropriation Bill of N426 billion for the Zamfara State budget. The N426,563,671,000.00 billion approved 'Budget of Rescue' was passed by the Zamfara State House of Assembly last Friday.

A statement by the spokesperson of the governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, said the 2024 estimate has N118,358,079,515.00 (27%) allocated for recurrent expenditure and N308,205,591,485.00 (73%) for capital expenditure.

He added that the budget of rescue would enhance domestic and foreign investments, productivity, and ease of business in Zamfara state.

The statement read in parts: "The 2024 budget signed by Governor

Lawal prioritizes six critical sectors for Zamfara State's development: security, education, agriculture, health, infrastructure, and others.

"The budget has the following estimates: Administration - N72,093,326,763 (17%); Economic Sector - N244,729,584,729 (57%); Social Sector - N103,139,659,508 (24%); Law and Justice Sector - N6,601,100,000 (2%).

"Furthermore, the assented 2024 budget has estimated on sub-sectors: Agriculture - N38,144,000,000; Education - N51,370,787,508; Health - N33,922,370,000; and Infrastructure & Urban Development - N109 Billion.

The rescue budget has allocated sufficient funds for social intervention programs to mitigate the impact of the current economic

difficulties and insecurity.

"These programs include micro-credit disbursement to Small and Medium Enterprises, the FADAMA Program for food security, and other initiatives to reduce poverty. We will also be strengthening our Skills Acquisition programs to provide job opportunities to our large population in the State.

"The approved budget is consistent with the strategic plan of Governor Lawal's long-term vision. It emphasizes citizen-nominated projects, and some programs are also considered to have a direct bearing on the yearnings and aspirations of our people.

"The proposed budget is balanced as the projected revenue equals the estimated expenditure."

## Katsina: Newly Recruited Teachers Of Mani, Malumfashi Receive Appointment Letters

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

The newly recruited teachers of Mani and Malumfashi Zones have received their permanent appointment letters in a colourful ceremony.

In Mani Zone, the event which was held at the Local Education Authority's Headquarters, comprised seven local government areas, including Mani, Bindawa, Mashi, Dutsi, Ingawa and Kusada.

Speaking at the occasion, Mani Local Government Chairman, Dr. Yunus Muhammad Bagiwa who described the recruitment as a historic not only in the state but the country in general, said is a clear indication of Governor Radda-led administration of transforming education at the grassroots.

Dr. Yunus Muhammad Bagiwa stressed the need for the new teachers to be punctual to serve as role model as teaching is a backbone of providing productive leaders in the society.

In a remark, Mani Education Secretary, Malam Murtala Muhammad Muduru applauded the state government for recruiting new teachers which would assist in reducing unemployment as well as addressing insecurity in the society.

He advised them to be more committed in discharging their assigned duty to reciprocate the gesture.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Yakubu Malami extended gratitude to the state government for considering the S-POWER, casual and voluntary staff during the

recruitment exercise, assured to justify the confidence response on them.

In Malumfashi Zone, Chairman of the Local Government Council, Alhaji Maharazu Adamu Dayi while distributing the appointment letters, applauded the concerted efforts of Governor Dikko Umaru Radda in repositioning the Education Sector in the State.

Alhaji Maharazu Adamu Dayi who represented his colleagues, also said that through the recruitment exercise of over seven thousand teachers in the state, they would be able to bridge the gap of shortage of teachers.

Earlier, the Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board, Alhaji Kabir Magaji revealed that the present Administration would not relent its efforts in ensuring close monitoring of the teachers while discharging their work.

He added that the newly recruited teachers were lucky to have been engaged for five day capacity building training before their reporting to their places of assignment.

In his address of welcome, the Education Secretary of Malumfashi Local Government Education Authority, Alhaji Musa Ibrahim called on the teachers to reciprocate the gesture by cooperating and discharging their duties very diligently.

He then assured them that after their training the Local Government Education Authority would post them in their area of locations and in the best interest of the local government education authority (LGEA) and the teachers.

# Gombe Targets 90,000 Poor, Vulnerable Citizens In Another Round of Food Palliative Intervention

**\*As Governor Inuwa reiterates commitment to people's welfare**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, has flagged-off another round of statewide food palliative intervention, targeting 90,000 poor and vulnerable members of the society.

Speaking during the inauguration of the distribution exercise in Gombe Local Government Area, held at the Emir's Palace, Governor Inuwa Yahaya emphasized that the expansion and continuation of the Intervention is meant to complement earlier ones, aimed at alleviating the impact of the fuel subsidy removal on the citizenry.

