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***Hosts RCCG Daddy GO, Adeboye**



Governor Uba Sani and his Deputy Hadiza Abubakar in a group photograph with the General Overseer (GO) of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye on a courtesy visit to Sir Kashim Ibrahim House.

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By ; F U N M I ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani yesterday, said that with intervention of the clergyman prayers President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will certainly get it right.

Governor Uba Sani expressed this when he received the General Overseer (GO) of the

Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye on a courtesy visit to Sir Kashim Ibrahim House.

"The President has taken some very important steps towards moving our country forward", he said. Pastor Adejare Adeboye is a Nigerian pastor and the present General Overseer of Redeemed Christian

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Rescue Mission As Zamfara Govt Begins Payment Of Backlog Of N13.4bn Gratuities

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

In an effort to rescue the economic situation and the people of Zamfara State the government under the leadership of Governor Dr. Dauda Lawal, has commenced the payment of the backlog of N13.4 billion in gratuities to retirees in the state.

The state government established a committee to authenticate retired civil servants' data to pay off the gratuity debt accumulated from 2011 to date.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the spokesperson of the Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, revealed that retirees who have been owed gratuities since 2011 have finally started receiving their payments.

The statement added that the backlog of gratuities accumulated over the years is now being cleared, and payment has commenced since Thursday.

"The state government has taken a significant step towards addressing the outstanding debt of gratuity owed to retirees, which comprises death

gratuities, retirement gratuities, and contract gratuities.

"Governor Dauda Lawal set up a committee to validate and authenticate retiree data to settle the debt of gratuities that has accumulated since 2011.

"After validating the data of retired civil servants, the government discovered that the total amount owed from state and local governments is 13.4 billion Naira.

"The committee has already gone far with the authentication of data submitted by local government and state pension commission and physical verification of beneficiaries.

"Retired state and local government employees who were verified have begun receiving their gratuity payments since Thursday.

"The government would ensure that all retirees are authenticated and paid their gratuities without any difficulties.

"The Zamfara State Government is fulfilling its promise to serve the people of Zamfara by rescuing and rebuilding the state for the better."

SAfER: Oyo Govt To Disburse Additional N340.2m To 1,227 Farmers - Sheikh Akeugbagold

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The Chairman, Agric Credit Corporation of Oyo State (ACCOS), Sheikh Taofeek Akeugbagold on Thursday, hinted that the state government is to commence disbursement of N340.270 million to eligible crop farmers across the seven zones of the state.

Addressing journalists on the progress of the SAfER programme, Sheikh Akeugbagold hinted that the disbursement commenced from Friday, February 9, 2024.

Sheikh Akeugbagold maintained that the project

has been non-partisan as it is available for the generality of legitimate farmers and would-be farmers of the state including the youths that were trained by the state government under the YEAP programme.

According to him, in view of the present economic hardship in the country, the corporation has been given a marching order to better the lots of the peasants most importantly in the area of agriculture.

Breaking down how funds for the 4th batch will be disbursed across the various zones of Oyo State as from Friday 9th February, 2024, he said,

Ibadan I would be undertaken by Bank of Agriculture, Ibadan.75.950m for 269 beneficiaries while Ibadan II would be handled by Onibuore Microfinance Bank ,N132.250m for 474 beneficiaries.

"Oyo: Bank of Agriculture, Oyo N24.50m for 87 beneficiaries. Oke-Ogun I: Ifedapo beneficiaries Microfinance, N26.270m for 93 beneficiaries. "Oke-Ogun II: Bank of Agriculture, Iseyin, N13.450m for 53 beneficiaries", he said.

Sheikh Akeugbagold added, "Ogbomoso:

Randalpha Microfinance Bank N44.200m for 159 beneficiaries, Ibarapa: Igboora Microfinance Bank, N23.650m for 92 beneficiaries."

Assuring that real farmers that missed out from all the batches that have been previously considered will be taken care of once the payment is coming forth, Sheikh Akeigbagold implored fresh graduates who are interested in agricultural practices to approach the corporation to access fund.

New Nigerian recalls that N416.850m was recently disbursed to 1,407 farmers across the state in the third batch of the programme.



Sheikh Akeugbagold addressing a press conference

Reps Commences Process To Immortalise Late Speaker Ghali Na'Abba

By; **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

A member of the House of Representatives and member, New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) from Kano State, Aliyu Madaki, on Wednesday, brought a motion to the floor of the House titled, "Need to immortalise former Speaker, Late Ghali Na'Abba by naming the National Assembly Service Commission building after him." Following the motion, the House of Representatives has commenced the process of immortalising former Speaker, Ghali Na'Abba.

According to the lawmakers, the late Na'Abba started his political career as a student of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, where he was elected as an Executive Committee

Member of the ABU Chapter of the revolutionary People's Redemption Party established in the 2nd Republic by Mallam Aminu Kano.

The late Na'Abba was elected as a member of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the beginning of the Fourth Republic in 1999.

According to the House, the late Na'Abba was praised as an influential Speaker of the House of Representatives between 1999 and 2003, saying that on account of his courageous, dynamic, outspoken pursuit of legislative independence and revolutionary approach to running the House as Speaker within the period.

Madaki further explained that Na'Abba as Speaker, embarked on a number of

measures to ensure the independence of the legislature, not limited to profound scrutiny of the budget framework, making robust adjustments where necessary; strengthen House Committees; fashioned out a cohesive, inclusive, mutual, thinking and participatory house; and regulate debate on the state of the nation.

He explained that cognizant of the need to immortalise him by naming the National Assembly Commission building after him in honour

of his legacy, the House resolved to honour Na'Abba, by naming the National Assembly Service Commission Building after him.

It referred the motion to the Senate for concurrence.

Na'Abba, a Kano-born politician, died on September 27, 2023, in Abuja at the age of 65.



Gov Dauda Lawal

Dangote Storms Kano After Hunger Outcry, Pledges To Ease Economic Burden

**Gov. Yusuf solicits establishment of power plant, sickle cell centre in Kano*



Gov Abba Yusuf with President Dangote Conglomerate, Alh. Aliko Dangote in Kano recently

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President Dangote Conglomerate, Alh. Aliko Dangote has pledged to support social policies and human development initiative of government, targeted to ameliorate the economic burden in Kano.

Dangote made the pledge when he met with Governor Abba Yusuf at Government House in Kano on Friday February 9, 2024, acknowledging that common man could hardly survive the present state of inflation in the nation.

Specifically, Dangote promised to support Kano to improve health, education and empowerment of less privileged struggling to survive.

"We are here first of all, to congratulate you on your victory at the Supreme Court. I want to assure you of our support throughout your administration, maybe not only four years, but eight years.

"Kano is home even though the MC addressed me as the richest black man but you can address me as Kano indigene. I am your subject and you can

always call on me for cooperation to see how do we develop Kano.

"And going forward, we really need to see how we can develop areas of health, education, empowerment, how do we assist the government because government cannot do it alone".

In a statement issued by Governor's Spokesperson, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, Dangote further added: "I want to assure you that we would continue to support you not because I am from Kano, but because I know your intentions are good.

"You have the mandate of the people and I know that it is very difficult for any human being to clap with the two hands now. For now you will be the right hand, and we would be your left hand, together we shall clap.

"So be rest assured that we would support you and support your administration and we want to tell you that we would continue to pray for your success because your success is ours. I am sorry for coming this late because I should have been here before now, but I have been traveling a lot.

"Not that we took the government for granted because I really want to have enough time to come and tell you that we believe in your administration and we are ready to support you," Dangote assured.

On his part, Governor Abba Yusuf solicited support of the oil magnet for the establishment of independent power plant to revive the ailing industries and boost the economic strength of the state.

Similarly, the governor told Dangote that Kano directly needs establishment of a sickle cell hospital to provide free medication for the patients.

Besides, the governor appealed to the business tycoon for the completion of the gigantic projects initiated by Dangote Foundation, which include accident and emergency ward, surgical and theatre complex and maternity/ paediatric building all in Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital.

He noted that as a proud indigene of the state, Alhaji Dangote is capable and willing to execute as many projects as possible

that is why, "I am using the opportunity to solicit and appeal for a lot from him to the people of the state".

Governor Yusuf added, "I want to make passionate appeal to you to extend your hands of assistance by completing the gigantic projects initiated by your foundation which include, accident and emergency ward, surgical and theatre complex and maternity/ paediatric building all in Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital " the governor further appealed.

In the area of infrastructural development, the governor expressed the need for Dangote to assist in the provision of modern roads construction, housing, community development as well as human capital development among others.

While appreciating the kind gesture of Aliko Dangote in the area of education and healthcare development, especially in the eradication of the poliomyelitis, the governor gave the assurance that whatever form of support given, it would be used

2024 Hajj: Oyo Pilgrims Board Announces N4.9m Fare

**Sheikh Atere fixes Feb 12 deadline*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Pilgrims Welfare's Board (Muslim Wing) has hinted that intending pilgrims from the state for the 2024 pilgrimage are to pay ₦4.9 million as this year's Hajj fare.

This was disclosed by the Board Chairman, Sheikh AbdulWahab Hashim Atere at a meeting with intending pilgrims and other stakeholders at the State Hajj Camp, Olodo, Ibadan.

Sheikh Atere stressed that all intending pilgrims who had paid the deposit of ₦4.5million or below as earlier announced by the board are now to complete it to the sum of ₦4.9million on or before Monday 12th February fixed for the deadline.

The Oyo State Pilgrims Welfare's Board (Muslim Wing) Chairman said anyone who still has an interest in making the spiritual journey with the

Board to seize the limited opportunity by making the payment of the final fare announced before the deadline lasts.

According to Sheikh Atere, intending pilgrims could make their payments through any of the designated bank accounts of the board.

He appreciated Gov Seyi Makinde for his unflinching support towards the Hajj Board since the first day he had been appointed as the Chairman of the Board.

New Nigerian recalls that National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has declared that intending pilgrims from Nigeria's Southern center are to pay N4,899,000 as final Hajj fare; those from the Northern center will pay N4,699,000 and pilgrims from Yola and Maiduguri center will pay a fee of N4,679,000 for the 2024 Hajj and given February 12 as deadline.

Court Slams Life Imprisonment On 32-year Old Man For Raping Minor

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Unbelievable but true that a 32-year-old man, Akaninyene Sunday Ekwere could find pleasure in raping a 4-year-old girl in Ikot Ibritam, Oruk Anam Council Area of Akwa Ibom State, an ugly incident that earned him life imprisonment by court.

Ekwere, a trader on engine oil, electrical appliances and recharge cards, reportedly lured the minor to his shop where he defiled the innocent girl, who is the last child in a family of five.

The mother of the victim discovered the bruises around her private part when she bathed her prompting her parents to report the matter to the Police.

In his confessional statement, Ekwere, who hails from Ikot Ibritam and a neighbour to the

victim, said he saw the minor playing outside the compound and invited her to his shop, where he rubbed vaseline oil on her private part and raped her.

In his judgment, the Judge, Nkereuwem Obot of Akwa Ibom State High Court sitting in Ikot Ibritam, Oruk Anam said Akaninyene Ekwere does not deserve to live in the midst of sane people as he is dangerous to society.

Obot found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

The convict who is popularly called "Doctor" pleaded with the court to have mercy upon him as he is a married man.

Under the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Laws, 2020, rape carries life imprisonment in addition to the name of the victim being entered in the register of sex offenders in the state.

FGM: Over 200m Women Victims, 4.4m At Risk, UNFPA Raises Alarm

**Stakeholders lend voices to survivors*

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at the weekend, alerted that more than 200 million women have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) with 4.4M women and girls at risk.

Representative of UNFPA, Madam Uzoma Ayodeji made this known while speaking at a programme to commemorate the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM 2024 held at the Jericho Nursing Home, Ibadan.

She stressed that there is the urgent need for stakeholders to intensify to prevent the 4.4million women and girls from being at the risk of FGM.

Madam Ayodeji stressed at the programme themed, 'Her Voice, Her Future: Investing in Survivor' that UNFPA, "is putting in more efforts towards ensuring the prevalent rate in Oyo State will decline further.

"More than 200 million women have undergone FGM and 4.4 million women and girls will be at risk if efforts aren't intensified. UNFPA is putting in more efforts to ensure the prevalent rate in Oyo State will decline further", she said.

Madam Ayodeji added, "This year's theme is investing in survival led movement to amplify the voice against FGM. We want to ensure that this shame is removed from the faces of women and girls".

The Director, Centre for Comprehensive Promotion of Reproductive Health Prof. Oladosu Ojengbade while speaking at the programme said more importance should be placed on survivors.

Prof Ojengbade stressed, "it is the voice of the survivors that people want to hear for the benefit of people yet unborn.

"The effect of preventing FGM is part of the motivation we have to continue to do the work we are doing," he said.

Prof Ojengbade added, "It is not just to talk about it at a point in time and it ends, I hope today will be another day to reeducate the mind to support the movement against FGM".

The Chief Medical Director (CMD) of Jericho Nursing Home Ibadan, Dr Bashir Kasika said, "we have the sexual assault referral centre here and we all understand that it covers every sexual related issues including FGM."

Dr Kasika while thanking UNFPA and CCPRH for holding the event at the nursing home, stressed "our doors will always be remain open to you and every survivor whenever you are in need of us."

The programme themed 'Her Voice, Her Future: Investing in Survivor Led Movement to End FGM' is aimed at encouraging survivors of FGM to speak up to further enhance the fight against FGM in Oyo State and Nigeria at large.

Inflation: We Spend 70% Of Our Budget Purchasing Livestock Feeds, Director NAPRI Laments

**Demands more funding*

By: **SANIALIYU, Zaria**

The Executive Director National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) Shika, Professor Abubakar Hassan has said that 70 per cent of the Institute's budget is spent on the purchase of livestock feeds.

Hassan made this known while interacting with journalists in Zaria, adding that presently, their major challenge is how price of grains is skyrocketing in the country.

He said, the institute is

working towards solving the challenges in its efforts to overcome those issues.

According to him, "livestock is one of the main transformation agenda of the food security programme of which poultry is one, small, large ruminant, dairy and beef production."