"Today marks the commencement of another round of statewide palliative distribution for the impoverished and most vulnerable members of our communities. As you are aware, since the fuel subsidy removal, we have consistently offered various palliatives to

mitigate the impact on the lives of our people", the Governor said.

"Our recent palliatives distribution targetted over 420 thousand people across the state. While it is not our wish to continually give such handouts to the people, the current economic circumstances necessitated our intervention. I therefore want to emphasize that we would not cease in our efforts until we overcome the challenges of poverty among our people through the various initiatives we have put in place", he added.

A statement signed by Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that while acknowledging that the removal of fuel subsidy has resulted in rising costs of living and economic hardships among citizens, the Governor assured that Nigerians would enjoy its gains soon.

President Bola Tinubu and the state governors are intensifying

efforts to move Nigerians out of the present economic hardship.

The governor added that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's determination to provide better leadership will improve the economic situation, assuring that the revitalization of the Port Harcourt refinery will contribute to alleviating the situation by providing locally refined petroleum products for domestic consumption.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya also used the occasion to call on farmers in the state who have not yet harvested their crops to promptly do so before the January deadline, stressing that the timeline is meant to allow herders graze their cattle in line with the agreed-upon arrangement between farmers and herders as part of the numerous initiatives to mitigate the farmer-herder conflicts in the state.

The Deputy Governor and Chairman of the Palliatives Distribution Committee, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau disclosed

that the exercise will cover the 2,998 polling units of the State.

He explained that the flag-off ceremony performed by Governor Inuwa Yahaya is a symbolism that signals the commencement of the distribution exercise across the state.

He said that a total of 25 people from each of the 2,998 polling units of the state will benefit from the statewide distribution exercise.

He added that each of the 114 political wards of the State are allocated cartons of spaghetti pasta and bags of rice.

"After this statewide distribution, the state government will extend the same gesture to the already identified clubs and associations within the State".

Dr. Jatau appealed to members of the palliative distribution sub-committees at both the local and wards levels to see the task before them as a trust which they

must discharge with every sense of responsibility.

The District Head of Nasarawo, Alhaji Usman Shettima, expressed gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for his intervention amidst the harshness being faced by the people occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy.

The community leader, scored the administration of Governor Inuwa Yahaya high on the maintenance of peace and security in the State, calling on the people to reciprocate the gesture by being law abiding.

Earlier in his address of welcome, the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi said the continuous distribution of relief items is part of the policy thrust of Governor Inuwa Yahaya to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of the people of the state.

The distribution exercise continues at the ward and polling units levels across the state.





# Our Strength As A People Truly Shines

*(Gombe Governor's Text New Year Message)*

By: MUHAMMAD INUWAYAHAYA

*Text of a State-wide Broadcast by His Excellency Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, Governor of Gombe State, on the Occasion of New Year 2024 Celebration, Monday 1st January, 2024.*

My dear people of Gombe State!

It is with gratitude and high sense of humility that I address you today as we bid farewell to the year 2023 and welcome the new year 2024.

2. I would like to begin by congratulating our Christian brothers and sisters for a joyous and hitch-free Christmas celebrations.

Gombe State is a melting pot of cultures, beliefs, and traditions. It is in the celebration of our cherished diversity that our strength as a people truly shines. May the spirit of Christmas continue to inspire unity, love, and harmony among us, irrespective of our differences.

3. The year 2023 has been a remarkable one for us in Gombe State and Nigeria at large. It is the year that witnessed my re-election as the governor of Gombe State as well as the election of H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That signifies the collective will of our people to forge ahead towards progress in the spirit of renewed hope as being championed by Mr. President and our great party the APC.

4. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the people of Gombe State for the honour to serve as your governor for another term of four years. I am deeply humbled by that honour, and I am committed to fulfilling the mandate you bestowed upon me with utmost commitment and dedication.

5. The removal of fuel subsidy, though a painful yet necessary decision, has resulted in a rising cost of living and economic hardships among Nigerians. Over the past 6 months, we have introduced policies like wage

grants to civil servants, food and agricultural support, and other palliative measures aimed at cushioning the side effects of the resulting economic shocks. The first phase of our food palliative intervention which was rolled out in August 2023 targeted 420,000 poor and vulnerable people among us. Tomorrow, we are rolling out the second phase of our palliative food distribution program, targeting about 90,000 beneficiaries across the state. Already a committee has been set up under the chairmanship of H.E. Deputy Governor, with representation of various stakeholders to take charge of

this responsibility.