He said, to meet the demands, the institute has established five out stations of which Damaturu outstation in Yobe State is for Livestock Value Chain and that of Gwada in Niger State is for poultry production.

He added that the Talatan Mafara outstation in Zamfara State is for Sokoto Gudali Cattle production and small ruminants production in Edo State and swine production outstation is in Otukpo, Benue State.

Professor Hassan said to achieve all this, more funding needs to be provided and it will assist the institute to meet the demands of the majority by at least 80 per cent.

The Executive Director added that the outstation need to improve on the existing structure because

they were old as Institute's Headquarters.

He expressed concerns, "despite farmers are now aware of how to keep livestock, but yet we are not meeting the demands that will make the prices of animal commodities to come down for people to afford it."

The Chief Executive assured that they want to expand their production of day old chicks to meet up the demands that is why the outstations were established as a replica of the NAPRI headquarters,

Frequent Changes In NDDC Board Bane Of Projects Delivery - Stakeholders

By: **PATRICK TITUS, Uyo**

Resolution reached at a two-day Retreat for Board and Management of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), has identified the frequent changes in the Governing Board of the Commission as one of the factors accounting for the challenges in projects execution and delivery in the development of the region.

To remove the blockage, participants at the retreat called on the Federal Government to ensure the current board completes its tenure, while also advocating continuity in succeeding boards to ensure sustainability of the commission's projects.

Captured in a communique issued at the retreat which ended at the weekend in Ikot Ekpen, Akwa Ibom State, the participants identified the need for proper synergy, collaboration and coordinating framework between the Ministry of

Niger Delta Development, State Governments in the regions, the NDDC and development partners.

Noting procurement as the heart of governance and one of the government activities most vulnerable to corruption, they called the Board and Management of the NDDC to effectively discharge their responsibility to manage the Procurement process involving all stakeholders, without sacrificing the core objectives as provided under the Procurement Act.

The retreat took a cursory look into the need for the urgent release of all outstanding statutory contributions of the Federal Government to the NDDC fund, as the non-release of these funds has significantly hampered the ability of the commission to deliver on its mandate.

It also pointed out the need for some form of financial autonomy for the NDDC outside the Treasury Single

Account (TSA) regime in view of the peculiar construction window of the Niger Delta region.

This autonomy is hope to encourage the process of getting the commission take advantage of traditional credit sources in completing its projects and deliver real impact and sustainable development to the long-suffering people of the region.

Given the mandate as enshrined in the Act 2000, NDDC should establish clear, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART) goals that the Commission would demonstrably commit to and deliver upon, fostering increased public trust.

In the same way, he leadership of the Commission have been tasked to consistently demonstrate their commitment to ethical principles, through their decisions and behavior.

It also stressed the need for

the development of key governance policies and procedures to promote clarity of roles and minimize discord on the Board, as well as defined reporting framework covering key stakeholders and transparency.

Gathered on theme, "Renewed Hope: A New Era for Vitality, Peace & Development", participants commended the 7th Governing Board and Management for the full-scale engagement of key stakeholders that the Retreat presented.

It was the first-time former Chairmen and Managing Directors of the commission were invited to be part of the Commission's Board & Management retreat.

The communique was signed by the the Chairman of the Governing Board, Mr. Chiedu Ebie and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Samuel Ogbuku among others.

Katsina Govt Disburses Over N4bn Schools Improvement Grants

By: **SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina**

Katsina State Government has began the disbursement of its 4,054,795, 838 billion Naira School Improvement Grants to 150 select primary schools in the state.

The event was flagged off by the state Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda at Shagumba Primary School in Batagarawa Local Government Area under a programme tagged, "Transforming Education System at State Level (TESS)". Governor Radda said the benefiting schools were selected based on certain

criteria, including level of dilapidation, number of Pupils in catchment communities close to the school and dearth of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

He disclosed that, School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) are responsible for utilisation and management of the funds. advising the benefiting committees to ensure judicious utilisation of the funds, for the purpose for which they are disbursed.

Governor Dikko Radda directed that, any of the recently-recruited public school teachers in the state, who rejected the

initial posting, should resign his or her appointment, noting that, "this is to allow many others waiting for the opportunity to take up the appointment."

He also directed the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, SUBEB Education Secretaries, and Coordinators of Zonal Education Quality Assurance, to double efforts in ensuring teachers attend their lessons promptly.

He emphasized that, any insubordination among teachers and other staff should be reported to his office and the state government would not take it lightly on any teacher that absconds from duty

without any cogent reason.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda called on education stakeholders, especially community members to ensure regular visit of their catchment schools to monitor lessons delivery and teachers attendance as well as report any incident of truancy and absenteeism of teachers.

Coordinator of TESS, Hajiya Binta Abdulmumini said their program would ensure that several Katsina out-of-school children return to school.

NDLEA Apprehends Pregnant Woman, Insurgents' Drug Supplier, 22 Others In Eight States

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least 24 suspected drug dealers and traffickers are now cooling their feet in the custody of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), amongst them, a pregnant woman and a supplier of drugs to insurgents.

The suspects were said to have been arrested during major interdictions in eight states across the country.

The drug supplier, a 42-year-old man, was said to be taking thousands of concealed opioid pills to insurgents' enclave in Banki area of Borno State, a six-month-pregnant lady, a mother of three children and three other women.

Their arrests led to the seizure of over 7,609 kilograms of assorted illicit drugs in Borno, Nasarawa, Anambra, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kano, Ondo, Edo, and Lagos State.

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

He said, "The bulk of the seizures was made in Nasarawa State, where NDLEA operatives acting on credible intelligence on Sunday 4th February, intercepted a truck marked Lagos JJJ 64 YC conveying 367 jumbo bags of cannabis sativa weighing 4,037 kilogrammes from Akure, Ondo State to be delivered at Shabu area of Lafia, the state capital.

"Three suspects: Shuaibu Yahaya Liman, 35; Monday Audu, 33, and Linus Samuel, 42 have been arrested in connection with the seizure.

"The following day Monday 5th February, operatives in Abuja, FCT arrested the duo of Jibrin Shuaibu, 23, and Prosper Innih, 17, with 169 bags and 80 blocks of compressed cannabis sativa weighing 1,961.5kgs concealed in a truck with registration number Ogun WDE 557 XC.

"The truck was intercepted during a stop and search operation along Abaji – Abuja highway on their way from Uzeba to Dei-Dei, FCT".

In another operation by NDLEA operatives in Abuja on Tuesday 6th February 6, a suspect, Abdulhameed Dauda, 27, was arrested with 89kgs of the same psychoactive substance loaded into his truck in Owo, Ondo State to be delivered at Gwagwalada in FCT.

On the same day, operatives also intercepted another driver, Hassan Ade, 30, transporting 696.5kgs of the same substance



Some of the suspects and exhibits recovered from them.

loaded in Idoani, Ondo State state to be delivered at Gwagwalada and Dei-Dei in FCT.

A follow up operation led to the arrest of a mother of three children, Mrs. Joy Chukwuka, 42, linked with the consignment.

In Ondo State, apart from the seizure of 633.5kgs of cannabis at Eleyere, Ogbese in Akure North LGA, NDLEA operatives also recovered 59 jumbo bags of same substance loaded in a truck marked GAD 287 XA heading to Northern part of the country.

According to Babafemi, detergents were sprayed on the cannabis bags ostensibly to suppress the odour of the psychoactive weed, while 192 packs of table water were loaded on top to conceal the illicit consignment.

He added that not less than 187kgs of same substance were seized by operatives at Sapele road, Benin, Edo State, while in Kano, NDLEA officers on Monday February 5, arrested 58-year-old Bashir Attahir in Bachirawa area of the state with 216,000 pills of tramadol 250mg.

"Another suspect, Ejike Moses Nmenme, 47, was nabbed the

following day Tuesday 6th Feb with 25,190 capsules of tramadol and different quantities of rohypnol and codeine syrup along Emir road, Sabon Gari area of the city while the duo of Yusuf Abdullahi Musa, 35, and Yusuf Musa, 28, were nabbed at Gadar Tamburawa, with 1,000 ampoules of tramadol injection on Thursday 8th February.

'In Borno state, a 42-year-old suspected supplier of illicit drugs to insurgents in Banki, a border region between Nigeria and Cameroon, Ahmad Mohammed was arrested by NDLEA operatives on Friday 9th February at Bama check point.

"When his luggage was searched 20,000 capsules of tramadol were recovered from him while on his way to deliver the opioid consignment in the border town.

"A six-month pregnant woman, Amarachi Akaolisa, 25, and another lady, Ifeoma Iheanyi, 21, were among six suspects arrested for dealing in illicit substances in Oraifite and Umuni-Evili, Aguleri, Anambra state.

"Others nabbed include: Okwuchukwu Chukwuka; Onyedika Ngwu; Ekene

Hyginus and Nzomiwu Ikechukwu. Recovered from them were over 6 kilograms of cannabis, tramadol, diazepam and codeine syrup in raids conducted NDLEA operatives between Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th Feb in parts of the state.

"In Lagos, two ladies: Boluwatife Adebayo and Omolade Fola Adebayo were among suspects arrested during raids in parts of the state on Saturday 10th February.

"While Ogah Sunday Adole and Boluwatife Adebayo were arrested at Agidingbi, Ikeja, in connection with 220grams of cannabis, 10.6 litres of codeine syrup, and other psychotropic substances, Omolade Fola Adebayo was nabbed at Ijesha with various quantities of cannabis, codeine syrup, rohypnol and molly", the statement further read.

The anti-narcotic agency's spokesperson disclosed that 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.

Some of these include: WADA sensitisation lecture on Drug Use and Mental Health for students and staff of Oba Akinbiyi High School, Mokola, Ibadan, Oyo State; Owode Senior Secondary School, Owode Yewa, Ogun State, and Federal Science and Technical College, Awka, Anambra State.

Others are Yusad Secondary School, Gashua, Yobe State; and African Church Grammar School, Ilesa, Osun State, as well as WADA advocacy visit to HRM Ochi'Idoma, Agaba Idu, Dr. Elaigwu Odogbo Obagaji John at his palace in Otukpo, Benue State and the Emir of Rano, HRH Amb. Muhammed Kabiru Inuwa in Kano State.

Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) commended the efforts of the Nasarawa, FCT, Ondo, Kano, Borno, Edo, Anambra and Lagos Commands of the Agency for jobs well done in the past week.

He urged them and their compatriots across the country to always strive to surpass past feats in their drug supply and drug demand reduction efforts.

Old Politicians To Go Extinct By 2027' As National Youth

**Alliance Inaugurates Lagos Social Media Team*

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

Politicians that have been in the corridors of power for long may be in for a battle of survival in 2027, as the National Youth Alliance (NYA) 'We Move 9ja Project' is perfecting plans to ensure they fail in their bids to retain power in Nigeria.

The resolve was emphasized on Friday February 9, 2024 during the inauguration of the Lagos Social Media Team of the NYA by its President, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, who is the National Coordinator of "We Move 9ja

Project" which is championing the movement.

According to a statement signed by the SA Media and Publicity to NYA President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Sunday February 11, 2024, the inaugurated Lagos Social Media Team headed by Oluwakanmi Oluwagbenga Osoaro, is gearing up to start its work of sensitizing youth in the state.

According to the statement, Osoaro assured that his team is poised to ensuring Nigeria gets the most credible

leadership in 2027.

"We are willing, ready and ever ready to serve our fatherland. We have no other country to call our own, hence the resolve to ensure we channel our energy into promoting good governance and entrenching sane.

"We are set to begin the task of sensitizing youth and making them see the need to bring on competent hands that will salvage our dear country," Osoaro said.

Earlier, NYA President and National Coordinator of We Move 9ja Project, Ambassador Abbas told the youth that

they were carefully chosen, based on pedigree and track records.

"Above all, your patriotic zeal to see that Nigeria works, is one of the key reasons you were meticulously chosen.

"You came with high recommendations and we are optimistic that we have the best hands to champion the We Move Naija Social Media Team in Lagos.

"Lagos is a very important city, not just in Nigeria or Africa, but the whole world. When you speak, your voices resonate all over. Thanks for accepting to serve in this noble task," he said.

Over 10,000 Northerners Lose Sources Of Income As Enugu Govt Demolishes Ugwuoba Cattle Market

■ Traders lament only one day notice was given before demolition
■ Insist market developed with personal resources

■ Victims appeal to Tinubu, Kwankwaso for help
■ Natives cry to Enugu Govt over alleged criminal activities, illicit drug in market

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON & KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

Traders operating at Ugwuoba Cattle Market, KM 54/55 Enugu-Onitsha Express Way, Ugwuoba, Oji-River LGA, Enugu State are lamenting losses, following the demolition of the business environment by the Enugu State Government.

This is as they alleged that over 10,000 traders of Northern extraction doing business at the market have lost their sources of livelihood.

The demolition of the market, said to have been established in 1995 by Cattle Dealers And Butchers, New Nigerian was reliably informed, took place on Saturday February 10, 2024 after only two days notice was handed down to the businessmen.

Among the people said to have established the market, are, Alhaji Buba Garba Dankasa (Sarkin Zango), Cattle Dealer, and Abubakar Saleh (Sarkin Pawa), Butcher.

Garke Ungoba Market, also known as Enugu Market, is one of the prominent markets in Nigeria.

It is located in the city of Enugu, which is in the South Eastern part of the country. The market has a rich history that dates back many years.

The market has been a vital hub for trade and commerce in the region for centuries. It has served as a place where people from different communities come together to buy and sell goods, exchange ideas, and interact with one another.

Over time, the market has evolved and grown to become a major economic center in the region. It has played a crucial role in the development of Enugu and has contributed significantly to the local economy.

Meanwhile, a memo written by concerned stakeholders ahead of the demolition, reads, "It's sad to announce

to you today that Enugu State Government wants to demolish this historical market where more than 10,000 individuals are feeding their families and the majority of the community living there and making business are Hausa people, and this incident comes along without any notice or notification to vacate from the premises and the demolition is set to take on Saturday 11th of Feb. 2024,

"We are appealing to our core northerners who have been trying to see they make difference in the lives of those who are not strong enough to fight this injustice.

"It's with this we calling on the humanitarian general, Sen Engr Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso to please come for our rescue as it's his habit to see he makes this difference into humans life."