6. Let me use this opportunity to commend our people for their resilience and understanding during these trying times. As we brace for tougher challenges in 2024, and as we begin to invest the gains of fuel subsidy removal in areas that deliver long-term growth and inclusive development, I have no doubt that together we shall weather the storms and emerge stronger.

7. As we mark the beginning of a new year, let us carry forward the lessons learned in 2023. Let us embrace the coming year with a renewed hope, determination, and common

sense of purpose. In 2024, our focus will be on building a Gombe State that leaves no one behind, as articulated in our recently passed 2024 budget christened the "budget of continuity and consolidation."

8. We will continue to invest in education, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture, job creation, peace and security. We shall continue to harness our human and natural resources in order to put Gombe State on the path of sustainable progress and all-inclusive development.

9. The pursuit of lasting peace and security in our communities requires a united front. I

therefore appeal to our traditional rulers, religious leaders and the general public to lend their guidance, cooperation and prayers for the prosperity and security of Gombe State and Nigeria at large. Let us all join hands to ensure that peace and harmony become the cornerstone of our shared existence.

10. In the spirit of the new year, and based on the recommendation of the State Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy, I have granted clemency to 39 convicted inmates in our custodial centres, out of which 26 inmates will be granted unconditional pardon, while the remaining 13 have their sentences commuted to shorter periods. It is our hope that the beneficiaries will turn a new leaf and embrace this opportunity for a fresh start.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, the challenges ahead are no doubt enormous, as the world continues to face increasing levels of economic and political uncertainties. I therefore urge each and every one of you to actively join hands with us in the task

ahead. Your advice, prayers, and support are vital as we work together in order to shape the destiny of Gombe State. Let us strive for excellence, build resilience, encourage innovation, and foster a sense of collective ownership and shared aspirations.

12. On a final note, let me express my profound optimism for the year 2024. Together, we can make it a year of progress, resilience and growth.

Happy New Year, Gombe State!  
Happy New Year Nigeria!  
May this year bring us joy, peace and prosperity!



**Governor Inuwa Yahaya**

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

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HALF W RAPA ROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
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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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	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

## APC Youth Forum Lauds Works Minister, Says He's Uncommon With Magic Touch

\*Asks Nigerians to pray for country and our leaders

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Chairman, Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum, Honourable Suleiman Liba has commended the strides of the Honourable Minister of Works in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, H.E. Engr. Dave Umahi, describing him as a shining light and one of the best thing to happen to Nigeria in recent times.

Hon. Liba in a statement he personally signed and made available to our correspondent on January 1, 2024, said the Honourable Minister of Works H.E. Dave Umahi is a detribalized Nigerian who believes in the general welfare and developments of the entire regions of the country.

"H.E. Dave Umahi's supports towards the Concerned Northern APC Youth Forum which Hon. Suleiman Liba happens to be the Chairman, was highly quintessential to the chunk of votes the Tinubu/SHETTIMA ticket accrued during the last Presidential election,

this we are very thankful of.

"We salute the doggedness of the Honourable Minister, to standing firm in ensuring that quality is not compromised in his effort to delivering on the goals to Nigerians even in the midst of pressures from a few mischief makers to do otherwise, we thank you for not letting Nigerians down," the statement said. While thanking the Honourable Minister of Works for his immense support and mentorship in the year 2023, Hon. Liba prayed that 2024 shall bring about all the blessings and necessary ingredients required to enable the Minister perform even better as the President Tinubu's administration is poised to deliver fully on the renewed hope agenda as was promised Nigerians during campaigns, for which we all have started to see the positive signs that Nigeria is on the right trajectory.

Hon. Liba urged all Nigerians to learn to live in unity and harmony in the period of the New Year, according to him, "let us



Hon. Liba

ensure that we pray for our dear country Nigeria, pray for our leaders, as this is the way to go, we must seek the face of God Almighty in whatever we do as a nation.

"We look forward to a much more prosperous 2024 where we all will see

ourselves as one united entity bond by love irrespective of our religious or tribal divide.

"May God continue to bless Nigeria and happy new year to us all," he said.

## Better Days Ahead, Fadajoe Tells Nigerians In New Year Address

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The National Leader of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria (Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative) Comrade Faduri Oluwadare Joseph also called Fadajoe, has said that no matter the present situation in Nigeria, citizens should be hopeful of better days ahead.

The Labour Party Presidential aspirant, Fadajoe, in his New Year greetings, encouraged Nigerians that, "as we are

going into a New Year, let's keep alive our hope of becoming a better version of ourselves and in building a new Nigeria of our dream. In deed a nation we can be proud of and that our children can confidently call their own.

"Though considering the present situation one may be tempted to ask if there is hope for Nigeria, but the real Nigerian spirit is the never give up mindset irrespective of prevailing circumstances. That was manifest in our football team when patriotism was

the order of the day, example was in Saudi 89, Japan 93 and Atlanta 96; on each occasion the Nigerian football team have come from goals deficits in dramatic encounter to level up and secure a win in a seemingly impossible situation and against the so called world soccer giants like Brazil and Argentina.

"As we enter a new year, let's wake up the sleeping giant in each of us, dream big in 2024, plan big and work your plan. Also be determined to do

something towards being part of patriotic Nigerians that will build a new nation. Always remember that if you can conceive it, you can believe it, if you can believe it you can achieve it.

"On behalf of the leadership and entire members of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria aka Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative, I say HAPPY NEW YEAR! AND WISHING YOU A GLORIOUS, BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS YEARS AHEAD", he

## 2024: Caleb Danladi Foundation CEO Advocates Peace, Unity, Humanity

"Pledges dedication to empowering, educating, elevating lives across Nigeria, beyond

By; ACHADU GABRIEL, Kaduna

Caleb Danladi, the esteemed CEO of the Caleb Danladi Foundation, has extended heartfelt wishes to the downtrodden masses and enjoined them to keep on praying for peace and unity for humanity sake as the country usher in the New Year.

In a statement issued on Monday January 1, 2024, Mr. Danladi emphasized the foundation's commitment to continue fostering positive change in communities and promoting the values of compassion and understanding.

"As the world transitions into 2024, Caleb Danladi encourages individuals, communities, and nations to come together in the spirit of peace and oneness for the good of all and sundry," it said.

He stressed the significance of embracing, "our shared humanity and working collaboratively towards building a world that is inclusive, tolerant, and compassion."

In his statement to newsmen on Monday, Mr. Danladi remarked, "As we step into a new year, let us renew our commitment to peace and unity for humanity and for development.

"The challenges we face

can only be overcome through unity, understanding, and a shared dedication to making a positive impact in the lives of others.

"The Caleb Danladi Foundation has consistently championed various initiatives aimed at uplifting communities, empowering the underprivileged and fostering education supports".

Mr. Danladi expressed gratitude to the foundation's supporters and partners, acknowledging their crucial role in realizing the vision of a more harmonious and compassionate world.

"As we embark on the journey, that is 2024, let us remember the power of kindness, empathy, and collaboration. Together, we can create positive change and make a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

"The Caleb Danladi Foundation looks forward to another year of meaningful projects and collaborations that would contribute to the well-being of communities and individuals.

"The foundation remains dedicated to its mission of empowering, educating, and elevating lives across Nigeria and beyond", he assured.



CEO Caleb Danladi Foundation

## Adamawa APC Thanks Tinubu For Appointing Aminu PTFDF Executive Sec

**By: TOM GARBA, Yola**  
The Adamawa State Progressives Congress (APC) family has thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for appointing one of the illustrious sons of the state and party loyalist, Ahmed Galadima Aminu to head the Petroleum Technology Trust Fund (PTDF) as its Executive Secretary. The APC in a statement signed by the Chairman, Barr Idris Shuaibu congratulated Ahmed Galadima Aminu for the hard work he put in the organization to deserve the appointment. The APC assured President Tinubu and Nigerians that, Aminu is a genius, whose ingenuity has earned him a good name as a patriotic Nigerian. While congratulating him

to lead PTFDF and key into the vision of President Tinubu of a renewed hope to all Nigerians, the party enjoined him to use his wisdom and wealth of experience to salvage the country from all economic downturns by managing the finances and all resources of the organization. "We believe you can deliver well in this assignment you are called to do for the sake of every Nigerian. Use your talent to revive the ailing oil industry and every sector of the economy. "Thank you our able President for appointing this genius and hard working Nigerian, whose knowledge is large enough to save the organization and support the revival of the ailing oil industry to an era of oil boom," the statement said.