Meanwhile, traders of the Ugwuoba Cattle Market and natives of the locality were said to have cried out to the state government over the activities of criminals and illicit drug dealers in the market and environs.

They however, heaped the blame on the huge number of shanties and local lodges that houses criminal elements, prostitutes, and dealers in illicit drugs such as Indian hemp and methamphetamine (Mkpuru mmiri) on indiscriminate allocation/sale of lands to strangers by some indigenes of the area.

The traders and natives made the call while speaking with newsmen at the weekend, over claims that the market might be a hibernating ground for criminals, who operate in Enugu and Anambra states.

Chairman of the Cattle Market, Abubakar Sadiq, identified illicit drugs and prostitution as major issues in the area.

"Actually, in the last two months, we have had issues of people fighting and

stabbing each other to death under the influence of drugs.

'Most of these people are taking 'Mkpurummuri'. After taking that substance, they ended up fighting. Unfortunately one of them died.

"On 20th November, Umar Garba Yakubu, under the influence of drugs, stabbed Safiu Mohammed from Taraba State to death. Safiu's people wanted to retaliate, but with the intervention of the executives and the police, we arrested the situation and Umar was arrested and handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Police. He is in jail now.

"Another one happened on 4th December when one Yusuf Adamu from Gombe State was stabbed by a person that I don't know his name.

"But with the help of security, we arrested him and handed him over to the security operatives. That one was also under the influence of drugs too.

"The major problem causing insecurity here is drugs. They transact in and take drugs here. So that is the cause of insecurity in this place.

"Aside from that, we have some areas that accommodate criminals. This is at the extension of the market. The market is too large. There are places where they sell alcohol and prostitutes are there too. These attract criminals.

"I could remember the last time there were people who kidnapped someone in Anambra State, but they came and hid here. Those places are under Gariki, but we (the executive) don't have control over them because the land was given to them by the indigenes.

"Each time we complain to them, they tell us that it is their land and that we cannot tell them what to do with their land. But in the eye of the government, everywhere here is Gariki,"

Vice Chairman of Ugwuoba Cattle

Market and an indigene of the town, Shedrach Ezeani, also collaborated on the issues raised by Sadiq.

"I represent the Amachala family, owners of this place, in the Gariki executives. We are here working together with the executives and the market authorities.

"The issues we have in terms of security is that there are too many hoodlums around this Gariki. Our chairman tried many times, through the local government, to at least reduce them. But people from outside Ugwuoba come in and reside by the side of this market. That is the problem we are facing here.

"From 2004 we used to collect rent around Gariki suburb, not the main Gariki. We didn't have problems then.

"But some years later, some boys said they don't want family owners of the land to collect the rent and they said let every individual manage his own portion of land. So, many started giving portions of land to unknown persons. From then, hoodlums gathered around there.

"Government should come in because the Gariki Market does not have the capacity to do this. If you ask anybody, he will tell you that this is my father's portion of land. Those shanties and unregulated lodges are not doing good for this place.

According to him, "people hide there in the name of Gariki and do all sorts of things. They invite lodgers from unknown destinations. Criminals will join them to lodge. That is the problem we are having. The government has to take action and control them,"

When contacted, the state Commissioner for information, Aka Eze Aka, said he was not disposed to talking to our correspondent on the issue, saying "i am not in the condition of talking to you now please" he said.

GAC Motor Nigeria Pioneers Celebration Of Funke Akindele's Hallmark Movie "A Tribe Called Judah"

*Presents GAC GS4 Luxury SUV to her



Funke Akindele (Nollywood actor/filmmaker) with her brand new GAC All-New GS4 SUV.

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

On the 7th of February 2024, the giants of filmmaking in the Nigerian Entertainment Industry gathered at the world class GAC Motor G-Style Showroom to celebrate the monumental success of Funke Akindele's latest film, "A Tribe called Judah."

GAC Motor Nigeria, leading automobile brand partnered with Filmone, Nigeria's biggest film distribution business for

this exclusive event aptly titled "A Toast to Funke Akindele," with top Nollywood actors and Industry legends such as Sola Sobowale, Iyabo Ojo, Yvonne Jegede, Bisola Ayieola, Enyinna Nwigwe, Timini Egbuson, Adduni Ade, others and the celebrant her self Funke Akindele in attendance.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a brand new GAC GS4 Luxury SUV to Funke Akindele by GAC Motor in recognition of her

outstanding success at the Box office for her highest grossing movie which generated a staggering 1.2 Billion Naira in revenue.

Speaking at the event, Jubril Arogundade the General Manager CIG Motors Nigeria franchise owners of GAC Motor in Nigeria said, "we are celebrating an icon Funke Akindele tonight for her excellence and this moment here serves as a reflection for all of us at CIG Motors and reminds us of the power of an excellent spirit, which has

been our key goal in running our business.

"We have partnered with people and corporations to transcend relationships beyond just business to showcase the power of collaboration, art and creativity in bringing a people together for one common purpose.

"This is part of the reason we are taking over the automobile industry in Nigeria, our Market share, our outstanding products and our partnerships and collaborations speak to our excellent spirit."

AYCF Tasks EFCC On Fairness, Professionalism

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has said that it has closely observed the events unfolding in Kogi State since the inception of the current administration and noted with utter perplexity and concern, the unrelenting disturbances created by certain interest groups, specifically the continued persecution of former governor Yahaya Bello.

It also averred that the embers of this persistent intimidation and harassment of the former governor were ignited and incessantly fanned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), under the pretext of conducting a fictitious investigation into unsubstantiated and baseless allegations against him.

In a statement issued by the President General of the forum, Alhaji Yerima Shettima, he said, the forum finds these actions wholly unacceptable and called on the EFCC to act in a fair and unbiased manner.

According to Shettima, as the representatives of various interest groups from Northern Nigeria, the AYCF has carefully watched and studied these events with considerable restraint and maturity and in order to facilitate a peaceful atmosphere, have condoned and accommodated several unreasonable and unacceptable actions carried out by the EFCC, a government agency

that is supposed to be fair and just in its dealings.

He posited however, that the AYCF believes that there is a limit to such tolerance, stressing that matters have now reached a point where silence becomes complicity and inaction is no longer an option, adding that the forum is compelled to caution the EFCC to be more professional and unbiased in the discharge of its functions.

"We urge the EFCC to eschew the temptation of serving the dubious political interests of some unscrupulous power mongers. It is essential for the EFCC to regain its credibility and adhere to the principles of fairness, justice, and integrity in all its dealings.

"The AYCF believes in the principle of the rule of law and expects that individuals, regardless of their political affiliations, should be treated with respect and given a fair opportunity to defend themselves against any allegations. It is in the interest of justice and the preservation of fundamental human rights that we call on the EFCC to conduct its investigations in a fair and unbiased manner". Shettima restated the commitment of AYCF to fostering peace and unity in Northern Nigeria and therefore called on all stakeholders to support the AYCF's stance in urging the EFCC to embrace fairness and professionalism in the discharge of its responsibilities.



Left- Head Sales, FilmOne) Mr. Lanre Effiong, (Left- GM Commercial, FilmOne) Mrs. Lolu Desalu, (Middle- Nollywood Actor/Filmmaker) Funke Akindele and (Right- GM Commercial & Group Head Comm, GAC Motor) Mr Jubril Arogundade.

Extortion Is A Criminal Offence, Gombe CP Warns Officers

**Says those found wanting will face wrath of law*

By; ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

The Gombe State Commissioner of Police, Hayatu Usman has warned his officers to desist from extorting innocent civilians.

CP gave the warning during his familiarisation visit to Nafada and Bajoga Police divisional headquarters, saying it is important for officers to maintain high standard and professionalism. He said it is part of his duty to go round all the divisions to see for himself, the level of their commitment, more especially in the area of community policing.

In Nafada Division, the commissioner urged police officers not to take sides in the forthcoming local government election, saying their duty is to protect the lives and property and also to make sure there's security.

According to him, from the reports received from the DPO, Nafada is safe and crime free, charging them not to relent on efforts, thereby giving room for hoodlums that will use the opportunity to cause problem.

He explained that the acute shortage of manpower is all over, but assured of looking into the matter, adding that when the recent recruitment is concluded, more officers would be posted to the command to bridge the

manpower gap.

He added the shortage of manpower will not deter them, since they have cordial working relationship with hunters, vigilante and the PCRC.

He said that the synergy and good working relationship between Police, and sister agencies is commendable, calling on them to maintain same.

In his remarks, the PCRC Chairman of Nafada Local Government Area, Umar Muhammad Baraya, said that in Nafada, they have no problem because they assisted the police who worked closely and commended the Area Commander Bajoga, ACP A.S Giade and the DPO for their kind support.

At the emirate, the Emir of Nafada, Muhammad Dadum Hamza appealed to the commissioner for Police outposts in Barwo Wunde, Barwo Nasarawa and Guduku, saying that Nafada has eight districts and they have inadequate police officers.

The royal father also requested for the rehabilitation of Police barracks to accommodate more officers when posted to Nafada, adding that the barracks were blown up by Boko Haram nine years ago.

In his response, CP Hayatu Usman, promised to table the issues to the government, assuring the emir that everything will be fixed under the able leadership of IGP whose



priority is the Police officers.

During a similar visit to Bajoga Division in Funakaye Local Government Area, CP Hayatu Usman, warned the Police officers against violating human rights and charged them to work professionally.

He also charged hunters and vigilante not to take laws into their hands, but after apprehending suspects, they should take them to the police and even the police has no power to flout laws, but it is the duty of the court, explaining that the police is only to investigate and charge suspects to court.

The Emir of Funakaye,

Alhaji Yakubu Mohammad Kwairanga the 4th, commended the Commissioner of Police for promoting community policing that has brought everybody close to the police.

Kwairanga promised to give maximum support and work together with the police, while appealing to the commissioner for additional police officers to safeguards them from kidnappers.

Responding, CP Hayatu Usman said that with the police officers on ground and hunters that assist them, he assured the emir that they will be protected.

Bodija Explosion: Three Persons Arrested To Face Prosecution - Oyo Govt

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Special Adviser on Security to Governor Seyi Makinde, CP Fatai Owoseni (rtd) has disclosed that Oyo State Government is to prosecute three persons in connection with the Bodija explosion.

CP Owoseni (rtd) said this on Tuesday, while addressing a press conference at the Governor's Office shortly after the presentation of the report on Bodija explosion to the Oyo state government.

According to CP Owoseni (rtd), the three persons have been identified in connection with the cause of the unfortunate incident and that the identified persons will face prosecution based on the investigation carried out.

He pointed out that Oyo State Government would bring the perpetrators to book, adding that the government would check on the immigration status of all the people of interest since a majority of them are from Mali.

"We have been able to report that the swiftness with which security was deployed to the epicentre had so far successfully made the state to fully secure the environment", he said.

The Special Adviser added, "And with the security that was provided, the state has also been able to prevent untoward happenings, especially opportunistic crimes that hoodlums always take advantage of such situations to carry out".

"We would recall that an emergency situation centre was put in place by the governor, and was located at the premises of Oyo State Housing Corporation, Ibadan".

CP Owoseni (rtd) maintained, "The EOC has so far collated information, data of things that happened there and some of the data collated include census of the respective houses and the fatalities that were affected including the extent of losses suffered".

"As of 6 p.m. on Friday, 3rd of February, which was the 18th day of the incident, a total of 335 affected persons registered at the emergency situation centre including 16 companies or business operators, churches,

mosques, three schools and the UCH also approached the centre to report on their losses".

CP Owoseni (rtd) stated that the street where the explosion happened "is Aderinola Street and not Dejo Oyelese Street, as earlier widely reported, adding that the epicentre of the tragedy is No. 8A and No. 8B".

The Special Adviser emphasized that the losses reported also include "fatality, injuries of various degrees, damages ranging from total collapse and submerging of houses, houses that suffered collateral damage and the ones that suffered minimal damages."

Speaking further, CP Owoseni (rtd)

stated that the character of the explosive is known as "Water Gel Type Based Explosive" and that the explosion was triggered by an electric spark and that a Closed Circuit Television in one of the affected houses gave footage of how the incident happened.

Also speaking, the Head of the Emergency Operation Centre, Prof. Temitope Alonge, said 80 victims in total were managed across various hospitals following the incident but that only five patients are on admission as of the time of the press conference, and that four of the patients are being treated at the University College Hospital (UCH) and are at various levels of recovery, while one patient is at the Redeemers Hospital being managed for a spinal cord injury.

Stressing that most of the cases at UCH will likely be discharged within the next one week, Prof Alonge said that some of the affected victims that experienced medical disorder such as respiratory illness had been treated, while those with symptoms suggestive of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are being attended to by clinical psychologists from UCH, led by Mrs. Funmi Olowa.

The report, which comprises findings of the Medical, Security and Engineering Teams, was submitted to the governor on Tuesday, at the Executive Chamber of the Governor's Office, Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan.

Sultan Of Sokoto To commission Nasarawa New Central Mosque

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto who is also the President Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III is to commission Nasarawa's newly designed and reconstructed Central Mosque on Friday,

February 16, 2024 in Nasarawa town of Nasarawa LGC of Nasarawa State.

A statement issued and signed on Wednesday and made available to newsmen in Maiduguri by Dr. Idris Mohammed Loko, the Malamin Sarkin Nasarawa who is also the Chairman, Publicity and Protocol Sub-Committee, said His Royal Highness (HRH),

the Emir of Nasarawa, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril who was also a former Minister of Environment during former President Muhammadu Buhari, invites Muslim Ummah to witness the commissioning ceremony of the Nasarawa New Central Mosque complex.

The statement added that the ceremony will be held simultaneously with the

launching of a fund raising activity at the Emirs Palace, Nasarawa with Nasarawa State Governor, Engr Abdullahi Sule as Special Guest of Honour, while Senator Ahmed Aliyu Wadada will serve as Chief Launcher and Professor Khalid Aliyu, the Secretary General of JNI will serve as Guest Speaker.

Gombe Govt Approves Projects In 200 Communities

*Areas of the projects are health, education, water nutrition and Erosion Control -- CSDA

By: ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

The Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has approved the execution of various projects in two hundred communities across the state.

The General Manager of the Community and Social Development Agency NG-CARES (CSDA) Malam Haruna Ahmed Imam disclosed this during the commencement of a comprehensive training workshop to enhance the capacity of the community and group management committees of communities selected for the execution of the projects.

The aim of doing that is to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out the project, ensuring its successful implementation and sustainability.

A statement signed by the Public Relations Officer of the agency, Comfort Mukollo, and made available to newsmen, said that the areas include, health, education, water, nutrition and erosion control through the Gombe State Community and Social Development Agency's NG-CARES COVID-19 programme to improve the welfare of the people.

The statement added that the NG-CARES programme execution commenced with seven communities and expanded to twenty-eight, then to seventy-seven and now to two hundred communities.

"This is a testament to the Gombe State Government's commitment in bringing succor to the poor and vulnerable as evidenced by consistent release of funds and support to the agency," the statement said.

Malam Haruna Ahmed Imam said the goal of the workshop is to empower

community members with the tools and expertise needed to take ownership of the project and drive its success.

He emphasized the agency's commitment to fostering community empowerment through collaborative projects.

He explained that, it is believed that sustainable change begins at the grassroots level hence by investing in communities and providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge, government will be laying the foundation for long-term progress.

Imam, lauded Governor Inuwa Yahaya for supporting the agency in executing projects across various communities, which has positively impacted the masses. Also speaking, the Manager Finance and Administration Malam Ibrahim Abubakar Gwani said the participating communities sought support for the execution of various projects and were selected, hence, there is need for them to own the project and execute it judiciously.

He explained that the projects selected encompass various basic amenities tailored towards the needs of the people and also commended the executive governor for focusing on the poorest of the poor communities.

The training workshop was designed to cover a wide range of topics, including project management, resource mobilization, community engagement, and sustainable development practices.

Experts in project and finance management, and community development, monitoring and evaluation and related fields facilitated the sessions, sharing best practices and tailored guidance to address the specific needs of the selected communities.

A cross section of participants at the training, including Aliko Abdullahi, the



Village Head of Kwami, Maryam Sani from Kurugu community and Garba Idris From Zangoma Ngubdo community who were visibly overwhelmed with the development, said most of the benefiting communities lacked basic amenities with no government presence, saying their gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya knows no bounds.

They equally thanked the CSDA for following the directives of the governor

by selecting the most poor and vulnerable communities.

Prior to the training, the agency had conducted needs assessment in all the communities as directed by the State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

The Gombe State Agency for Community and Social Development (CSDA), is one of the platforms in the state for the implementation of the NG-CARES program domesticated as GO-



Blackout: FG Will Improve Power Supply Across Nigeria - Adelabu

*Power, Petroleum resources ministries set up committee to resolve gas shortage



Adelabu at the meeting on Thursday

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Minister of Power, Chief Adelabu in conjunction with the Ministry of Petroleum Resources (Gas) has set up a ministerial committee towards resolving the crisis in the nation's power sector.

The committee will consist of representatives from the two ministries, gas suppliers, the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and stakeholders in the electricity value chain sector.

Speaking on Thursday at a meeting with foreign development partners operating in the country, Chief Adelabu said Federal government with its transformation master plan under the power ministry will improve power supply across the nooks and crannies of Nigeria.

"When we resumed here, we spent the first

three months to diagnose and investigate issues that have affected development in the power sector and why the sector is still at the level it is today and the factors militating against the turnaround that is envisaged in the sector", he said.

Chief Adelabu added, "We consulted, we engaged all the stakeholders. At the end of the diagnosis and investigation, we had a full understanding of the situation.

"We discovered that most of the problems in the sector are not all technical or engineering-related, it actually has to do with liquidity, funding, structural or operational issues which anybody, that has the commitment, could resolve".

The Minister stressed further, "Though they are simple issues, they are in multiples, complicated and permeates all the sectors

in the value chain.

"We met as a team to provide practical solutions and came up with a timing template on those issues that can be resolved in the short term, mid term and those that can be resolved on the long haul and we capped these activities up in December, last year when we had a ministerial retreat where we had the various stakeholders, cutting across the value chain, in attendance".

The minister maintained, "We had serious discussions that lasted three days where we came up with what we have to do. We are focused on providing workable solutions to the various issues."

Emphasizing that the main problem of the sector is liquidity and funding, the Minister noted that the sector "is supposed to generate - funding if allowed to operate a commercial model whereby all the costs attributed to generation of power,

transmission and distribution of power are recovered through the tariff while the operators are given a good mark up.

"All which leads to a cost reflective tariff which is how the sector is supposed to operate. With this, there would be sustainability of the sector. There would be continuity in production, transmission would be seamless while distribution would be impeccable".

Stressing that the sector is not allowed to charge cost reflective tariff, Chief Adelabu said, "Government promised subsidy which is not a problem, but that is when government does its own part with timely release of money."

According to him, "Once the sector suffers from liquidity challenge, there would be no investment in the sector and that is why the structures are dilapidated. It's important we resolve the

Governorship Candidate Laments Religious Politics In Plateau

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The governorship candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), in the 2023 election in Plateau state, Nentawe Yilwatda, has blasted politicians for taking advantage of religion to achieve their political gains in the state. He lamented that it has become a norm for politicians in the state to negatively and most times erroneously associate one with a particular religion in order to secure political advantage.

The governorship candidate disclosed this in Jos, while regarding the outcome of the Supreme Court judgment that affirmed the election of Governor Caleb Mutfwang, and the campaign of calumny against him during the 2023 general elections on Wednesday.

He wondered the tactics of attaching him and his party as representative of Islam was deliberate by politicians to de-market him and his party, pointing out that using Islam against him and his party was not the first of its kind in the history of politics in the state.

According to him, "In 1983, John Kadiya of ECWA Church, was tagged as the Muslim candidate on the Plateau when he contested against the late Solomon Lar. It is a well-known fact that John Kadiya was a communion member of ECWA Church, a member of ECWA Church and an elder in

ECWA Church. But he was tagged as an Islamic leader. After the election was over, nobody again called him an Islamic leader."

He also noted that in 1991, the same thing happened when Fidelis Tapgun was contesting against Bagudu Hirse, lamenting that Hirse was tagged as an Islamic candidate.

In 2003, he stated that David Jang was tagged as an Islamic candidate when he was in the ANPP, stressing that the same thing happened to Pauline Tallen in 2011 when she contested for the governorship.

He added that in 2015, the same thing happened to Simon Lalong and the same thing happened to him in 2023, saying that it is the normal culture of Plateau politics that some people must tag somebody to have an Islamic outlook just for political reasons.

Once politics is over, he explained that that person becomes a saint, observing that the politics of Plateau State carry the same pattern.

The funny aspect, according to him is that people are not wise enough to understand that some people are using politics to ensure that a good candidate doesn't emerge, adding that they used religion as a basis for presenting their candidates to the public.

He said that he had accepts the Supreme Court's judgment in good faith, describing it as the will of God.



Nentawe

Hon Ali Dumps PRP, Joins APC In Kaduna

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

A former senatorial candidate of the People's Redemption Party (PRP) in Kaduna State, Hon Dr Muhammad Ali, has resigned his membership of the party to re-join the All Progressives Congress (APC).

In a letter signed by Hon Muhammad Ali on February 7, 2024 and addressed to the State PRP Chairman through Local Government Chairman, he expressed his pleasantries for the opportunities given to him to service for the period of time he spent as a member of the party.

According to the former Minority Leader of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, he disclosed that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the People's Redemption Party

(PRP) and he is very grateful for opportunities given to him and the experiences he gained during his membership at the party.

He said, "I have decided that it's time to pursue new challenges as such I am writing to resign my membership of the PRP effective from today 7 February, 2024 and rejoin the All Progressives Congress (APC) a party I was instrumental to its formation and successes particularly in Kaduna State from inception.

"I look forward to any opportunity to maintain positive relationship with those Comrades that I got to know while in the PRP and wish you continued success in your endeavours. Once again, accept my sincere appreciation." Hon. Ali said.



Honourable Ali

New Delta Police Boss, CP Abaniwonda Assumes, Office Vows To Make State Uncomfortable For Criminals

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Newly deployed Delta State Commissioner of Police, CP Abaniwonda Surajudeen Olufemi has vowed to make the state uncomfortable for criminals.

CP Abaniwonda, who gave the assurance on Wednesday while assuming office, also promised to build on existing security mechanisms in place towards enthroning the reign of peace and safety in Delta State.

He therefore advised the public to always cooperate with the Police and other security agencies at all times.

The new Commissioner of Police, who assumed duty as the 22nd Commissioner of Police in the state, tasked the youths not to allow themselves to be used for any act of criminality, just as advised the public to always cooperate with the Police and other security agencies at all times.

In a statement by the Spokesperson of the Command DSP Bright Edefe made available to journalists, CP. Abaniwonda while addressing the press assured Deltans, residents and non-residents that the Command under his leadership will ensure that the State become uncomfortable for criminals.

In his handing over remarks, the outgoing Commissioner of Police, AIG. Wale Abass thanked the State Government and the people of the State for their cooperation while he was in-charge of the

Command and urged them to extend the same cooperation to his successor.

The new CP succeeded AIG Wale Abass who has been transferred to Police Force Headquarters Abuja.

Born on 22nd February, 1966, to the family of Mr. & Mrs M.A. R Abaniwonda, CP Abaniwonda Surajudeen Olufemi hails from Epe LGA of Lagos State, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 1987, and a Master of Arts in Economics History, both from the prestigious University of Lagos in the year 1990.

He was enlisted into the Nigeria Police Force as a member of Cadet ASP Course 17 on the 18th of March 1992, and attended the elite Police Academy Kaduna, and upon completion of training in the academy, was posted to Kogi State Police Command as a young Assistant Superintendent of Police in November 1995.

New Delta State Police Commissioner has served in various capacities in the Police Force, as the 2 I/C Squadron Commander Police Mobile force (21PMF) in Jos from the year 1996, he also served as Squadron Commander at MOPOL 8 Jos from the year 2002-2005. From the year 2005 – 2014, he served as Divisional Police Officer at Kubwa Division, Gwarinpa Division, Karmo, Division, Lugbe Division, Garki Division, and Karshi Division and also the CSP DOPS FCT Police



New Delta State Police Commissioner CP Abaniwonda Surajudeen Olufemi.

Command.

As a trained officer of international standards, he was deployed for Peace Keeping Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2000, and was also in 2008 seconded as the Training Adviser at to the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police, he was tasked with the administrative duty at the Department of Operations Force Headquarters Abuja. Afterwards, he was transferred to Kogi state Command as the Deputy Commissioner of Police State Criminal Investigation Department. He was the immediate past Deputy Force Secretary at Force headquarters Abuja. He was promoted to the rank of Commissioner of Police January 2024 and deployed to Delta State as the 22nd Commissioner of Police of Delta State Command.

During the course of his service, he has attended the following courses:

i. Traffic Management

Course, Police College Ikeja, November 1995

ii. Combat Operation Course, PMF Training School, Gwoza, April 2000

iii. APC Conversion Course, PMF Training School, Gwoza, March 2001

iv. Formed Unit Training, PMF Training School, Gwoza, July 2006

v. Induction Course at Police Staff College Jos (2005)

vi. Tactical Leadership and Command Course, Police Staff College, Jos, June 2008

vii. Strategic Leadership and Command Course, Police Staff College, Jos, November 2019.

A member of Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM), CP Abaniwonda Surajudeen Olufemi is highly disciplined, detribalized officer; and has attended so many workshops and seminars both home and abroad.

Helix Biogen Institute Ogbomoso, Partners Belgium Group For Vaccine Development

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Helix Biogen Institute in Ogbomoso, Oyo State has entered into partnership with Univercells, a global life sciences company based in Belgium.

According to the lead Scientist in the Division of Vaccine Design and Development of the institute, Dr. Oladipo Kolawole, (an Associate Professor), the partnership with Univercells and its affiliates, is aimed at collaboratively advancing the development and production of mRNA vaccines geared towards addressing evolving healthcare issues across the globe.

In a statement made available to journalists, Dr Kolawole said to concretise the agreement for the benefits of Nigeria and Belgium as well

as the rest of the world, Helix Biogen Institute and Univercells, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect

Dr Kolawole said, "Univercells is a globally recognized life sciences company that specializes in enabling and expanding the biotech industry, with a mission to make advanced biotechnologies accessible worldwide.

"Univercells is at the forefront of optimizing bioprocessing techniques for efficient vaccine production. As such, for us at Helix Biogen, partnership with them is a good step in the medical research world", he said.

The Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute and Pioneer Vice Chancellor of Precious Cornerstone (PCU),

Ibadan, Prof Julius Kola Oloke on his part, said the collaboration would improve access to critical biologics and advanced therapies for patients in Nigeria and the neighboring regions.

Professor Kolawole Olatunji who is also a board member, said the partnership would bring about transformation to the biomedical landscape in the country.

"The collaboration will focus on accelerating the research and development of mRNA vaccines, capitalizing on Univercell's expertise in bioprocessing and Helix Biogen Institute's commitment to scientific innovation".

It stated that the partnership seeks to bring the benefits of advanced biotechnological

solutions to Nigeria by ensuring that the country has the expertise and infrastructure to contribute to the global fight against infectious diseases.

Univercells will actively contribute to the transfer of knowledge and technological expertise related to mRNA vaccine research and development which will further enhance the capabilities of Biogen Institute.

It would be recalled that the Ogbomoso based research institute which is dedicated to advancing healthcare solutions through innovative research and development, had previously developed candidates' vaccine for COVID-19 which was recognized and captured by World Health Organization (WHO) in the year 2020.

Troops Neutralize 4 Insurgents, Rescue 11 Kidnapped Victims, Capture Weapons In Kaduna

By: **IBRAHIM DAHIRU DANFULANI, Kaduna**

Troops of 1 Division Nigerian Army (NA) on fighting patrol in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State on February 6, 2024 made contact with insurgents.

During the firefight that ensued, troops neutralized four insurgents, while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

The troops recovered three AK 47 rifles, seven AK 47 rifle magazines and two motorcycles.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Acting Deputy Director Army Public Relations 1 Division Nigerian Army Lt. Col Musa Yahaya and made available to press on February 8, 2024.

Similarly, troops of the Division deployed at Birnin Gwari received a tip off on insurgents movement on February 7, 2024.

The troops swiftly moved to intercept the insurgents at Kwaga village. The insurgents who could not withstand the fire power of the troops absconded into the forest in disarray abandoning their victims.

The troops successfully rescued all 11 victims namely; Zakari Galadima 54 years (male), Ishaku Galadima 50 years (male), Habibu Illaysu 40 years (male), Nuzuli Ibrahim 18 years (male), Ramatu Aliyu 60 years (female), Ubaida Mubarak 30 years (female), Zaliha Mubarak 9 months (female), Umma Haruna 22 years (female), Khairatu Salisu 34 years (female), Rahamatu Usman 43 years (female), Rakiyia Yahaya 24 years (female) and recovered 1 motorcycle.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the victims were kidnapped on February 6, 2024 from their village at Masuku in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The victims were rendered medical attention by medical team of the Division and reunited with their families.

The General Officer Commanding 1 Division NA and Force Commander Operation WHIRL PUNCH, Maj Gen Valentine Okoro commended the troops for success.

He appealed to the general public to continue to avail troops and other security agencies with real time intelligence. He equally appealed to locals to report persons with gunshot wounds seeking paramedics attention to the troops or other security agencies for prompt action.



With Prayers, Tinubu Will Get It Right - Uba Sani

**Hosts RCCG Daddy GO, Adeboye*

Church of God, who was in Kaduna for Light of God at the Light up Crusade on February 10 and 11 at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium in Kaduna. Governor Uba while welcoming the clergyman, said, "we have been monitoring what you're doing and our people are happy from the feedback we get from them."

He described Pastor E. A. Adeboye as a mentor who has touched lives to numerous to mention, from academia to the pulpit, old and young.

"You have deployed your visionary and managerial skills to elevate the Redeemed Christian Church of God to one of the largest churches in the world.

"You are instrumental in RCCG establishment of Redeemer University in 2005, you are indeed an institution.

"You have made interventions in critical times, aimed at directing the political leadership to path of justice and fairness, we deeply appreciate you".

He said, "our country at this critical time requires intervention from people like you, who are tested, who have been in the past intervened and helped us to find solutions to our problems in the past.

"We believe you won't be tired, we will also need your intervention at this critical time".

The governor pointed out that many Nigerians are losing hope, going through difficulties because of what happened in the past.

"Right now we have a President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who is determined, focused and ready to take our country to the higher heights.

"With your intervention, your prayers, our President will certainly get it right because so far, the president has taken some very important steps towards moving our country forward.

"But most of these steps are things that might be difficult at this critical time because they are major reforms we need both economic reforms

as well as social.

"Looking at some of the things that happened in the past for him to correct them, he needs some reforms that might be painful at this critical time, but I have no doubt on mind in the near future, Nigeria will be greater for all of us by the grace of God.

"That is the reason why we will continue to seek for your advice, wisdom and support and most importantly for your prayers," he said.

The governor thanked them for coming to Kaduna, adding, "we will continue to consult you for advice and for wisdom."

Earlier, the General Overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye said he was delighted to be there again, adding that he was there about two years ago with the former governor, when he came to pray for some of his members who are kidnapped and they were miraculously rescued.

"I came to encourage their families to let them know that all will be well.

"I have come again this time around, that the problems our nation is facing are more than political, but our problem will require quite a bit of spiritual solution.

"Our country is blessed with people with great intelligence, resources yet we have so many problems.

"It is not that all the authorities are not trying their best, but they are doing as much as humanly possible, hence when we find problems that are beyond human ability to solve, we call on Almighty because He has the power to solve all problems.

"We are going round in our own little way to support the efforts of all various governments, parastatals to call on the Almighty to come to our aid because we need help urgently.

"As much as our rulers are doing their very best to help us solve our problems, the problems seem to have persisted". He said.



We Support Existence Of 5 Kano Emirates - Kano Residents

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The newly additional emirates created by the Ganduje administration should be allowed to exist because they were created to bring more progress and development to Kano State's traditional institutions.

This was expressed by residents in series of chats with our correspondent, where they opined that from the creation of additional four emirates, Kano State has witnessed rapid development in every sector and their existence would make the state greater.

Malam Abubakar Adam from Karaye Emirate, stated that, "the past administration has created additional emirates not to put pains in the hearts of our people, but to bring more progress to our state in the traditional institutions, and I am certain that everybody remains a witness that there is good development in Kano State," he concluded.

Similarly, Alhaji Usman Suleiman from Kano Emirate said that, "Traditional institutions are very vital in the promotion of peace and unity in our society, and from what we have seen since the creation of additional four emirates, the development formula is now impressive at Bichi, Gaya, Karaye, and Rano Emirates respectively.

In conclusion, those who spoke to our correspondent, disowned some groups of people who are calling on the Kano State Government to dissolve the four emirates and install the deposed Emir Sanusi Lamido as the sole emir in the state, which is a great set back to the earlier development recorded under the five emirates.

ISMNC Pledges To Assist Ministry Of Health, Social Welfare

**Seeks partnership*

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The leadership of the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria Chartered (ISMNC) paid a courtesy visit to Mrs. Kachollom Daju, mni, Permanent Secretary of Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, where they pledged to assist the ministry in areas of need.

The ISMNC team led by, Mr. Alex Ndudi Enebeli, FSM, the President and Chairman - in- Council, appreciated the Permanent Secretary for her warm reception and reiterated the institute's commitment to supporting and assisting the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in achieving its intended goal and objectives.

"I am really happy to be here today with my colleagues, representing the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria Chartered (ISMNC) to discuss a matter of utmost importance: the enhancement of capacity within the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare"

Mr Alex Ndudi Enebeli acknowledged that the health sector stands as a beacon of hope, resilience,

and service to our nation. "It is incumbent upon us to ensure that our healthcare system is not only robust but also equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to meet the evolving challenges of our time.

"The partnership we propose today is not merely collaboration between two entities; it is a commitment to excellence, innovation, and the well-being of our citizens. ISMNC, as a leading institution dedicated to the advancement of strategic management practices, understands the critical role that capacity building plays in driving organizational growth and effectiveness".

The Institute's President and Chairman-in- Council assured the Permanent Secretary of robust knowledge base within the institute and the readiness



to assist the ministry in the identified areas of need.

In her response, Mrs Kachollom Daju, mni, FSM, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, expressed gratitude to the leadership of ISMNC for their visit and support.

"I am highly elated for this historic visit, being a fellow of the institute, I am still found worthy to enjoy this gesture from the Institute," she said.

She emphasised the importance of strategic management in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and in the

Public sector at large.

Mrs Daju acknowledged the role of the two organisations in promoting professionalism and best practices in policies making and implementation in the ministry.

She assured the team of the maximum support on the proposed partnership and collaborations majorly on area of capacity building to enhancing quality service delivery.

Mr Alex Ndudi Enebeli on behalf of the Institute expresses profound gratitude to the Permanent Secretary for her

leadership, and unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of our nation.

"Let us seize this moment to forge a partnership that will not only transform the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, but also elevate the standard of healthcare delivery across Nigeria."

The courtesy visit was attended by Jummai Umar- Ajijola, FSM, Chair, Board of Fellows and Mr Obitunde Obiyemi, Registrar and CEO.

Zulum Unveils NALDA 120 Bedrooms Rural Housing Scheme, Empowerment Programme in Dusman-Jere

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum has unveiled National Agricultural and Land Development Authority (NALDA) Rural Housing Scheme and Empowerment Programme in Dusman area of Jere Local government council of the state on Thursday in Maiduguri.

The governor while appreciating NALDA and federal government for bringing such

remarkable projects to Borno State, said, "Indeed, the people of Borno State will use this opportunity to grow the economy of the state and the nation at large.

"There is a enough land in the state and Borno State Government is ever ready to partner with NALDA for raining and dry season farming because our people need more to pick up their livelihood and go back to their ancestral homes," Zulum said.

He also expressed appreciation to the federal government for its continuous support to the

state, while urging other state governors to key into agricultural activities in order to have enough food supply in the country as directed by President Bola Tinubu.

In his remarks, the Hon. Commissioner of Borno State Ministry of Agriculture and Mineral Resources, Engr. Bawu Musami thanked NALDA for bringing such programmes to the state for the benefit of the good people of Borno.

He also extended appreciation to Governor Babagana Zulum for creating an enabling

environment for the programme to take place, saying, "Governor Zulum is doing well to revive the agricultural activities of the state."

While the Executive Secretary of NALDA, Prince Paul Ikonke in his remarks, thanked Zulum for keying into the agricultural project in the state, noting that, NALDA started its projects in Borno State because of the passion Zulum has for agriculture.

He added that what attracted them most to execute some of the projects in Borno State,

which are intended to be commissioned by the governor soon, where each of the beneficiaries will be given a bedroom flat and one male goat and two female goats respectively to breed.

He assured that NALDA training center would be established in Borno State soon while urging other state governments to key into the agricultural projects to have enough food supply in the country as directed by Mr. President.

Ebonyi: FGM Practices Reduced Drastically In Afikpo LGA - Opinion Leaders

*Say offenders are liable to pay fine

*Allege Nurses Involvement In FGM Practices

By: MKPUMAENYINNA, Abakaliki

Following the long time education and enlightenment against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Afikpo LGA of Ebonyi State, stakeholders in the area have expressed satisfaction over the drastic reduction in the practice of FGM in the area, saying that offenders are liable to pay fine if found guilty.

They also alleged that some nurses are also encouraging the practice but the age-grade system and NGOs are monitoring their activities to stop any form of abuse.

In an interview with the women coordinator of FGM in Afikpo LGA of Ebonyi State, Mrs. Chinyere Okogwu, explained that FGM practices in the area has been reduced drastically from over 70% to less than 20% as a result of the efforts and support from religious institutions (Christian and Traditional) to stop the obnoxious practices because of its harmful nature to human health.

According to the women leader, the religious institutions have played significant roles to stop FGM practices across the communities in Afikpo LGA.

Mrs. Okogwu further explained that, in an effort to stop FGM completely, the traditional institution more especially the age-grade system have placed a fine of fifty thousand Naira against anybody caught in the practice, adding that there has been sensitization campaign, workshops, rallies to churches, markets, and other public places to create awareness for people to know the negative effects.

She also noted that the Christian religious leaders have also done a lot to support the fight by checkmating such practices during child dedication to know whether the baby is cut or not, and also telling the members about the consequences over the baby.

She alleged that there are still pockets of such practices being carried out and supported by nurses secretly in some health centres, but the age-grade system and stakeholders are currently monitoring their activities.

After the open declaration to stop FGM in 2019, at Afikpo Local Government Area, there are still few cases of such practices. FGM is almost off, we have few or minimal cases. But generally, female



genital mutilation has been reduced drastically in our LGA.

"Before now, we used to have up to 70% cases of FGM but now, you can't get up to 20% of it in our localities. The religious institutions are cooperating with us because we work extensively with them. The religious leaders (Christians) are also monitoring the female babies brought for child dedication, and if any of them is cut, the parents will be sanctioned.

"They have church committees responsible for that in various denominations. Indeed, they are really cooperating. For the traditional institution, the age grade system in Afikpo have a law prohibiting such practices and anybody found guilty is liable to pay fifty thousand Naira. The women wing of this age grade, are also fully involved in sensitization campaign against FGM.

"The problem we have now, is the health facilities; the traditional birthday attendants are no longer practicing FGM. It is the nurses that are trying to encourage it and the age grade system has started visiting health facilities to checkmate what they are doing."

Also speaking, the President General of Ohaisu Community Development Association, Dr. Jaspa Okoro said that there is a standing law by the House of Assembly which prohibits FGM practices in Ebonyi State, noting that certain measures of punishment are outlined against offenders.

"Series of NGOs have been coming to Afikpo to engage community leaders with workshop and seminars on how to stop FGM.

"Some who indulged in such practices said they don't want their female children

to be wayward and promiscuous and that it has been an age-long practice from their great grand parents and can't be changed like that.

"The people are responding to the campaigns against FGM, but some people in rural areas are still finding it difficult. We have government and mission hospitals mostly in our town but at the rural areas, the people are still patronizing traditional birth attendants.

"Presently, 50% achievements have been recorded. It is a gradual process, it will soon faceoff."

He also advised the people to abstain from such practices in order to have sound health more especially for their female children.

Responding, the traditional ruler of the area, HRH Ezeogo Ewa Elechi, said in the past 12 years under his watch, a lot has been done to stop FGM in Afikpo LGA.

He noted that both government and NGOs have carried out sensitization campaign, workshops and seminars to educate they people on the dangers of such practices.

He expressed satisfaction over the improvement in the healthcare system, saying that open declarations have been done where many people denounced such practice.

"A lot has been done to stop FGM in the past 12 years in Afikpo LGA because rallies, demonstrations, sensitization, among others have been done to this effect. Open declarations have been carried out in an open field where the practitioners surrendered.

"The campaign against FGM is a continuous process because it may not stop at once. FGM is a bad practice which started long ago, but is gradually reducing because of the efforts put in place to stop it. I am happy that our healthcare system is also improving and more medical attention are being giving to they people.

"Those indulged in such practices said they don't want their female children to be promiscuous, but today, they have retraced their steps.

"Presently, they are responding to the continued education and enlightenment; they have become powerful tools to stop FGM," he said.

Prof Farauta, A Pillar Supporting Fintiri's Mandate Of A Secured, Prosperous Adamawa State

By: MARY B. PANINGA

The administration of Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri is laced with excellent men and women giving it top-notch support in making sure Adamawa State has joined the league of the most developed state in Nigeria.

The careful selection of his cabinet members and aides with the best ideas, experience, and knowledge is giving the administration ease in hyping up progress in many spheres of the state.

One of such great wisdom in Fintiri's Mandate of taking the state in the right direction is his virtue of having Professor Keleptawa Farauta George, as his deputy. His decision to work with this woman has truly broken carnal's back in the annals of Adamawa State's political journey.

First of its kind, Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has proven that in Adamawa, a land with many faces of beauty has great women who meaningfully contribute to the development of the state.

He made the right choice of Prof. Keleptawa Farauta George. This woman is unique and sound, becoming a supporting pillar of development.

Professor Farauta is intelligent and resourceful, boosting the performance of Fintiri daily. She is no doubt, a pillar of support, a rolling wheel of growth and development, and a knowledge-based helping the renewed mandate of Adamawa State under Governor Fintiri's able leadership.

Thank you Governor AUF, the ATM Governor, and the Masses' Governor for standing up strong for the people of Adamawa State, from the polls, the tribunal and the supreme Court.

Thank you for bringing Farauta on board as your deputy. No wonder, the state is moving forward under your leadership. Sir as a woman, I'm proud of you, for spotlighting us in this feat, it is a blessing because it will transverse to yet generations unborn.

Dr Paninga (PhD) is the Executive Chairman, Adamawa State Planning Commission. She wrote this from Jimeta-Yola



Ganduje's Emirates Should Be Abolished

By: IBRAHIMADO-KURAWA

When the British conquered Nigeria, they appropriated the Emirate institution and used it to rule the people. Most of the Emirate dynasties of the Sokoto Caliphate across northern Nigeria were about a century old at the time of the British conquest. Their legitimacy was based on the Jihad led by Shehu Usman Danfodio and his followers from 1804 to 1807.

In Kano, the Sullubawan Dabo Dynasty was founded in 1819 when Sarkin Kano Ibrahim Dabo, their patriarch ascended the throne. The dynasty survived a civil war that was fought between 1893 and 1894. Yusufawa faction, were the victors and the Tukurawa led by Sarkin Kano Tukur (1893-1894) were vanquished.

Galadima Yusuf was the leader of the Yusufawa. He died in Garko before the victory but he bequeathed that Aliyu Babba should succeed him. And Alu as he was popularly known became Sarkin Kano (1894-1903). Galadima Yusuf is the great great-grandfather of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

During the colonial rule 1903 to 1960 the British retained the dynasties in most of the Emirates and Kano was one of them. In the last two hundred years, three individuals posed the greatest threat to Sullubawan Dabo Dynasty two colonial officers: Palmer and Cargill and Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje (2015-2023).

Palmer changed the dynasty in Daura and he also threatened the Sullubawan Dabo when his subordinate Cargill was the Resident of Kano Province. Fortunately for the dynasty, Temple became the Resident and he reversed the trajectory in favor of Sarkin Kano Abbas (1903-1919). One hundred years later Governor Ganduje, the son of a Village Head, by identity a lower aristocrat and client of the Yolawa Clan decided to delegitimize the Sullubawan Dabo Dynasty. He subjected its authority to positive law.

Governor Ganduje used the State Assembly to enact a Law that repudiated the pre-colonial claim of the Sullubawan Dabo Dynasty. This dynasty was established as a result of the Jihad of the followers of Shehu Usman Danfodio.

He used the Kano Emirates Law to create new Emirates and Dynasties from the Kano Emirate established by the Jihad of Shehu Usman Danfodio. The Law even appointed Kingmakers for the five new Emirates it created. Therefore Governor Ganduje is pretending to be Danfodio II. But are his actions legitimate based on the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?

Emirates and other traditional institutions are claims by those who inherited the pre-colonial institutions. It was based on those claims that the colonialists used the Emirs and bequeathed them to the Nigerian State. They are regulated by customs of the people. Their authority is vested on families or dynasties. The Nigerian State continued to recognize such authority. Nigeria became a Republic in 1963 when it ceased to be under the Sovereignty of Her Majesty the Queen.

A Republic cannot create a monarchy. Therefore no component of the Nigerian State can create one as Governor Ganduje did with his creation of five Emirates.

Governor Ganduje (2015-2023) decided



to create five Emirates in Kano State when he signed Kano Emirates Law 2019, amended it 2020 and amended it again 2023. This is a clear indication of the lack of comprehension of the Emirate traditions. The Principal Law and its subsequent amendments violate the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended. This is because they bestow privileges based on birth by restricting certain public offices to some families and denying other citizens the right to aspire for such offices. No one has the right to restrict any public office established by positive law to any families. This is an act of denial of fundamental human rights of citizens to aspire for any public office.

Chapter II of the Constitution Section 17 clearly states that "(2) In furtherance of the social order- (a) every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the Law;". Ganduje's Law established Emirs and Kingmakers as public officers it is in clear violation of this section of the Constitution because it restricted the offices to a few families or descendants of few individuals.

This law also violates Section 42: "(2) No citizen of Nigeria shall be subjected to any disability or deprivation merely by reason of the circumstance of his birth". This Law denies other citizens the right to become Emirs or Kingmakers because of birth status since they are not privileged descendants of those pronounced by the law.

The Kano State Emirates Council Law also violates the Sarauta customs of Kano. Section 4 of the Kano State Emirates Council (Amendment No. 2) Law 2023; "(50) The Descendants of Sarkin Gaya Abubakar Sayyadi, Sarkin Rano Isau and Sarkin Karaye Sulaiman Nadoji are the only persons eligible to be appointed Emirs of Gaya, Rano and Karaye in case of any available vacancy".

As stated earlier, the Emirate owes its legitimacy to the Jihad of the followers of Shehu Usman Danfodio. The Emirs of Kano appointed the persons mentioned in this after the Jihad because of the support of their various clans to the Jihad campaigns and the Emirate institution. But they were not the only ones appointed to the position of Chiefship of their areas.

In fact the Jobawa, Jallubawa and Yalligawa Clans led by Mallam Bakatsine, Mallam Salihu Dattuwa (a student of Shehu Danfodio with the same status as Shehu Abdullahi, Shehu Muhammad Bello and Gidado Dan Laima) and Salihu Dan Lawan respectively liberated Gaya. They appointed Muhammadu Hatsahir of the Zakirawa Clan and he reigned for twenty-eight years (1809-1827) and was succeeded by

Ahmadu BaHodiye of the Torankawa Clan during the reign of Sarkin Kano Ibrahim Dabo (1819-1846), who also appointed Abubakar Sayyadi (1827-1844) from the Kurawa Clan.

Out of the fourteen 19th century Chiefs of Gaya only three belonged to the Kurawa Clan, the Shirawa had four, Zakirawa one, Torankawa one, Jobawa one, Barebari one and Fulanin Kila one. So on what basis did the Kano Emirates Council Law restrict the Emirship it created? This certainly has no precedence in Kano Sarauta custom.

Karaye tradition gives good explanation for the appointment of Chiefs from different clans. According to the History of Karaye written before the creation of Ganduje's Emirates: "It is claimed by (Kadiri 1971) that the impact of the political strategy of succession developed by the leaders in Kano known as "the Doctrine of Shigege" was interesting in Karaye since none of the first four Fulani rulers in Karaye was succeeded by either his son or kinsman.

These four rulers of Karaye under Fulani dispensation were Nadoje, Kyecca, Tabari and Kwasallo". This trend of alternation continued up to the post-colonial period, when Sarkin Karaye Abubakar II (1981-1998) from the Torankawa Clan succeeded Sarkin Karaye Abubakar (1969-1981) from the Sullubawa Clan (see Ibrahim Garba Karaye and Philip James Shea History of Karaye ABU Press 2013, pp. 73 and 112-124). So why did Ganduje's Emirate Law restrict its Karaye Emirship to only one lineage?

The Kano Emirates Council Law (Amendment Law 2020, fifth schedule section 9 (2) (g) 1) created offices of Kingmakers and assigned them to descendants of individuals violating Kano Sarauta customs, which were reformed by the Jihadists in the 19th century. Only the position of Sarkin Bai remained in one lineage since the Jihad, that of Mallam Dabo Dambazau. Mallam Abdurrahman Goshi and Mallam Jibril were leaders of the Yolawa Clan and their descendants have never been separated until the law signed by Governor Ganduje whose ancestors were clients of the Yolawa.

In the case of Jobawa and the title of Makama no one has ever separated the descendants of Mallam Bakatsine, Mallam Saidu and Mallama Habiba they

all held the title before the law signed by Governor Ganduje. So what is the purpose of that law if not to cause acrimony within closely interrelated families.

Sarauta like any other aristocratic tradition has hierarchies. In Kano Sarauta since the 19th century the Sullabawan Dabo lineage is the royalty followed by Hakimai or titled chiefs who are the nobility. The village heads and territorial chiefs belong to the vassalage class. The official biographer of Sarkin Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero made this distinction: "But even within the sarakuna or ruling class there were gradations. Two sub-classes were distinguishable. The first was what, for lack of a better term, one would call the higher aristocracy. This comprised members of the royal family, those of hakimai and other important titled officials who dealt directly with the Emir. The second was the lower aristocracy, comprising members of the families of village and ward heads" (Omar Faruk Ibrahim Prince of the Times: Ado Bayero and the Transformation of Emiral Authority in Kano Africa World Press 2001 pp. 206).

The late Sarkin Rano in the book he wrote before his elevation to Emirship in 2019 confirmed the loyalty of Rano chiefs to Sullubawan Dabo (See Tafida Abubakar Ila History of Rano Sahato Press not dated pp. 28-29). Even the nobility and the vassalage have hierarchies. In the 19th century Emirate the precedence or hierarchy was as follows: Galadima, Madaki, Wambai, Alkali, Makama, Sarkin Dawaki Mai Tuta, Sarkin Bai, Ciroma and Dan Iya followed by others. For the vassalage, "their rank order and official designations were as follows: Sarkin Jahun, Sarkin Bebeji, Sarkin Fulanin Sankara, Sarkin Shanono, Sarkin Kunci, Sarkin Dambatta, Sarkin Rano, Sarkin Dutse, Sarkin Gaya, Sarkin Karaye, Sarkin Birnin Kudu and Sarkin Fulanin Jaidanawa" (see Adamu Mohammed Fika Kano Civil War and the British Over-rule Oxford University Press 1978 p. 53).

Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje through the Kano State Emirates Council Law created Emirates and designated descendants of inferior aristocrats as Emirs. But this was not all. He compelled descendants of nobles to pay homage and be subordinated to these inferior aristocrats using State instruments of intimidation and coercion thus violating the Sarauta custom. For example Makaman Kano who was number six in Kano Sarauta hierarchy, was subjected to humiliation by subordinating him to Sarkin Gaya who was number 46 before the creation of the new Emirates.

Ganduje's Emirates should be abolished because their creation violates both the Constitution and the Sarauta custom. Kano Sarauta should revert to 2019 before this law. It should continuously negotiate its status based on the reformed traditions of the 19th century for claimants as agreed since the colonial conquest. Using Positive Law to regulate Sarauta is a recipe for abolishing Sullubawan Dabo Dynasty as the Kano Emirates Council Law clear demonstrates.

Ibrahim Ado-Kurawa, Editor, Nigeria Year and Who is Who, writes from Kano and can be reached via

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL W RAPA ROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF W RAPA ROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PA GE 2 O R 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PA GE 4 O R 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
B A C K PA GE S T R I P	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	590,000.00	44,250.00	634,250.00
FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

PROPERTY AND IT, VACANCY, AGRIC, AND EVENTS/EDUCATION RATE

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

Bukar Abba Ibrahim: The Man Who Touched My Life (1)

By; HASSAN GIMBA

"He had a good heart, see where he died."

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." - Thomas Campbell

“Daga Allah sai talaka,” (meaning service to the poor after that to God) was his campaign slogan. Bukar Abba Ibrahim was a man whose life was spent in service to the people. This was reflected more in his method of governance that was skewed towards empowering the people.

When Yobe State was created in 1991, the state itself was rural and Damaturu, the state capital, was not better than a big village.

Elected on the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), he became the state's first democratically elected governor and was in office between January 1992 and November 1993 when the late General Sani Abacha sacked the democratic contraption of that time. He came back, though, in 1999 where he served for two terms under the flag of the All Peoples Party (APP).

A first-class brain and an excellent quantity surveyor graduate of the prestigious ABU, Zaria, he was a one-time commissioner of works in the old Borno State. He deployed his knowledge and administrative acumen to build structures in the young state of Yobe.

With a style of leadership that can be defined as laissez-faire, he allowed his appointees freedom to make decisions, believing that those invested with responsibility must be responsible people.

Through this method, he built over three thousand houses that accommodated both public and private sector workers, as well as roads, schools, hospitals, clinics and factories that bring in revenue to the state.

Amongst his projects spread across the state are the Yobe Flour Mills Company, Potiskum; Fertilizer Company, Gujba; Printing Press, Damaturu; Polythene/Sacks Industry, Damaturu; Dofarga Spring Water Company, Gulani, and a modern abattoir in Damaturu.

Others are the Yobe State University; School of Nursing, Damaturu; College of Health Sciences, Nguru; College of Legal and Islamic Studies, Nguru; Yobe State Polytechnic, Geidam; College of Agriculture, Gujba, and the Yobe Mosque and Islamic Centre (Mosque and School), Damaturu.

No wonder many call him the father of modern Yobe.

However, Bukar Abba will be remembered for his simplicity and humility, and his love for people.

He was never one to shun a person who sought his audience regardless of that person's low standing in society. It was

not uncommon to see him discussing heartily with beggars, invalids or the physically challenged. Whoever he interacted with came out with their dignity intact because of the rapt attention he accorded them.

Perhaps, this was a result of his guiding principle of life, being an avowed welfarist who had Malam Aminu Kano as his ideal. He not only had a son named after him, but till he died he wore the dara (Aminu Kano's type of red cap).

Many people got the surprises of their lives when they saw him in events they deemed beneath their status to grace. He would be seen in the house of the lowest of commoners, if invited, for a wedding or naming ceremony. And he was equally at home with the haves as he was with the have-nots.

In 1999, his first official outing was to our house at Ben Kalio, in Damaturu, to attend the wedding Fatiha of my younger sister, Ya Aisa, named after the mother of the late Baba Shehuri, a great friend of our late father.

He had great respect for our father, the late Alhaji Sulaiman Gimba Ahmed, who died on 8 January 2013. This made the late Emir of Fika, His Royal Highness Alhaji Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, delegate him to go to the governor and intercede on behalf of his people.

The Bolewa were seen as die-hard Peoples Democratic Party adherents because of their notable sons, the late Malam Adamu Ciroma and Adamu Maina Waziri, who were founders and torchbearers of the party. In any case, the Bolewa, except for recently, had always been politically centrist. They were with the late Sardauna of Sokoto's Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) and later with the National Party of Nigeria (NPN).

And so some influential people in Bukar's government started posting the Bolewa civil servants to the state's equivalent of Siberia, which necessitated the late Emir to send our late father, who was at Government College, Maiduguri, earlier than the governor, to him for a truce. And everything normalised thereafter.

During his tenure as governor, especially between 1999 and 2007, his main running mate, to borrow from the late Governor of Kano, Sabo Bakin Zuwo, was Adamu Maina Waziri, a prince of Fika and doyen of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state.

The late Bakin Zuwo had a running battle with the late Abubakar Rimi as they belonged to two different factions of Malam Aminu Kano's Peoples Redemption Party (PRP). And when Zuwo was contesting for the governorship of Kano and was asked by pressmen who his running mate was, he



Hassan Gimba

Monday Column

mistook that for a competitor, like someone he was running a 100-metre dash against. He quipped, “It is that boy, Abubakar Rimi.”

I recall a day in February 2003 when Bukar Abba asked me if I thought Adamu Waziri would be a good governor for Yobe State. The question took me by surprise because I had gone to see him on another matter entirely apolitical, being a journalist.

I was in the Government House sitting room at about 8 pm and just a few guests were there hanging around. I recall one security man telling me to go because it was late, an advice I ignored. Then Bukar, whom I believe saw me on the CCTV monitor, sent for me. And I was taken to his bedroom! That was a great honour. He was sitting on his bed while I sat on the carpet in front of him.

After initial greetings, he asked why I was there late. Done with that, he asked me about a marriage I was to contract that month and asked me how much the dowry was. When I told him, he laughed heartily and said “Why is it this much, or is it because she is Fulani?” He got up and went to a wardrobe where he

counted the amount and gave it to me.

Then the bombshell: “Do you think Adamu Waziri will be a good governor for Yobe?” he asked me.

Gubernatorial elections were to be held in the next two months and Waziri of the PDP was a threat.

My mind went into a spin. I thought he was trying to trap me. Something told me that he had asked because there was this political misconception in Yobe that every Babole was regarded as a PDP loyalist and, therefore, would vote for the party. He (Bukar) did not even know that, at that moment, I was more with Tijjani Musa Tumsah who was not exactly politically chummy with Waziri. Four years earlier, I had given my vote to Nasiru Hassan Yusuf, who was contesting for the House of Assembly in Bukar Abba's party.

But knowing him to be a straight forward man who believed people telling him something were truthful, I gave him an answer from deep within my heart, an answer I believed in.

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

Religion For Peace – Part Two: Reflections Of Cardinal Onaiyekan

By Jibrin Ibrahim

CARDINAL Onaiyekan is insistent in the book that although we Nigerians pride ourselves as being very religious and we claim that our religion is for peace, our nation is full of violent conflicts, sometimes said to be due to, or related to, religion. It is a tragic contradiction we must resolve.

How can we make sure that we retain our religious convictions and at the same time ensure that religion plays its true role as an asset for peace, not a liability? Is it true that religion brings peace, or is it a myth? We often say that religion, in itself, is all about peace and goodness, while the evil actions giving it a bad name come from other factors that have nothing to do with religion. Two such suggested factors are ignorance and greed.

God the Almighty does not need to be defended by us. It is we who need his protection and provident care. Those who go to war and kill in religious wars do so in the human interest.

If humanity is to survive, we need to look more deeply into the relationship between God, religion and humanity. We can learn a lot from the record of history, he argues. Perhaps the most important lesson we can learn from the past is how not to repeat the errors that have brought so much calamity to the human race. We must now have the courage to look towards a future where religion facilitates good relations not only between God and humanity, but also among human beings living in fraternity and reconciled diversities, in peace and harmony. For this to happen, we need to revive and stress some eternal truths that we often prefer to ignore or neglect.

Here are a few of them:

We must distinguish between God and religion, no matter how lofty we think our religion is. Only God is eternal, absolute and unchangeable.

While there is only One God, there are many religions, none of which can or has totally captured the nature of God. We can grasp only what he has revealed to us. But he will always remain a mystery beyond our full understanding.

Religion is important as a structure available for man to regulate his relationship with God, individually and in community.

God the Almighty does not need to be defended by us. It is we who need his protection and provident care. Those who go to war and kill in religious wars do so in the human interest.

Cardinal Onaiyekan is one of the rare members of the clergy that respects African Traditional Religions. He argues that: "We should not forget that in Nigeria, the African Traditional Religion is a foundation of all our religious identities. It is the foundation for every one of us before we became one thing or the other. Every tribe and ethnic group in Nigeria had its own traditional religion before they got converted to the two major new religions.

The conversion may be long ago or maybe recent but the fact is that there is a foundation of African traditional religion, which we must recognise."

In the final chapter of the book, the Cardinal says that in the land of the bible, horrible belligerent activities are going on, claiming the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children. The mass and social media are full of vivid images in real time of the tragedy on course, with no sign of stopping any time soon. The famous "International community" looks on in self-imposed impotence as the disproportionately militarily superior Israeli Defense Force (IDF) keeps pounding the thickly populated Gaza open prison with tons of bombs everywhere, not sparing mosques or churches, hospitals or refugee camps.

There are some basic religious values in our African traditional religion, which we share, which are the same as what we meet in both Islam and in Christianity. For example, the idea that there is one God, the creator of heaven and earth; a God who is good, a God who is father, a God who will judge whatever you do; that this world is not our home, that we are only passing through. We believe in prayer; we believe in sacrifice and we believe in certain basic moral norms, including truth, goodness, kindness, and forgiveness. In one way or the other, these are all found in our African Traditional Religions, which we have taken up into our various new faiths.

The first article of faith of the Christian creed is "I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth." We hear the same from our Muslim neighbours, for whom the oneness of God is the most important truth of their faith. If this is so, we wonder why our people at times behave and speak as if there is more than one God. How else do we explain it when a Christian says with conviction that the God of the Muslims is different from the God of the Christians? We hear the same thing from some Muslims. If we cannot sincerely affirm our faith in One God, on what basis can we ever start talking to and relating with each other?

In the final chapter of the book, the Cardinal says that in the land of the bible, horrible belligerent activities are going on, claiming the lives of thousands of innocent men, women and children. The mass and social media are full of vivid images in real time of the tragedy on course, with no sign of stopping any time soon. The famous "International community" looks on in self-imposed impotence as the disproportionately militarily superior Israeli Defense Force (IDF) keeps pounding the thickly populated Gaza open prison with tons of bombs everywhere, not sparing mosques or churches, hospitals or refugee camps.

The Cardinal is clear that the terrorist surprise attack of Hamas on Israeli settlements and people on October 7th, killing over 1,000 innocent persons and

abducting over 200 for ransom, is utterly condemnable. It was obvious that it could not have gone without a response from Israel. But, in the context of the realities of the Holy Land over the past 70 years, the attack was not without provocative

considering the long years of occupation and oppression of Palestinian Arabs.

The hostilities did not start on October 7th. He adds that although the Bible says, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth", what is happening has gone beyond that and all limits have been crossed. There has to be limits to vengeance. He adds that in the midst of the tragedy, some religious leaders are turning what is a sad human tragedy into a religious game.

We see this in our country. Some Muslim leaders claim that what is happening is an attack against Muslims, forgetting that there are Palestinian Christians in Gaza who are being bombed and whose ancestral homes and churches have been turned to rubble. Then on the other hand are some misguided Christian fanatics who see biblical justification from the Old Testament prophets, for example, Amos 6: 1-8, for crimes against humanity that cannot but be also crimes against God. Incidentally, they do not know, or they forget, that the same Amos has worse things to say about Israel itself in Amos 2: 6-16.

Cardinal Onaiyekan is bold enough to say the book of Genesis claims to tell the story of the very beginning of creation and of the entire human race (Genesis 1-3). We know today from science that the origin of our universe runs into millions of years. So also, is the origin of our humanity. The history of Israel therefore came rather late in the day with Abraham featuring at about the year 2000BC. That is only about 4000 years ago. I will say, think about this.

They further presume that in the Israeli-Arab standoff, the Christian has to be on the side of the state of Israel against the Arabs, not knowing that the few but significant, often neglected and ancient



Jibrin Ibrahim

indigenous Christians in this crisis situation are to be found mainly among the Palestinian Arabs of Gaza and the West Bank, not among the Jews of Israel.

Cardinal condemns the position of the United States government which continues to block every attempt to impose a ceasefire through a Security Council resolution. He asks: "if Christian values no longer mean much, what about our common humanity? Is it that the world has not moved beyond the logic of "might is right" even in the 21st century?"

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The book ends with a very insightful reflection on the Gaza war, history of Palestine in their Jewish, Arab, Christian and Muslim versions, theology and human rights that is compulsory reading for all humans seeking understanding.

I wish John Cardinal Onaiyekan happy 80th birthday. May God give him many healthier and intellectually active years for the benefit of humanity.

Concluded.

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

The Civilian Coups In Senegal, Guinea Bissau, And ECOWAS Ambivalence

By Owei Lakemfa

HERE are civilian or constitutional coups in Guinea Bissau and Senegal, yet the regional body, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is pretending otherwise. It appears interested only in military coups, not those carried out by its bosses in the Heads of State Summit.

Yet, the ingredients of a coup are present in both countries where the constitution is subverted, the President assumes dictatorial powers, parliament is illegally banned as is the case in Guinea Bissau or emasculated as in Senegal, and the judiciary is under siege to do the bidding of the President.

Then it praised Sall: "The ECOWAS Commission salutes President Macky Sall for upholding his earlier decision not to run for another term and encourages him to continue to defend and protect Senegal's long-standing democratic tradition." Incredible! First, it was not in Sall's place to decide not to run for a Third Term; it is a constitutional limit.

Guinea Bissau, when it was one country with Cape Verde, produced Amilcar Cabral, one of the greatest Pan Africanists in history. Tragically for Africa, on January 20, 1973, Cabral at 48, was assassinated in Conakry, Guinea in a conspiracy linked with the PIDE, the secret service of then colonial master, Portugal.

However, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, PAIGC, which he led, survived, and led the country to independence. But the country has been plagued by violence and coups leading to Cape Verde breaking away on January 20, 1981.

On December 20, 2019, retired General Umaro Sissoco Embaló, a former Prime Minister, defeated the PAIGC candidate, Domingos Simoes, in a disputed presidential election.

In May, 2022, President Embaló carried out a constitutional coup by dissolving parliament citing "persistent and unresolvable differences" with the parliament. Rather than ECOWAS sanctioning him, it elected Embaló, two months later, as the Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS!

On June 4, 2023, the opposition coalition, the PAI Terra Ranka, led by the PAIGC, swept the parliamentary elections. But President Embaló refused to allow it function.

On December 4, 2023 Embaló again dissolved the parliament, claiming the Speaker, Domingos Simoes, wants to overthrow him. He also put the Supreme Court and its president under armed

siege, forcing the latter to "resign".

Despite these civilian coups by a man who was the Chairman of ECOWAS, the regional body has kept mute in cold complicity. But ECOWAS will yell, if there is a military coup.

Senegal is the only West African country fortunate to have escaped a military coup. A 2012 attempt by President Abdoulaye Wade to run for an unconstitutional Third Term, was resisted, and Macky Sall was elected. In turn, Sall decided to run for an unconstitutional Third Term which in June 2023 led to street protests with 16 killed. Sall backed down, but got opposition leader Ousmane Sankou out of the race by getting him convicted.

However, as the February 25, 2024 presidential election approached, Sall decided on February 3, to extend his stay in power by indefinitely postponing the election on the basis that there is a dispute over the candidates list.

This ECOWAS statement which "...encourages him (Sall) to continue to defend and protect Senegal's long-standing democratic tradition", unfortunately presents Africans as idiots. This is because Sall, rather than defending and protecting the democratic tradition, is actually, endangering it. In fact, Sall is the greatest danger to democracy in Senegal.

But the issue of the presidential candidates of political parties is the business of the party, electoral body and the courts, not the President of the country.

Unfortunately, ECOWAS, which has a reputation of chasing shadows, would not tell Sall the truth or defend constitutional rule. Rather, it same day, sanctioned Sall's illegality by accepting the postponement. In its Saturday, February 3, 2024 statement, ECOWAS accepted the postponement and tamely appealed to the Sall Gang to "expedite the various processes in order to set a new date for the elections".

Then it praised Sall: "The ECOWAS Commission salutes President Macky Sall for upholding his earlier decision not to run for another term and encourages him to continue to defend and protect Senegal's long-standing democratic tradition." Incredible! First, it was not in Sall's place to decide not to run for a Third Term; it is a constitutional limit.

Also, Sall actually shed the blood of Senegalese who protested against his initial attempt to run in violation of the



constitution. So, a serious ECOWAS, rather than praise him, ought to demand that he answers for the murder of pro-democracy Senegalese on the streets.

This ECOWAS statement which "...encourages him (Sall) to continue to defend and protect Senegal's long-standing democratic tradition", unfortunately presents Africans as idiots.

This is because Sall, rather than defending and protecting the democratic tradition, is actually, endangering it. In fact, Sall is the greatest danger to democracy in Senegal.

Then after renewed street protests, the Senegalese Parliament met on Monday, February 5, 2024 on the indefinite postponement. During sitting, security forces removed, by force, parliamentarians opposed to the postponement. Then rather than restore the electoral calendar, what is left of that parliament, endorsed Sall's decision to illegally extend his tenure, by postponing the presidential election by ten months. This, of course, might be an initial date as it can always be postponed.

In 2016, following Gambian presidential election, there was a dispute between incumbent President Yahya Jammeh and opposition leader, Adama Barrow. ECOWAS on January 19, 2017 sent a regional military force, the ECOWAS Mission in Gambia, ECOMIG, to force Jammeh out. It was tagged 'Operation Restore Democracy'. When the over 4,000 ECOWAS troops, mainly from Senegal reached Banjul, Jammeh stepped down and left the country. The ECOWAS then installed Barrow who had been sworn in as President, not in the country, but in the Gambian embassy in Dakar, Senegal.

Rather than be concerned about the non-democratic postponement and its implications for democratic governance, ECOWAS, the next day, issued another of its pathetic statements.

Where even the United States, which is not known to be a Sall antagonist, declared that the Senegalese National

Assembly vote "...cannot be considered legitimate given the conditions under which it took place", ECOWAS chose to be silent on the undemocratic process. Rather, it took refuge in bland sermons, reminding "...the population and the political class of their responsibility to maintain peace and stability in the country".

To show the ECOWAS mindset and its lack of principles, it ended its second statement with a pledge to "...take all necessary steps to support the government and people of Senegal in their efforts to sustain the country's democratic tradition". How can ECOWAS pledge to support the subversive Sall government in Senegal that has no regard for democratic cultures, the will of the people and their human rights?

So, if tomorrow, such a government is overthrown, ECOWAS will be shouting about democracy and the sanctity of the constitution when it is actually in connivance with the Sall regime to subvert the constitution and democracy in that country.

In 2016, following Gambian presidential election, there was a dispute between incumbent President Yahya Jammeh and opposition leader, Adama Barrow. ECOWAS on January 19, 2017 sent a regional military force, the ECOWAS Mission in Gambia, ECOMIG, to force Jammeh out. It was tagged 'Operation Restore Democracy'. When the over 4,000 ECOWAS troops, mainly from Senegal reached Banjul, Jammeh stepped down and left the country. The ECOWAS then installed Barrow who had been sworn in as President, not in the country, but in the Gambian embassy in Dakar, Senegal.

The Gambian situation is way better than what is going on today in Senegal. At least in the case of the former, presidential election held, while in that of the latter, presidential election is being prevented from holding. Yet, ECOWAS is engaged in doublespeak and ambivalence.

The Giants Of Africa Will Not Be Dwarfed

By; **BISAYO BUSARI-AKINNADEJU** thereby creating a union never envisaged, studied

The past weeks or understood by the have found entity responsible for the Nigerians again amalgamation. If uniting for one purpose, Nigerians are able to WINNING, the Africa decipher the purpose of Cup of Nations. For a their unity, the progress country whose people are attainable from being going through one of the united, and turn every hardest economic weakness to strength, the downturns in a bid to citizens would rejoice, restructure the country, and the world at large victories in a game of would be better football are a great gift. I have also held the I have always held the opinion that the world torch of hope for a better would not know peace future, and I remain until Nigeria finds its undaunted in my resolve. right footing because History has shown us that hardly would you not find there are many countries a Nigerian in very of the world that had to go important sectors in through their hardest different countries. seasons before finding a My country men and balance. The United women contribute to States went through the every sector in the depression, and thriving world, even Singapore went through though they may claim its bleak moments, other citizenship. Dubai, one of the United Nigerians in every nook Arab Emirates, went and cranies are highly through dark moments influential people. Thus, before vision took over. to get Nigeria right is to In my analysis of our dear get the world right. country, what needs to be Otherwise, the influence fixed since independence all over the planet can not and after amalgamation, be positive.

is just receiving attention It is my hope that beyond for the first time under the football, music, and arts, current regime. Every we find every unique past administration, both thing that binds us military and civilian, together and celebrates as were in their own way much as we are gathering bricks and celebrating our stones for development successes.

without actually Let's remember that restarting or rebuilding water will find its level the faulty foundation. If and Nigeria will indeed we can achieve unity of be better in the coming purpose, common vision, years such that people and a national dream, the will queue to secure visas successes can be to Nigeria. This is a measured quantitatively. realistic aspiration.

One of my favourite Let's keep the hope high quotes is that where the regardless of the purpose of a thing is not challenges that may known, a use is come our way, even in the inevitable. Also, where face of what we are one fails to turn its lemon already facing.

into lemonade, sour The sun can not be held tastes are a must. back by the clouds. The

In the general parlance, giant can not be dwarfed you must have heard that by the heels of a short Nigeria is a marriage of man. Nigeria is indeed unlikely bedfellows, but the giant of Africa. The what happens when hope of the black race and unlikely bedfellows Nigeria will be great.

adopt innovation and My name is Bisayo strategies that make them Busari-Akinnadeju, and I cohabit successfully am a Nigerian



Bisayo

Kogi Terminates Appointment Of Revenue Collectors

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State Government has announced the immediate termination of appointments of all consultants charged with the onerous task of revenue generation to the coffers of the state government.

The state Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo through the office of the Secretary to the state government, Mrs. Folashade Arike Ayoade in a memo, directed that the appointments of all Consultants on Revenue Collections in the state through Ministries, Departments or Agencies (MDAs) are hereby terminated with immediate effect.

This was disclosed by the chairman of the State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS), Alhaji Sule Salihu Enehe at a press conference in Lokoja over the weekend.

"To this end, you are hereby requested to inform all Consultants engaged by your MDA, and please ensure that necessary measures are put in place to nip in the bud all revenue leakages in the State."

The sanitisation of the economic drive by the government might not be unconnected with the emergence of ubiquitous and porous nature of tax collections occasioned by fraudulent revenue generators acting on behalf of the state.

Taking some measures to forestall this therefore, Alhaji Enehe has announced clampdown on the recalcitrant elements taking advantage of loopholes of government to perpetrate illegal collection of revenue in the state to the detriment of both the tax payers and government.

A worried Enehe was unequivocal when he assured Kogites and users

of roads in the state that concerted efforts will be put in place in no distant time to plug access to ever creaming miscreants collecting illegal taxes in the name of on behalf of government to the detriment of same.

He assured the people of the state that government was poised to explore official measures to generate revenue of best practices in the state.

The state, according to him, is poised of ridding unofficial tax collectors that cut corners to enrich themselves of the meagre resources by embarking on crude and dubious means, adding that it is in the state that an individual will create a toll gate and start collecting revenue unfettered based on his first hand experience.

"There was a time I went to one Local Government, the road was blocked. I came down with my entourage and discovered that the receipt they are issuing out is from the Local Government and not the State. I called the DLG, and he said he was aware". the chairman said.

"I asked where the money is going, and he said he doesn't know.

The new administration under Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has given a directive to put an end to this sharp practice of these individuals who are enemies of our State. From today, we are swinging into action because these people are not working for us but their own selfish interests. Anyone caught in this dubious act will be arrested and prosecuted."

He explained that the government is poised to engage InterSwitch to supply over 1,000 Point of Sales (POS) machines to boost the revenue drive in the Local Governments and block loopholes in the system as revenue service intends to generate N30.4 billion in the fiscal year.

44.7m Nigerian Men Live On Less Than \$1.90 Per Day, Women Account For 43.7m - FG

*Says level of poverty in Nigeria alarming

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Mr. Temitope Peter Fadeshemi has said that the number of men living on less than 1.90 U.S. dollars a day in the country has reached around 44.7 million, while the count was at 43.7 million for women.

He added that overall 12.9 per cent of the global population in extreme poverty was found in Nigeria as of 2022, which makes the level of poverty in Nigeria to be very alarming, while an estimated population of 88.4 million people in Nigeria are living in extreme poverty.

The Permanent Secretary expressed this on Wednesday in Maiduguri, at the flagging off of employment and training organized by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Department of Agricultural Extension Devices in collaboration with the Federal Minister of Budget and National Planning.

According to him, FMAFS organized the training for employment and distribution of agriculture input to 243 beneficiaries for the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS) held at FMAFS Green House Maiduguri.

"This is why the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning in collaboration with FMAFS is making

conscious efforts at reducing the rate of poverty across the country.

"It is a crucial initiative under the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS). Today marks a significant milestone in our collective commitment to uplifting the lives of our smallholder farmers and fostering sustainable agricultural practices," Temitope said.

Represented by the State Director, FMAFS, Borno State, Dr. Abdulkarim Yau, the Permanent Secretary also reminded people that the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS), in collaboration with the Federal Department of Agricultural Extension Service (FDAE), has diligently enumerated and validated approximately 250 farmers for participation in this transformative programme.

"These farmers are not just the backbone of our agricultural sector; they are the heartbeat that form the heartbeat of our nation's prosperity.

The NPRGS reflects our government's dedication to addressing poverty at its roots, emphasizing the pivotal role agriculture plays in economic growth and development.

"Through initiatives like today's training and empowerment program, we are sowing the seeds of positive change, ensuring that smallholder farmers have the knowledge, resources, and support needed to thrive in an ever-evolving agricultural

landscape.

"This programme is not merely an investment in agriculture; it is an investment in future of our nation. As we equip these farmers with the tools to enhance productivity, improve resilience, and embrace sustainable practices, we are laying the foundation for a more resilient and prosperous agricultural sector.

Temitope commended the efforts of the FDAE for their meticulous work in identifying and validating deserving farmers for this program to while disclosing that the collaboration between our Ministry and the National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS) exemplifies the power of synergy in achieving meaningful impact.

He told the participating farmers that their role is paramount in shaping the trajectory of our nation's agricultural success, saying, "As you undergo this training and empowerment journey, absorb the knowledge, hone your skills, and apply the insights gained to elevate your farms and communities.

"Your success is intertwined with the prosperity of our nation, and together, we shall create a ripple effect that reaches every corner of our beloved country. In conclusion, let us embrace this opportunity to build a future where smallholder farmers are not just beneficiaries of progress but active contributors to our nation's growth.

"With determination,

collaboration, and a shared vision, we can transform, lead the way to turn challenges into opportunities and empower our agricultural sector towards a more resilient and prosperous Nigeria," Temitope said.

The representative of the Federal Director of Agriculture Extension, FMANR Abuja, Malam Bature Mati said a total of 243 youth both male and female as well as men and women benefitted from the programme under three categories of poultry, crops and fisheries where 40 benefitted from poultry training and starter packs/kids/tools and seeds/fertilizers among others.

While 175 benefitted from crops training and distribution of strayer packs, seeds, chemicals, maize, tomatoes, okoro, pepper and maize and added that 28 people benefitted from the Fisheries training programme.

Some of the beneficiaries, Miss Peace Ogwu who passed through poultry training, said the programme is good and will really help her to start up something from somewhere, while Mukhtar Ibrahim expressed appreciation and gratitude to the ministry and personnel for their support and training, pledging to make proper use of the tools to earn a living.

Highlights of the event include paper presentation and trading, distribution of starter kits, tools, seeds, fertilizers and group photographs among others.



Commander General, Nigeria Hunter and Forest Security (NHFS) Amb. Dr. Osatimehin Joshua Wole with Deputy Commander General, NHFS, in Charge of Technical Service, ambassador John Metchie during the general meeting of the organisation in Abuja. Photo BASHIR DOLLARS.

State 2 State Engages Gombe Information Managers On Development Of Draft Standard Operational Procedures

By; ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded activity titled, State Accountability, Transparency and Effectiveness (State 2 State) has organized a three days capacity building training workshop for information managers on the development of Standard Operational Procedure (SOP).

Speaking shortly before the commencement of the workshop which was held at Custodian Hotel Gombe in the state metropolis, the State 2 state Communications Specialist, Israel Onu Odiba said that the objective of the workshop is to enhance the understanding of the participants and guides them towards the development of SOP for improve service delivery

Israel said that the workshop will also help in deepening the understanding of the participants on the SOP structure and components

He highlighted the areas expected to be covered to includes the roles and responsibilities, communication channels, reporting mechanism, quality assurance, and feedback. Other areas will also focus on the presentation of effective writing for SOPs, Communication protocols, social media management amongst others.

Earlier while declaring the workshop open, the State Team Leader, Mohammed Abubakar



Kumo took the participants through the mission and vision of State 2 State in Gombe from inception to date and assured that the project will further engage other critical stakeholders in major operational areas in achieving it's objectives in the state.

In her keynote address, the Gombe State Field Office State 2 State Local Government Manager, Hajiya Zariyatu Abubakar Habu Hashidu welcomed the participants and appreciated the Ministry of Information for the opportunity to organize the training, while

calling on the beneficiaries of the workshop to be proactive in order to effectively grab the knowledge that is going to be impacted, saying that State 2 State will always support the ministry on the angle of communication strategy for enhance performance and effective flow of information.

She further said that State2state will always Collaborates with the ministry of information to bring interventions to ensure that it has a clear consistent guidelines for it's internal and external public

In goodwill messages, the

Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Alhaji Ibrahim Suleiman represented by the Director Administration and Finance Alhaji Murtala Sambo, Director Information Richard James and the Gombe State NUJ Chairman, Comrade Saidu Bappah Malala commended State2state for organizing and funding such a very important training for information officers to equip them with the knowledge of the drafting and development of SOP to enhance performance.

Describing the training as timely, especially looking at the

changes in the system, they added that it will go a long way in improving the capacity of the participants to confirm with the current realities found in the profession.

They called on the beneficiaries of the training to avail themselves the opportunity the workshop offered to further build their capacity to deliver what is expected.

The participants appreciated State2state for organizing the training and assured of using the knowledge acquired is put into practice for effective service delivery.

Benue Command Gets New Police Commissioner

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Mr Emmanuel Olugbemiga Adesina has assumed duty as the new Commissioner of Police, Benue State Command.

The new Benue Police boss who hails from Boluwaduro Local Government Area of Osun

State, holds a Bachelor of Science degree (Hons) in Sociology from the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos in the year 1989 and a masters degree in criminology from the University of Ibadan.

According to a statement form SP Anene Sewuese Catherine, the Command Police Public

Relations Officer, the Mr Adesina was enlisted into the Nigeria Police Academy as a cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police on 18th May, 1992.

The new Police Commissioner has served in various states across the country including; Anambra, Kwara, Oyo, Ondo and notably in Benue state where

he served as Police Public Relations Officer, Benue state command in 1997 and 2002, Assistant Commissioner of Police, incharge of Operations and Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations.

He was promoted to the rank of a Commissioner of Police on 31th January, 2024 and posted to

Benue state as the 41st Commissioner of Police, Benue State Command.

The statement further stated that the new Police boss has pledged his commitment to use his wealth of experience to fight crime and ensure safety of lives and property in the state, while calling on the people of Benue