## Plateau Police Deploys Additional Manpower, Operational Resources To Troubled LGAs

**By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**  
Sequel to the visit of the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun to Plateau State in the wake of the deadly attacks in Bokkos and Barkin-Ladi local government areas of the state which claimed many lives and resulted in destruction of property, the Plateau State Police Command has deployed more special armed forces to the troubled areas to prevent further attacks and restore normalcy. The deployment is in line with the directives of the Inspector General of Police, who provided additional manpower and resources to the state to augment the operational strength of the command to manage the ugly situation and provide safety for residents of the affected areas. As parts of measures to protect lives and properties in the affected areas, the Commissioner of Police Plateau State Command, CP Okoro J. Alawari, Psc

has placed a ban all forms of late night spiritual and social gatherings in Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi, Riyom and Mangu LGAs. The CP assured the people of the State that the Plateau State Police Command is committed to full implementation of the IGP's directives to apprehend the perpetrators of the dastardly act, provide safety to residents of the troubled areas, and restore peace and tranquility in those areas. The Plateau State Police helmsman also appealed to members of the public to support, cooperate with and assist the Police with timely and useful information to tackle the menace. He further tasked all police operatives deployed to the affected areas to demonstrate valour and professionalism while discharging their constitutional duties, and work in synergy with other security agencies to restore peace and order in their respective areas of assignment.

# President Tinubu Celebrates Governor Uba Sani At 53

**By: FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**  
Nigeria's President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu has sent his felicitation to Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State as he marks his 53rd birthday. President Tinubu celebrates the accomplished engineer and politician, whose leadership odyssey has been one of sacrifice, dedication, and service to the people.

In a statement from Special Adviser to the President, (Media & Publicity), Chief Ajuri Ngelale said, the President commended the governor for his devotion to the nation, from his early years as a pro-democracy activist, promoting the pristine elements of democracy, good governance, and national unity. President Tinubu extolled the brilliance and excellence of the

governor, who is both a mechanical engineer of high repute and renowned finance expert, recalling his efforts as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance, and Financial Institutions, and now as governor. The President thanked the governor for his unwavering support while wishing him many more years in good health, happiness, and strength in the service of the people of Kaduna State and Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Governor Uba Sani expressed deep appreciation to friends, relations, political associates, colleagues, aides, staff and well-wishers who sent messages of congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of his birthday anniversary. Governor Uba said, "I am humbled by your kind words and prayers. "May God reward you all abundantly."



## Plateau Remains Resilient Despite Challenges, Affirms Governor Mutfwang

**By: BUHARI B. BELLO, Jos**  
The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has rallied citizens to stand firm, stay focused, and unwavering in the face of afflictions inflicted on communities in Bokkos, Mangu, and Barkin-Ladi on Christmas Eve. Governor Mutfwang, joined by his wife, Barr Helen Mutfwang, stated this during the Sunday Service at COCIN LCC Kufang, Miango Road, Jos, marking the 80th Birthday Thanksgiving Service of Elder Cornelius Datok.

Governor Mutfwang pointed out that despite the recent challenges, the state's resilience remains unbroken and emphasized the need for faith in God's continuous protection. He thanked the citizens for their prayers and love for the state, urging collaborative efforts against current trials. Encouraging a deeper connection with God, the Governor emphasized the need for citizens to live Christian lives. Taking his reading from Colossians 3:6 and Romans 8:13. Rev. Dunka Philibus, advised Christians to

abandon their old ways and embrace Christ at these challenging times especially at the dawn of a new year. Elder Cornelius Datok, celebrating his 80th birthday, expressed gratitude for God's mercy and pledged continued selfless service to God and humanity. The Governor was also joined at the service by notable figures, including the Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Jatau, and his wife, the Chief of Staff Government House, Commissioners, and Heads of Government Agencies.

# SYDA Urges Govt To Enlist MTN, Multichoice Support For Nigerian Rugby Development

By; JACOB ONJEWU  
DICKSON

Support & Youths Development Academy (SYDA), the esteemed marketing partner of the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation, has fervently appealed to the federal government to actively engage and encourage major multinationals, such as MTN and Multichoice, in bolstering sports development initiatives across the nation.

This impassioned plea was articulated by Segun Maku, the Chief Executive Officer of SYDA, subsequent to a high-level meeting with the top echelons of management, including the CEO of Group Africa Marketing (the exclusive marketing agency for MTN in South Africa). Maku underscored the significance of leveraging partnerships

with renowned South African agencies, particularly given the preeminence of rugby in the sports landscape of South Africa.

During these engagements, Maku shed light on the substantial patronage that rugby enjoys from multinationals like MTN and Multichoice in South Africa. Drawing parallels to the strides made by the current board, led by Dr. Ademola Are, Maku lamented encountering obstacles in securing similar support for rugby in Nigeria. Expressing optimism, he proposed that the government enact policies compelling these multinationals to invest in and foster the growth of sports, with a special emphasis on rugby.

In his concluding remarks, Maku passionately urged for the establishment of a conducive policy

framework that would incentivize and oblige multinationals to contribute significantly to the advancement of sports, thereby creating a conducive environment for the growth of rugby and other sporting disciplines in the country. It is noteworthy that Nigeria currently occupies the 8th position in Africa, as per the latest rankings released by rugby Africa subsequent to the Olympic qualifiers held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

This ranking serves as a poignant reminder of the untapped potential awaiting recognition and support in Nigeria's rugby landscape, further emphasizing the urgency of collaborative efforts between the government and corporate entities to propel the nation to greater heights in the realm of sports.



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## Kogi CJ Takes Delivery Of 10 SUV Cars For Judges As He Occupies Official Residence

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja.

The Chief Judge of Kogi State, Hon. Justice Josiah Joe Majebe, has taken delivery of 10 SUV cars from the state government for incoming Judges and Kadis soon to be appointed for the State Judiciary. This is coming after he has already recovered the abandoned official residence, renovated it and moved in. In a statement issued yesterday, the CJ said the era of Chief Judges operating from their

personal homes has finally come to an end in Kogi State, appreciating the combined efforts of the present Chief Judge and the state government. The residence of the Chief Judge of Kogi State is a symbol of the entire judiciary of the state which must always be kept in a decent state to maintain the integrity of the judicial arm of government. According to him, the structure he met on ground wasn't reflective of the true picture of the Judiciary in his integrity-restoration drive and had to call for its

immediate recovery and renovation. CJ Majebe therefore appreciated His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello, for his prompt response in providing funds for the renovation which was carried out at the lodge and according to stipulated standard. While also thanking the governor for the vehicles, he appreciated him for ensuring the provision of official residences for the potential Judges, which he said have already been

furnished, just as he added that the renovation of their courts would soon commence. He concluded by stating that the state was adequately prepared to boost its bench at the High Court, Sharia and Customary Courts of Appeal levels even as he was gladdened that the support from the state government made it possible for all NJC requirements for Judges' appointment to be available and for which he was extremely grateful.

## Nigeria Needs Adequate Data Base For Proper Planning, Devt, Ajadi Tasks FG, Tinubu

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Achieftain of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo yesterday, called on the Federal Government to ensure it captures and keeps adequate data to ensure proper planning in the country.

Speaking with journalists on the side of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited New Year Party Ambassador Ajadi said lack of adequate data base has been hindering proper planning in the country.

The Chief Executive Officer of Bullion Go-Neat Global Limited noted that the country cannot grow without adequate planning, adding that Nigeria government has been working in darkness over the years, saying, "Good and proper planning for development and growth coupled with well-being of the citizenry can only be achieved through adequate data base. This has been lacking in the country".

"Surprisingly, Nigeria is said to be a country of about 200 million people, the question we need to ask is, when last have we conducted Census in the country", he said

Ambassador Ajadi added, "What we have been doing is guessing work. Which Census put Nigeria at about 200 million people. What percentage of the guess figure are youths, women, men and old ages. We can't continue to rely on guess work. Government needs to have adequate data base to plan".

According to the NNPP governorship candidate in

Ogun state in the 2023 general elections, there is the need for the Federal Government to establish well funded and well equipped Vocational Centres in each of the 774 Local Government Areas in the country, adding that this would take care of the training needs of those who cannot continue their education after secondary schools but are gifted to be trained as artisans.

"There is the need for the Federal Government to establish Vocational Centres in all the 774 Local Government Areas in the country to help the teeming youths that cannot continue their education after the secondary and are roaming the streets. Most of these youths believe in good governance. They love their country but they cannot continue their education and they want to be trained as artisans. He stressed that "

Government should come to the aid of these youths by providing them places of training to stem their involvement in crimes", adding, "Government can also make revenue from these Centres as they can get contracts from individuals and corporate organizations in providing furniture among others .

Advising government to also provide equipment for graduates form these Vocational Centres for them to start on their own business, Ambassador Ajadi noted that the advice if implemented by the government will ensure that many youth are keep off the streets where they have been willing tools in the hands of criminally minded individuals in the country.



From left: Senator Representing Osun West senatorial District, Senator Lere Oyewunmi, Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi and Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke @ the 2024 Inter-Religious Prayer to user in 2024 held @ office of the governor, Bola Ige House, Secretariat, Abere Osogbo yesterday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO