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■ Akwa Ibom workers blame economic hardship on unfavourable policies

■ Delta workers demands FG palliatives

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos, JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano, SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri, MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki, BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan., KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu, By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo, UTEBOR PETER, Asaba, and SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Members of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and other protesters participating in the nationwide protest organised by the congress in Lagos were offered biscuits and water by the police in order to renew their strength.

The protesters, who trekked from the NLC secretariat in Yaba through the Ikorodu road were accompanied by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police Fayoadé Adegoke, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) Fatai Tajudeen and other policemen to protect the protesters and prevent the rally from being hijacked by hoodlums.

Speaking with newsmen on the sidelines of the protest, Fayoadé explained the reason for the gesture by the police, saying it was meant to strengthen the participants for a successful journey.

According to him, "The journey was a long distance for protesters trekking, coupled with the hot weather, hence the need for at least water and biscuits, to give the participants strength for a successful protest.

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NLC protest in Lagos. February 27, 2024. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

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Same Sex Marriages Promoting Negative Influences

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

With the legalisation of same sex marriages in several European countries, the aggravated incidences of "LGBTQ" among youth in Nigeria are becoming disturbing and promoting negative influences across the nation.

Out investigations showed that in spite of the upsurge in the arrest and prosecution of offenders, the trend is becoming alarming.

Recently, a Clergyman of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Elder Bernard while addressing a press conference organized by the church in Lagos, disclosed that the church does not discriminate against same sex relationship as it counsels and encourages its members to show love and respect to people of same sex relationships.

In a concerted effort to further establish these incidences of same sex affairs, investigations across Police Stations revealed that reported and prosecuted cases and the revelation was very disturbing, worrisome and heart breaking.

A former students union leader in one of the universities in Lagos, Balogun Isiaq Olatunji was in 2019, cautioned by the institution after investigations revealed and confirmed that he was a member of a same sex group in the university and was attacked, brutalised by a group of students who he alleged, were cultists before being admitted in a hospital for severe

bruises and trauma.

The institution it was gathered, warned him that further reports of his engagement in the shameful act will henceforth be severely dealt with.

Also, the case of a female student at a university in Ekiti State, Deborah Peter Okon who was rusticated in March 2020 over illicit same sex relationship as a special investigative committee confirmed that she was vividly captured along with another female student in the institution's Botanical Garden while engaging in the act, which they confessed to and pleaded for leniency.

The female students were subsequently handed over to the law enforcement agency for further interrogation and prosecution. They were later released on bail by the Police, pending prosecution in the court. In May 2023, Edem Peter Otuekpo was invited for interrogation by the Police in Benin City, Edo State, over similar cases of same sex affairs as he was identified as one of culprits when a team of Police detective at about 1am stormed a birthday party held at RAVE Night Club by some friends which he participated but escaped arrest.

According to the police sources, one of those arrested indicted Edem Peter Otuekpo as a prime suspect, while the CCTV Camera at the scene of the crime captured him in a compromising and unbecoming act with another accomplice.

Roads: We Know You Have Not Forgotten Us, Sabo GRA Tells Uba Sani

Worried by the hardship its residents face everyday while playing all the roads in the community, the Tsaunin Kura Residents Association (Sabo GRA), located in Chikun Local Government Area, the heart of Kaduna, has reminded Governor Uba Sani that their roads are in dire need of construction. This was contained in a statement signed by the Executive Public Relations Officer (EPRO) of Sabo GRA, Opkani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen in Laguna on Tuesday February 27, 2024.

According to the statement, exco of the community, led by Dr. Danjuma Saleh met on Saturday and took resolved to remind His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani of the untold hardship residents of the community go through year round, following the deplorable condition of their roads.

"We are excited that our performing governor, Senator Uba Sani less than one year in office, is already making huge impact, especially in areas neglected by previous administration's.

"We however, want to remind His Excellency, that Sabo GRA which by



land mass is the biggest government layout in the state at the moment, is still in need of critical infrastructure, in terms of roads and drainages," it said.

The community

highlighted that its residence are peaceful and are contributing to the development of the state, adding that such gestures should be rewarded by the state government.

Prominent Igbo Leaders Warn Against Plot To Doctor Oronsanye Report

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

Prominent Igbo leaders have warned against any move to implement anything outside recommendations of the Stephen Oraonsaye report on Restructuring and rationalization of Federal Government Parastatals, Commissions and Agencies submitted to the federal government. Investigation revealed that there are alleged moves by some top federal government functionaries to doctor the said report presented to the federal government for implementation.

The Igbo leaders who spoke to our correspondent on the allegation, reminded the implementation committee that they were only given mandate to implement the white paper and not to add or subtract, warning that any attempt to doctor the report especially recommendations as it affects agencies in the Federal Ministry of Science, Innovation and

Technology may not achieve the desired objective.

It would be recalled that ex President Goodluck Jonathan had set up a committee to advise government on restructuring and rationalization of Federal Government Parastatals, Commission and agencies with the objective of determining areas of overlap and duplication of functions, among others.

In the committee's recommendation, some agencies under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology were recommended to be merged but the Projects Development Institute (PRODA) was recommended to stand alone.

However, investigations have revealed that there are moves by some top government officials who may have personal interest, to doctor the document to merge PRODA with other agencies contrary to the committee's recommendation.

Reacting to the alleged move to doctor the recommendation of the committee on PRODA, a former presidential candidate of United Nigeria Peoples Party (UNPP), and prominent Igbo leader, Chief Chekwes Okorie warned that such action will be counter productive, saying though he is yet to go through the white paper, the right thing should be done.

He insisted that the recommendation should be implemented to the latter, adding that since inception PRODA has not been given the desired attention.

Chief Okorie therefore posited that if given the necessary support, PRODA will be in the interest of the country, as it will take the nation's technological advancement to the next level.

He however, advised the implementing committee not to bow to any pressure to doctor the document, pointing out that PRODA is an agency that deserves adequate attention.

Reacting also to the alleged plan, a former spokesman of Apex Igbo Social Cultural organisation, Ohaneze Ndigbo, Chuks Ibegbu said although, the implementation was overdue, nobody should politicize it by merging PRODA with any other agency, saying the agency should be left alone as recommended by the committee.

In his reaction, the Founder of Voice from the East, a social cultural organisation, Comrade Kindness Jonah warned against the merging of PRODA with another agency, stressing that the recommendation of the committee was that PRODA should be on its own.

He said though PRODA has not been given the attention it deserves, it remains the pride of the IGBOs as it was set up immediately after the war to preserve some of the scientific innovations of the IGBOs during the Biafra War.

Makinde Only Governor In Nigeria Criticizing Tinubu Over Fuel Subsidy Removal - Oyo APC

**Says his lamentation over economic hardship shameful, hypocritical*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) yesterday, alerted that Governor Seyi Makinde remains the only Governor in Nigeria constantly criticized President Bola Tinubu over the removal of fuel subsidy.

The party in a statement by its Publicity Secretary, Comrade Wale Sadare asked Gov Makinde to stop blaming President Tinubu as witnessed when while addressing protesting labour unions in Ibadan during which he lamented against economic hardship occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy by the federal government Oyo APC while describing

Gov Makinde's action as "shameful and hypocritical", alleged that "Gov. Makinde has grown more wings on his penchant for misleading the public and sacrificing others for his ineptitude in government".

"Gov. Makinde holds the record of the only governor, in Nigeria, who constantly blames the sitting President for his own failure to add value in his state. Out of the 36 governors, the Oyo state helmsman was the only one who criticized President Bola Tinubu over the removal of fuel subsidy when he stated that the decision was untimely and not well thought out", it said Oyo APC added, " This was what he did to former President Muhammadu

Buhari between 2019 and 2023 as he distanced himself from Aso Villa on account of ego and thereby denied the Pacesetter state a lot of opportunities for four years".

" Makinde attempted to take advantage of the labour protest on Tuesday to heap all the blame of the bad economy in the country on the federal government forgetting that governors like him were more culpable for the extent which quality of life has degenerated".

The party maintained " Why blame President Tinubu for stopping wasteful spending on fuel subsidy when the decision has been enabling you to collect improved allocations in the last nine months although without much to show for it?

APC stressed further that " Oyo state government has received over N207billion in allocations from Abuja since May last year and this excludes the billions of naira accrued to the 33 local government councils", adding, " we challenge Gov. Makinde to work out an ideal living wage for civil servants in the state, allow elected local government council officials to perform as enshrined in the constitution, empower farmers to increase their productivity and put a stop to opening the vault of the state to foreigners.

" If the governor could do these, poverty and hunger would be a thing of the past in Oyo state and the Pacesetter state would assume its pride of place among the comity of states in the world".



Lt.-General Taoreed Lagbaja

COAS Cautions Media Against Sensational Reportage

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt.-General Taoreed Lagbaja has called on the media to avoid sensational reportage in the interest of security and national development.

Lagbaja made the call on Monday during the maiden international conference organized by the The Department of Mass Communication, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria.

He was represented by Brig.-Gen. Moyo Akinojo, Commander, 41 Engineering Brigade in presenting a keynote address on Communication, Media Security and Development: Issues, challenges and way Forward.

The COAS restated army's commitment to enhance civil-military relationship in the country.

The International Conference with the theme, 'Media, Insecurity and Development: Issues, Challenges and the way forward' was by the Director-General Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Alhaji Salihu Dambos.

He highlighted the need to prioritize training for journalists in conflict reporting to ensure accurate presentation.

He added that the training is also essential in winning the trust, belief and confidence of the populace.

Lagbaja noted that the armed forces of Nigeria have a clear understanding of the profound impact that media narratives have on military operations and

socio-economic fabric of Nigeria.

In his welcome address, Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice-Chancellor ABU commended the Mass Communication Department for organizing the maiden international conference, urging other departments not to relent in organizing such events to foster intellectual discourse for national development.

"The conference had over 200 local and international participants, availing participants and scholars an opportunity to proffer recommendations on better ways to tame the fire of insecurity in the country," Bala said.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed the plan by the university to rejig and adopt new 70/30 for ratio for the postgraduates and undergraduate students.

Dr. Adama Adamu, Head of Department, Mass Communication ABU, said that for close to two decades, Nigeria has battled with insecurity in many parts of the country.

She added that the challenges include, proliferation of misinformation and fake news, extremists ideologies and erosion of public trust from traditional media institutions.

The head of department said the conference offers unique opportunities to look into the challenges with a view to proffering solutions and recommendations

Over 600 papers would be presented by both national and international scholars during the three-day conference.



Gov Makinde addressing workers during the protests in Ibadan yesterday

Gov Ododo Terminates Appointment Of Ofu LG Chairman In Kogi

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo has approved the immediate termination of Hon. Hassan Atawodi as the Transition Chairman of Ofu Local Government Area in Kogi east.

In his place, the governor

has approved the appointment of Musa Muhammed Lawal as the Transition Chairman of the local government area with immediate effect.

This was contained in a statement issued by the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State, Mrs Folashade Ayoade in Lokoja

Monday.

The statement however, directed Hassan Atawodi to submit all Government properties in his possession including handing over note to the new Transition Chairman.

The removal was in line with Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's zero tolerance to any form of

corruption in his administration.

Unconfirmed sources said that the removal of the short-lived transition chairman might not be unconnected with shoddy deals that he was allegedly fingered in the ongoing distribution of palliatives to the people of the area.

Hunger Action: Police Steals Shine, Provides Protesters Biscuits, Water In Lagos

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"I provided water and biscuits because I don't want anyone to collapse on the way. We have to use water to strengthen everybody. That is the least we could do," he said.

Many protesters were rushing for the refreshments being distributed from patrol vehicles by police personnel on the way.

Fayoade, who described the protest as peaceful, said no one was arrested for any violations during the protest.

"The protest went on as agreed with the NLC leadership. We promised them protection and we provided such from the beginning to the end.

"The same protection will be provided on Wednesday and I will be part of the operation," the CP said.

The police boss said that the command remained committed to the security of lives and properties in Lagos State.

He urged the residents to support the police and other security agencies by providing timely information on crimes.

NLC had slated the protest for yesterday and today across the country, over the high cost of living.

*Katsina workers decry suffering

Katsina State branch of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has joined its counterparts in the country to conduct a peaceful protests against economic hardship as a result of the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government.

Started from the headquarters of the NLC Secretariat Complex along Liyafa Roundabout on Kano Road, the peaceful protest terminated at Barhim Roundabout on Mani Road in Katsina Metropolis at about 10:05 am under a heavy tight Security.

The State Chairman of the NLC Comrade Hussaini Hamisu Yanduna who led all the affiliates in the protest said the decision followed the conclusion of a 14-day ultimatum issued to the Federal Government to implement measures against the widespread hardship in the country.

Comrade Hamisu Yanduna narrated on how people are suffering on daily basis because of high coast of commodities and living wage. assuring that, the labour union would embark on strike on March 2nd 2024, if the government remains adamant and not ready to address the challenges.

Prior to the protest, Katsina State Commissioner of Police, CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa has held a meeting with the Representatives of the National Labour Congress (NLC) Katsina State Chapter towards ensuring a peaceful protest.

The discussions centred on strategies and measures to guarantee a safe and orderly protest while upholding the rights of all



Protest in Katsina

individuals involved.

Both parties, according to the Police Spokesman, ASP Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu emphasised the importance of conducting the protest in a peaceful and law-abiding manner to convey their messages effectively while respecting human rights. The Police Commissioner in the meeting reemphasized the citizens' right to protest and stated that the command remains poised to protect that right.

Commissioner of Police, Abubakar Musa reassured the NLC representative of the command's commitment to ensuring a conducive environment for peaceful demonstrations, reiterating the significance of open communication and adherence to agreed-upon guidelines.

As they reviewed plans and protocols for the for protest, the NLC Representative expressed their appreciation to the CP for his continuous support and dedication to fostering a climate of understanding and collaboration for the betterment of all stakeholders involved.

The meeting underscores the shared goal of promoting a peaceful and productive protest environment while prioritising the safety and security of all individuals within Katsina State.

*Kano protesters make strong demands, warn against uprising

From Kano State, our correspondent JABIRU HASSAN reports that the peaceful protest was planned to channel the people's grievances about the present situation especially the food item price hike which is increasing everyday.

Most of those who had chats with New Nigerian, stated that the federal government should do something very urgent in order to ease the hardships, especially at this moment when the food items always go higher than expectations while the economy is not stable.

Ibrahim Basiru from Kabo Local

Government Area said that, "our leaders should do something to douse tension and avoid serious uprising in Nigeria, because everybody is now ready to actualize revolution since leaders failed to control the hardships and inflations".

In her remarks, Amina Garba from Sumaila Local Government Area called on President Tinubu to return the fuel subsidy immediately otherwise the removal may result in the general protest that can lead to the overthrow of his government because majority of Nigerians resolved for military intervention, if the present situation persists.

*Security threats, frustrations, truncate Borno NLC protest

Borno State NLC protest was truncated with security threats and frustrations from uniformed policemen who stationed themselves within the vicinity of the labour office as early as 6.03am and blocked all major roads linking the NLC State Secretariat around 9am and finally denied the leadership and members of the union to carry out any demonstration or protest.

The State NLC Chairman, Comrade Yusuf Inuwa while addressing members of the labour union and affiliate members as well as the media at the premises of the labour office yesterday, few minutes after an emergency SEC meeting of the labour union, said, "we are constrained and denied to join the nationwide protest. The police commissioner has refused us to carry out any protest.

"The CP warned us not to even address the media or members of the union in form of rally or demonstrate. We even suggested we should go to NUJ Press Center to organize a press briefing on the protest. The CP still denied us and said that we should give them time to comb the NUJ.Center of any explosives or tendency

of Improvised Electronic Devices (IEDs) first before he may allow us to hold the press briefing at NUJ Press Center.

"Even the AIG Zone 15, AIG Abdu Umar called me about the NLC protest and insisted we should step away from the protest whether in solidarity or not on the basis that Borno is a peculiar state with security issues and still battling with it. As the law enforcement agents will not allow a situation where the jobless youth or miscreants would take advantage of the protest at the slightest opportunity to cause

havoc," Yusuf said.

He argued that it was quite unfortunate that an organized people and union were denied access and privilege to organize rally or protest, pointing out that, as law abiding citizens and obedient Nigerians they however, continue to express their bitterness and anger with the manner government has been handling and managing the nation's resources at the expense of the poor masses of this country.

Comrade Yusuf however, appealed to members and affiliates to exercise restraint and go back today (Wednesday) for the second day protest, while appreciating them for their turn out and solidarity in support of the national secretariat and urged the media for objective coverage of the labour union activity on the protest by carrying their messages across

It would recalled that uniformed men from Borno State Police Command were seen drafted to the venue and all streets linking the NLC office as Borno CP, Mohammed Lawan led the team of security men deployed to the NLC office and coordinated instinctively that no any of the union be allowed to carry out any rally or demonstration outside the labour office premises and beyond to the Lagos Street Highway.

According to the NLC Chairman after their State Executive Council meeting on Monday in the nationwide protest and directives from the NLC national secretariat for all state branches were expected to join the protest, for two days, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Comrade Yusuf said he was contacted by top security heads and some highly placed citizens of the state and urged to stay away from the protest or not to carry or allow his members to join the protest.

Hunger Action: Police Steals Shine, Provides Protesters Biscuits, Water In Lagos

He said they attributed their appeal to intelligent reports at the disposal of the security agents from Boko Haram insurgency and recent threats by IDPs to return to the bush as a result of the economic hardships and sufferings at their camps as well as the hoodlums who are set to join any protest to loot and destroy property.

Some were stationed at the gate and adjoining streets to stop the protesters, while police vehicles were also positioned at strategic points, while some blocked all the major roads to and from the NLC office

The NLC State Chairman noted that all persuasions to allow the labour union to hold its rally within the premises of the labour union where the Borno CP truncated all suggestions and appeal for them to hold their rally within the secretariat and demonstrate outside the office and work out for few kilometers along the major road to a short distance.

He however, called on the media to bear witness to all the threats, frustration and denial from security agents for the labour union not to hold its protest yesterday in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital despite the show of solidarity and support from members and affiliates.

***Protest Rocks Ebonyi Amidst Tight Security**

***Says Nigerians are wallowing in poverty, dying of hunger**

The Nigerian Labor Congress (NLC) and other trade union leaders as well as workers, yesterday morning, embarked on peaceful protest to drive home their demands, stating that Nigerians are wallowing in poverty and hunger as a result of the inability of Federal Government of Nigeria to respond to their demands.

The protest which started at Pa-Ngele Oruta Township Stadium to other parts of Abakaliki witnessed large turnout of workers and other trade unions members who came out in enmass to drive home their demand.

According to the state chairman of NLC, Prof Ogugua Egwu, the removal of oil subsidy has done worst than good as people are dying of hunger and starvation. He lamented that the sudden increase in the price of goods and services have made life very difficult for an average Nigerian. Prof. Ogugua further noted the level of insecurity and hunger in the land is alarming, calling on Federal Government of Nigeria to take urgent steps to address this problem before it gets out of control.

The protesters were seen marching from Pa-Ngele Oruta Township stadium to various locations of Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital to express their grievances and press home their demands.

***Gov Makinde says hardships, poverty now at alarming levels, promises to deliver unions demands to Tinubu**

Labour leaders in Oyo State under the auspices of Nigerian Labour Congress, (NLC) embarked on a two-day protest over the present economic hardships and insecurity in Nigeria.

The labour leaders in their hundreds,

stormed the Oyo State NLC secretariat at Agbodi in Ibadan to mobilize for the commencement of the peaceful protest across strategic areas of the town.

During the peaceful protest which started at about 8.37am from the NLC state secretariat, the labour leaders and their members were chanting songs condemning the economic hardship in the country.

The protesters were tasking President Bola Tinubu to look into and find a lasting solution to the persistent problem of hunger in the country.

At the Total Garden area of Ibadan, the labour leaders waited for some time to address residents in the area of the need for the protest urging them to join the protest to salvage the country.

It was at this juncture, that Gov Seyi Makinde arrived the venue to address the protesting labour leaders on the need not to allow hoodlums hijack the peaceful protest from them.

The governor while addressing the protesters, said hardship and poverty have reached alarming levels, with many unable to feed themselves or find work.

According to him, with the situation on ground, the time has come for all the stakeholders in the country to work together to find solutions to the hardship occasioned by the fuel subsidy removal and the high rate of exchange, expressing hope that the situation can be turned around.

Governor Makinde emphasized that Nigeria as a country is in a trying period hence the need for all to join hands and find lasting solution to "hunger and hardship in the land, saying, "We must do something about it."

Stressing that the worsening economic situation is not unique to Oyo State, but rather a nationwide issue, he said contrary to the claim by the NLC National President that state government are not paying their workers, Oyo state is not owing its workers.

Gov Makinde while calling on the federal government to take action to alleviate the suffering of the people, emphasizing the need for policies that promote growth and job creation.

He then promised to deliver the protesters letter handed over to him to President Bola Tinubu on behalf of the labour unions.

As at the time of sending this report, the protest remains peaceful with security operatives in major and strategic areas of Ibadan

***Protest suffers setback in Enugu, As Police restrict members to only congress secretariat**

The Enugu State Police Command yesterday, disallowed members of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) in the state to participate actively in the nationwide protest called by the national leadership of the organized labour unions, as they were restricted by armed personnel to protest only within the state NLC Secretariat.

The protest, was called by the labour unions as a way of expressing the pains



Protest in Akwa Ibom

and agony Nigerians, including workers are undergoing in the present economic hardship facing the people.

But unlike elsewhere in the country, policemen, did not allow members of the NLC to exercise their fundamental rights in Enugu, as they insisted that the protesters cannot go beyond the state Secretariat of the union.

Addressing members who converged on the NLC Secretariat for the take off to the streets of Enugu, NLC State Chairman, Comrade Fabian Nwigbo regretted that there was so much hunger in the land which promoted the action.

Comrade Nwigbo emphasized that a lot of Nigerians were dying because they could not have access to basic medication or three square meals per day.

He said that members came out in their numbers to show the world that they joined members on the national protest against hunger in the land "but the police in Enugu said it could not afford to secure Labour movement beyond NLC Secretariat"

On his part, the state Secretary of NLC Comrade Kelechi Anyalebechi states that the protest continues tomorrow as NLC Enugu will do what other states in the federation are doing, calling for an end to poverty and economic challenge in the country.

Our correspondent reports that the state police command had on Monday, issued a statement tagged: 'NLC Nationwide Protests: Enugu CP Orders Sufficient Security Deployment, Cautions Organizers Against Inimical Conduct.'

"Consequent upon the proposed two days nationwide protests by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and its affiliate organizations, slated for Tuesday the 27th and Wednesday the 28th of February 2024, the Commissioner of Police, Enugu State Command, CP Kanayo Uzuegbu, has ordered the adequate deployment of Police operational and intelligence resources to ensure the security and peaceful conduct of the protests.

The statement issued by the Command's Spokesman, DSP Daniel Ndukwe read further: "The Commissioner, however, cautions the leadership of the NLC in the

State against conducting the exercise in ways capable of breaching public peace.

"He notes that, while it is within the organizer's statutory rights to express their grievances through protests, they must also ensure that person(s) within or without their ranks do not disrupt the exercise or cause havoc.

"Furthermore, the CP has warned miscreants to steer clear of the protests, stressing that the Police would not hesitate to deal decisively with individuals found acting contrarily.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner has enjoined residents of Enugu State to remain law-abiding, vigilant, and report to the nearest Police Station, suspected criminals or anyone found acting in ways contrary to the peaceful conduct of the protests. Such reports could be rendered through

Meanwhile, despite the police action, the state NLC, said it will still participate in Wednesday exercise.

***Akwa Ibom Workers Blame Economic Hardship On Unfavorable Policies**

***Police Deploys 3,200 Personnel**

The NLC, as well as workers in Akwa Ibom State joined their counterparts in other states of the federation to protest against the economic hardship in the country, blaming the tide on unfavorable policies of the government.

Chairperson of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in the state, Comrade Sunny James who led the protest yesterday, from Idongesit Nkanga Secretariat, Uyo, to the State House of Assembly and later to Government House lamented that excessive hunger and hardship have weighed the people down to its limit.

Addressing the Speaker of the House, Mr Udeme Otong, the NLC chairperson urged him to encourage the lawmakers to make laws that would address the problems of the people and stem hunger currently holding sway on their wellbeing.

He added that the situation of the country does not need laws that do not have meaning and positive impact noting that Nigerians are suffering due to unfavorable policies of the present Federal Government.

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Protest in Ebonyi

James also noted that the nationwide protest would be domesticated in Akwa Ibom State such that the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno should ensure that workers' peculiar demands are addressed.

According to him, "We are here to present our position to members of Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly that they need to make laws in the direction of our problem, laws that will be beneficial to us. We don't need laws that don't make meaning to us.

"If the leaders are not willing to change the situation, we will force them to change the situation, how can we be buying a bag of rice at N95,000 and a cup of garri N200?"

"In Akwa Ibom State, this protest has to be domesticated, we need our gratuity, we need our promotion arrears, we need our 2023 promotion to be released immediately, we need the CNG busses to work, we need our refineries to work, we need increase in our wages, we need the prices of our staple food to come down, we need to see rice from Ini, we need to see garri and tomatoes been sold at our secretariat here.

"We are presenting these proposals to the Governor and we give him a timeline, if he does not listen to us, we shall gather again for a protest."

Comrade James, however, commended the Commissioner of Police and the leader of DSS in the State for their solidarity and support especially for giving the protesters premium security and ensuring that everything went successfully.

Responding, the Speaker, Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, Udeme Otong described the protest as orderly and peaceful, and promised to look into the prayers of the NLC as contained in their letter.

The Speaker assured the protesters of the Governor's readiness to put up all measures to assuage their suffering noting that the three laws that would be passed today (Tuesday) are geared towards bringing down the cost of living vis a vis the prices of commodities.

"Be assured that no matter what happens you have somebody like me who is once a Comrade you can rely on. I'll ensure that all your demands as contained in this letter receive legislative action.

"Thank God we have a proactive governor who is on top of the situation. The three laws we are going to pass today will bring down the cost of living. The governor has assured me that he will meet with the leadership of NLC and TUC to address

some of these issues."

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in the State, CP Waheed Ayilara said the command has deployed three thousand, two hundred, (3,200) police personnel across the state to prevent any breakdown of law and order.

CP Ayilara, who noted that the freedom of expression and association are enshrined constitutional rights, however said that in exploring such rights, especially that of protest, it must be peaceful and in accordance with extant laws of the land.

The CP, who called on Labour Union and residents of the state to consider the peace of the state as sacrosanct, warned criminal elements who may want to take advantage of any form of protest within the state to perpetrate evil, to have a rethink as the Command will identify and deal decisively with anyone found causing trouble.

The Police Commissioner also called on the warring groups in Eket, Esit Eket and Ibeno local government areas of the state over boundary to give peace a chance in the lingering boundary as no meaningful development can be achieved during crises.

He called on the government, the traditional class, the youths and other critical stakeholders to intervene and work harmoniously towards a peaceful resolution of the impasse to prevent a further breakdown of law and order in the affected areas.

The Police Boss warned those barricading the highway and preventing the free movement of people and vehicles to desist forthwith as such acts will not be tolerated under his watch.

*Delta workers demands FG palliatives
The Organized labour in Delta State yesterday, protested against the untold hardship facing Nigerians especially Deltans, calling for the Delta State Government to provide palliatives given to them by the Federal Government as part of efforts to ease the hardship.

The protesters marched through the Labour House, Okpanam Road, to Government House pressing for their demands from the federal government.

Though the protest was peaceful as heavy security were seen around the state capital, monitoring the protest including military personnel.

The protest started from Labour House around 9am and terminated with the government amidst tight security including the military personnel.

During the protest in Asaba, bankers, businessman and other business activities in the state capital were not affected as bankers were seen in full operations without disturbance.

NLC during the protest, demanded that Governor Oborevweri should produce their palliatives that came from the federal government.

While addressing newsmen during the protest, the NLC Deputy Chairman, Comrade Zicko Okwudi who led the protest said, "the protest was to seek their demand following the hardship facing Deltans.

According to him, "We are here to establish our demand and to inform you that the situation in Nigeria. I'd hard on us.

"When you go to market you will see that the 30,000 minimum wage earlier approved does not take us home.

"We have come here today to bring our protest because a hungry man is an angry man"

In reaction while addressing the protesters, the Secretary to the Delta State Government, Dr. Kingsley Emu assured the labour that their message would be conveyed to governor Oborewhori

The state secretary commended the peaceful protest of NLC in the state, as he appealed that they should not allowed their anger to destroy them.

According to Emu, "Please be calm, I know we are angry but do not allow your anger to consume you. Let us not get angry and destroy things because to rebuild is a problem"

*We share in your plight - Delta Govt
Meanwhile, the Delta State Government, assured protesting members of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) in the state that it will look at the challenges confronting them with a view to communicating same to the Federal Government.

The Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Kingsley Emu gave the assurance while addressing the protesters who were at the entrance of Government House, Asaba, for a peaceful protest against hardship in the country.

Dr. Emu who applauded the workers for the peaceful protest, implored them not to allow hoodlums to hijack it, adding that their request would be presented to the State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwo for onward presentation to the Federal Government.

He said: "I want to thank the Nigerian workers for your considerations and kind talks today. Your Governor sends his greetings.

"Your leadership has made a good case for you. The issue is not just affecting you but also our brothers and sisters. So, we are concerned Nigerians; whether you are working or not.

"Governor Oborevwo is a caring governor and we shall take all of these you have said to him. Before he ascended power, he told you he was going to take care of a lot of bills.

"First, is the pension and I am sure you know that that pension has been aggressively addressed. The second is the issue of your promotion arrears; you also

know that it has been taken care of.

"He rescheduled your work days to suit your wallets and we consistently kept to that. He said he was going to give out some stipends for some months and he has done that. He is somebody who cares for you and I am sure you appreciate him.

"When he made those commitments, Nigeria has not gotten to a cross road, we didn't have this kind of economic hardship. He feels your pains because he is in tune with the streets and understands the market and he is connected to his people".

He disclosed that Labour case vis-a-vis the hardship in the country, was a pandemic, adding that everybody feels that pain, saying "no matter how the organs of the federal government tries to disguise the matter."

"Your plights, worries and conditions will be taken back to the governor. We are all angry. You are not the only one angry. As citizens of Delta State, we are angry because while we protect our state, we are still vulnerable to external migration of people who don't live in the state."

He, therefore, called on the federal government to listen to the cry of labour, adding that there are too many cities where the Federal government should have sent out CNG buses; even as he noted that that was part of the promises made to the Nigerian workers by the federal government.

Earlier, the First Vice Chairman of Delta State Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Ziko Okwudi said that they were in Government House to register their protest against the present economic hardship in the country.

Comrade Okwudi noted that the wage award promised workers by the federal government has not been honoured, stressing that despite all the agreements reached with federal government as it affects the interest and welfare of Nigerian workers, the federal government has been very inactive and insensitive to the plights of the Nigerian people.

"We have come today, because we know that by the grace of God, when this new Government came to power, over time, we have began to understand that the man at the helms of affairs in Delta State, ordinarily is not supposed to be a politician by his conduct and his attitude but destiny has given him the opportunity to lead Delta State.

"So, by so doing we have called him a politician and because he is a politician today, we know his disposition towards the plight of the people. He is a man that is very blunt when it comes to speaking the truth.

"All the federal government has promised the Nigerian workers, we are yet to see any that has materialised", the NLC first Vice Chairman stated.

Nigerians, according to him, are being controlled by hunger, pointing out "when a man is hungry, he is angry and an angry man is insane and at that point of insanity, anything we do will be termed as hungry and we will not be held responsible".

Zulum Flags Off Distribution Of Empowerment Facilities To 9,720 Borno Central Constituents

***Urges people to support donor, Senator Kaka Shehu**

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State on Monday, flagged off the distribution of poverty alleviation and empowerment equipment, machines, engines and other facilities to members/constituents of Borno Central Senatorial District procured and donated by Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, Senator representing Borno Central Senatorial District at the National Assembly competency project at the Multi Purpose Hall of the Government House, Maiduguri.

He commended Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan for such gesture at this critical period of economic hardship, while urging people to continue to support him, stressing that, " it is not easy to serve the large number of people of Borno Central Senatorial District due to the large size of the population and land mass, which is equal to two more senatorial districts in some states.

The governor who stated this while flagging off the distribution of the items, added that, "governance or leadership is not an easy task. As such, people should be patient with the political office holders and bare with them in terms of provision of welfare, empowerment and poverty alleviation materials and other means of livelihood support to the constituents."

Speaking at the occasion, Senator Kaka Shehu who is also the donor of the materials, expressed profound appreciation to the governor and leaders of the ruling party in the state and at the national

level, as well as the LGAs, while urging the beneficiaries to make proper use of the items given to them to alleviate their sufferings and hardship.

He also promised to continue to serve them better and more appropriately while assuring those who did not benefit in the first batch of the exercise to be patient as they will benefit in future in the subsequent distribution exercise.

The federal lawmaker further charged them to be law abiding and obey constituted authorities.

The Chairman of APC Borno State, Hon. Bello Ayuba in his remarks, thanked Senator and governor for their support and welfare packages to the people, especially members of the party, while commending the Senator for serving his constituents in a seamless and appreciable manner as well as carrying party members along.

A total of 9,729 beneficiaries drawn from the eight LGAs of the Borno Central Senatorial District, namely, MMC, Jere, Konduga, Mafa, Dikwa Bama, Kala Balge and Ngala LGAs with beneficiaries cutting across party leaders, youth, women leaders, vigilante CJTF and hunters leaders as well as community leaders

The items include, 20 BAJAJ RE Keke NAPEP Tricycles, 100 grinding machines, 120 Two Lion Sewing Machines, 20 SV5200 generators, 250 Skyrun. BD 300 HNW Chest Freezers, 250 knapsack 16L sprayers and 150 SUMEC WP 20X Water Pumps.

Highlights of the event included photographs, and symbolic distribution of the items, among others.



2023 Elections Anniversary: Muslim, Christian Clerics Pray for Prof Mahmood Yakubu Over Peaceful, Hitch-Free Exercises

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

For conducting a relatively peaceful and hitch free general elections across the country, Muslim and Christian clerics under the umbrella of the Interfaith Mission for Unity and Progress of Nigeria (IMUPN), have held Interdenominational prayer sessions in honour of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu.

According to the clerics, the decision to mark the one year anniversary of conducting the 2023 elections with prayers is basically thank God for keeping Nigeria as a united country after going through an election year.

The prayers held simultaneously across the six geo-political zones at Kano, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Yobe, Plateau, Enugu was to encourage the INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu to do more in future elections.

"As clerics we are duty bound to pray for the peaceful coexistence of our dear country and leaders as well, thus we singled out the Chairman for conducting the election against all odds." They stated.

In a five-point communique issued after the conclusion of the two-day prayers with the theme: "Let's Work Together to Make Nigeria a Better Country", the Interfaith Mission for Unity and Progress of Nigeria said, "At this critical period of dearth of leadership, we have reached a point where we

must seek God's intervention and guidance for a solid sustainable electoral process that will produce visionary and credible political leaders across all tiers of government."

The clerics in the communique jointly signed by Reverend Pius Garba; Pastor John Anekwe, Pastor Lazarus Adesami, Mallam Uzairu Bamalli, Sheikh Sabiu Jaafar and Sheikh Mohammed Musa respectively, also underscored the need for Muslims and Christians as well as people of other religions to pray for the country's leaders, saying that since only God puts leaders in their positions, they need to be supported always, especially with prayers.

While commending INEC boss for conducting one of the most peaceful elections in recent times, especially on the account that the process was rancour free with lives lost reduced to barest minimum before; during and after the election exercises, the clerics scored the 2023 election process high because of the good number of opposition parties that won some critical seats and states.

"It is our joy that all the threats and predictions against our unity didn't come to pass. Instead we are waxing stronger as an independent nation." They added.

However, they prayed to God to grant Nigeria economic buoyancy and offered the prayer for peace and tranquility during future elections.

SAHCO PLC Emerges Best Air Cargo Operations Handler Of Year



L-R: Head, Corporate Communications, Skyway Aviation Handling Company PLC, Mrs. Adetola Vanessa Uansohia; Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Barr. Festus Keyamo; Chairman/Chief Host, NIGAV Awards, Mr. Fortune Idu during the presentation of the award. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) PLC has been voted the best Air Cargo Operations Handler of the Year at the 13th edition of the Nigeria Aviation (NIGAV) Awards in recognition of SAHCO's consistent quality Ground Handling service deliveries to her numerous clients.

The NIGAV Award is a celebration of aviation excellence with an objective to unify and create industry harmony. It is also aimed at engineering healthy competition for safer air service delivery and promotion of development in the air transport community.

According to a statement signed by the Head, Corporate Communications, Skyway Aviation Handling Company PLC (SAHCO), Mrs. Adetola Vanessa Uansohia, the event was attended by the crème de la crème of the aviation industry, including the Minister of Aviation and

Aerospace Development, Barr. Festus Keyamo.

Speaking during the Award presentation, Chairman/Chief host of NIGAV Awards, Mr. Fortune Idu, said The NIGAV Awards are considered Nigeria's most prestigious air transport awards, which has become a hall mark of industry inspiration and motivation, recognizing outstanding contribution in all areas of air transport development operations, services, technologies, leadership, management, promotions and creativity. He stressed that winners emerge without any form of inducement but strictly through public voting.

He praised SAHCO for always ensuring quality, speedy and efficient services to clients by deploying an arsenal of modern Ground Support Equipment and always rendering services that are of international standards. While accepting the award, SAHCO's Managing Director/CEO, Mrs. Adenike Aboderin,

who was represented by Mrs. Vanessa Uansohia, Head, Corporate Communications, said this award will spur SAHCO's commitment to always deliver quality services to her numerous clients in addition to exceeding clients' expectations. She thanked the organizers for nominating SAHCO and extended her appreciation to voters who voted for SAHCO.

According to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Barr. Festus Keyamo who was the Special Guest of Honour at the event said, "The Nigeria Aviation Award, NIGAV Award, recognizes and rewards the positive contributions of all, from the highest ranking staff of the ministry to the most junior officers in the various subunits of the aviation industry-airports, airlines, airspace, weather, aviation training, insurance, contractors, consultants etc, your contributions to safer air transportation cannot be ignored and your hard

work and patriotism is highly appreciated."

It is worthy to note that SAHCO is RA3 Certified which is a requirement for Ground Handling Companies to confirm that they meet the security requirement for screening air cargo and mail entering European countries, also SAHCO is IATA's Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certified, International Organization for Standardization (ISO 9001:2015) certified for Quality Management system amongst other certifications.

SAHCO is a Publicly Listed Aviation Ground Handling Service provider that is present in all the commercially operated Airports in Nigeria and is involved in activities that includes Passenger Handling, Ramp Handling, Cargo Handling and Warehousing, Aviation Security, VIP Lounge services amongst other aviation related services.



Zulum Shares N1.2bn Kits, Grants To 832 Orphans Trained In 14 Trades

*Approves automatic employment for 64 best graduates

*Plans conversion of Muna Vocational Enterprise to Monotechnic

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

A total of 832 artisans, mostly orphaned as a result of the over one decade long Boko Haram insurgency, have graduated from the Borno State Enterprise Institute. The event was presided over by the Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum yesterday at the Muna Vocational Enterprise Institute, along the Dikwa-Gamboru highway in Jere Local Government Area.

The trainees were selected from across the 27 local government areas of Borno State and have undergone training in 14 different trades; among them, 54 graduates specialised in alluminium fabrication, 29 in bricklaying, 48 in carpentry and 73 in information technology. Others include, 41 specialising in barbing, 46 in electrical work, 85 in leatherworks, 40 in plumbing, 72 in mechanics, 67 in solar technology, 148 in tailoring, 18 in tie and dye, 59 in welding and 53 in hairdressing.

In his address, Zulum said similar vocational institutes were established in Biu, Shani, Mafa and Magumeri. At the same time, plans are being made to revive vocational centres in Dikwa, Kaga, Ngala, Gajiram and Monguno. The governor noted that vocational institutes were established to address the challenges of youth unemployment and provide a means of livelihood to the people. "Upon assuming office, one of the primary objectives of my administration has been youth empowerment. We were acutely aware of the devastating impact of insurgency on our communities, leaving many without means of livelihood and leading to widespread

unemployment, idleness, and despair. As the saying goes, "an idle mind is the devil's workshop," Zulum said.

He added, "To address these challenges head-on, we established Vocational Enterprise Institutes, focusing on admitting vulnerable individuals, particularly those affected by the insurgency, to equip them with skills for sustainable livelihoods."

Earlier in his address, the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Engr Lawan Abba Wakilbe said with funding allocated by Governor Zulum to the Technical and Vocational Enterprises, the output across all centres is targeted at over 4,000 artisans annually.

Meanwhile, Governor Babagana Umara Zulum approved the distribution of starter kits worth N847,277,297 to each of the 832 trained artisans in addition to another N349,440,000 one-year labour-intensive public work grant that will help them attain self-reliance.

Zulum also approved N41,600,000, with each 832 graduating artisans getting N50,000.

The governor equally approved automatic employment for the 64 best artisans who have achieved over 90%.

"I understand from the remarks by the Hon. commissioner that 64 out of 832 have scored above 90% in both their specialised trades and the academic assessment. I, therefore, direct that all 64 of them should be employed and deployed to other vocational institutes across the state," Zulum said.

Zulum also ordered the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to process modalities for converting Muna Vocational Enterprises Institute to a Monotechnic with the capacity to award a National Diploma.



Introduce Food Stamps Now, Senate Tells Executive

By; ISAAC ODEH,
Kaduna

The Senate has said that the introduction of food stamps in Nigeria as an interim measure to address imminent food insecurity in the country will be a way out of the hardship, urging the executive to act fast.

The Senate decision followed a motion sponsored by the Senate Chief Whip, Ali Ndume (Borno South) and Co-Sponsored by Sen. Saliu, Mustapha (Kwara Central) had several other Senators asking for their names to be added as Co-Sponsored.

Food stamps will be a supplemental nutrition assistance programme which will be a supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme that provides food-purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people to help them maintain adequate nutrition and health.

Ndume, while reading his motion during plenary, said at the unveiling of the October 2023 Cadre Harmonisé Analysis on food insecurity, it was projected that in 2024, Nigeria is expected to see about 26.5 million people, grappling with high level

of food insecurity.

“Further notes that the reason for the above projection is not far-fetched, as several indicators, which include but not limited to the ongoing conflicts across the country, climate change impacts, escalating inflation as witnessed in recent time, and rising costs of both food and essential non-food commodities, due to fall in value of Naira in exchange market;

“Worried that many hungry and angry Nigerians have been expressing their frustration and anger over the recent increase in food prices by demonstrating on the streets in several cities across the country.

“Aware that in other countries, like the United States of America, Food Stamp which is a government-issued coupon that is given to low-income and non-income persons and is redeemable for food have been used since 1933 to date as a measure to cushion the resultant hardships and sufferings on the poor/less privileged as well as low-income earners,” Ndume said arguing that the concerned that the clamour for wage increase and work support

cannot alone guarantee a more effective way of addressing food insecurity without the introduction of time-tested public assistance programme, as contemplated by this motion with particular emphasis on the need for immediate food support across the country.

Accordingly, the Senate urged the Federal Government to introduce the Nigeria version of the Food Stamps programme as an interventionist measure to cushion the effects of food insecurity/shortage in the country.

The Senate also mandate the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to liaise with development partners and other relevant stakeholders, especially the Lagos Food Bank Initiative, which introduced Temporary Food Assistance Programme (TEFAP), a few years ago.

“This is with a view to working out practicable templates and implementable modalities for the actualisation of the programme,” the Senate said.

Speaking, the Senate Minority leader, Abba Moro (PDP Benue South) said there is no better time for the motion than now

adding that identifying vulnerable people in his constituency has always been a problem but that the food stamps will help.

On his part, Sadiq Suleiman Umar (APC Kwara North) said the executive should ensure that only those who need the food get it insisting the programme needs to start immediately.

“Structures are grown to help in the distribution of the food stamps,” he said.

On his part, Solomon Adeola (APC Ogun West) while supporting Ndume motion, said despite sharing money to the vulnerable, added that the food stamps will be even more important.

Send Sani Musa (APC Niger East) said it is an important motion as it will help in food security.

He said he is planning for such a programme in his constituency, adding that having such nationally will help.

Deputy Senate President Jibrin Barau who provided over plenary, commended Ndume for the motion adding that it will help assuage the sufferings of Nigeria.

“The Senate is open in acting on issues that will help all Nigerians. So the entire Senate commends Ndume for this motion,” Barau said.



Gov Radda

Katsina Governor Commiserates Victims Of Faskari Bandits Attacks

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU,
Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has commiserated with the people of 'Yannasarawa village in Faskari Local Government area of the state over bandits attack which left eight (8) People dead and properties worth millions of Naira burnt. The bandits who laid siege to the village last week, according to a statement by the Director of Press to Secretary to the Government of the State, Alhaji Abdullahi Aliyu Yar'adua also kidnapped Forty Five (45) persons comprising; Thirty Seven (37) Females and Eight (8) Males who are mostly in Junior Secondary School.

He said Governor Dikko Radda who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the State, Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari expressed deep sorrow and sympathy to the families who lost their loved ones.

The Governor, he said reiterated his commitment to continuing fighting with the undesirable elements until the state is rid of the banditry and other heinous crimes.

After paying house to house sympathy visit the Secretary to the Government, Barrister Garba Faskari was conducted round the Eight

scrap vehicles, Ten houses and Twelve shops that were burnt to ashes by the terrorists.

A member of the vigilante group in the village who sought anonymity said that, "they engaged the bandits when they entered the village around 9:00pm but because they were in numbers and were having sophisticated weapons and ammunition, they (villagers) were forced to retreat."

"Despite our weaknesses we were able to count Seven casualties on the part of the bandits," the Vigilante man claimed.

Barrister Faskari was told that, nothing was heard about the 45 persons kidnapped as the abductors did not make any contact.

Subsequently, a list containing names of those injured, the deceased and the number of properties destroyed was handed over to the Katsina state SGS, Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari who promised to deliver the message to the Governor on his return.

Consequently, people of the area appreciated the efforts being made by Governor Dikko Umaru Radda in the fight against terrorism and they further solicited for the deployment of security agents to the village as well as reconstruction of the only road leading to the village from Daudawa town of Faskari local



NLC protest in Lagos. February 27, 2024. Photo: AKINOLA ARIYO

Electricity: Tinubu Led FG Committed To Tackling Power Problem In Nigeria, Says VP, Shettima

**Flags Off South/East Light Up Nigeria Project*

By: **KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu**

The federal government has assured Nigerians that the present administration under president Ahmed Bola Tinubu's watch is committed towards tackling the lingering power challenges bedeviling the nation, saying the sector remains the driver of economy on any nation.

Nigeria's Vice President and Chairman, Board of Directors of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), Senator Kashim Shettima, stated this on Monday, during the official flag-off the Light Up Nigeria programme for South East Nigeria in Enugu, as part of federal government's efforts to improve energy supply to industrial clusters in South East geopolitical zone of the country.

Launching of the project was done in collaboration between (NDPHC) and its partners.

The Vice President described the project as a transformation journey and renewal of hope for industrialists and investors in the region.

He stated further that the Light Up Project is dear to President Bola Tinubu assuring the determination of Tinubu's led administration to improve accelerated power supply to industrial clusters in South East.

According to him, the project is doable calling on all stakeholders to join hands together to ensure the success of the project, stressing the "the long awaited solution to epileptic power supply is finally here and this project will help to stabilize Nigeria because if there is no power there can be industrialization.

"The economic fortune of Nigeria remain the critical concerns of President Tinubu as we believe that if power sector works, Nigeria works too so we must make the project work and make south East works,". Governors of the South East states of Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra and Enugu with the exception of Abia, were in attendance and took turns to address the ceremony, which equally featured a business round table.

Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State in his speech, said that the Light-Up Nigeria Project signals a new dawn for power and industrialisation of the South East region, adding that the initiative aligns with his administration's disruptive approach to governance underpinned by thinking outside the box.

He however, applauded the Federal Government and the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) for coming up with the project to ramp up power supply to industrial clusters in the South East, enjoined industrialists of the region to fully key into it and take advantage of the initiative to remove any bottlenecks they face regarding power availability.

"The Light up Nigeria Project Today is, in my view, a new dawn for power in the South East and one of the most innovative initiatives in the power sector.

" This project is of critical importance since it deals with the power sector, which I believe is pivotal to economic growth. Indeed, if we fix power, a lot of other sectors would fall into place," he said. He added that, "This project ensures

efficient dispatch of power to the largest consumers via bilateral sales agreements, which overrides the existing bulk purchase arrangements through NBET, leveraging on a willing buyer, willing seller structure.

"The Programme will certainly bring improved access to affordable power to the South East. This will in turn result in reduced power costs for the productive sector and enable them improve engaged productivity and generate jobs. This is critical in this day where the country is pushing to boost production and drive-up exports to ultimately shore up our domestic currency."

Welcoming the guests earlier, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Niger Delta Power Holding Company Ltd (NDPHC) Chiedu Ugbo, explained that the event provided an opportunity for the business community in the South-East Zone to interact with the Vice President of Nigeria.

Ugbo, stated that the event has marked the formal launch of the South-East phase of the strategic collaboration between NDPHC and other project parties to provide steady and reliable electricity supply to industrial and business clusters across Nigeria.

According to him, "We are honoured to have you all here today. This event is part of a series of initiatives led by His Excellency, the Vice President, who serves as the Chairman of Niger Delta Power Holding Company.

"These initiatives demonstrate the commitment and determination of President Tinubu's administration, working through NDPHC, to provide reliable and sustainable solutions to the electricity challenge in the country, starting with reliable and affordable supply to industries.

"The first event in this series took place on October 12, 2023, in Agbara, Ogun State, South-West Nigeria, where His Excellency engaged with the business community and committed to providing the required electricity to power businesses in industrial areas across the country through NDPHC.

"Since then, significant progress has been made on the Agbara Project including identifying and signing on key industrial customers, conducting engineering surveys, negotiating transaction agreements, and procuring OEM/EPC providers for the required transmission and distribution projects.

"Additionally, NDPHC has worked closely with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and FGN Power Company to conduct engineering surveys, identify sites, and acquire a mobile transmission substation for the project.

"TCN has approved the connection of the new substation to the national grid, and efforts are underway to deploy this fast-track transmission substation.

"Today's event builds on the commitment made by His Excellency at Agbara and will be replicated in other geopolitical zones across the country.

"The Light up Nigeria project, which is the focus of today's event, is led by Niger Delta Power Holding Company Limited

(NDPHC).

"NDPHC, a government-owned company, is responsible for implementing the National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) and operates a portfolio of gas thermal electricity generation assets in Nigeria.

"However, the optimal utilization of these assets has been hindered by technical challenges and market constraints.

"One major challenge is the lack of sufficient transmission and distribution infrastructure to transport power from the plants. To underscore this point, just last Friday, we received the Honourable Minister of Power at our 500MW Benin (Ihovbor) Power Plant.

"This power plant shares the transmission facilities with Azura-Edo Power plant next door with over 460 MW. The two plants together can generate over 9,00MW.

The NDPHC boss, said "the Honourable Minister witnessed first-hand the level of under utilisation of the NDPHC generation plant as a result of the transmission constraint.

"However, Transmission Company of Nigeria is now working assiduously towards resolving that constraint in that power plant.

"Another challenge stems from financial difficulties in the electric power sector here in Nigeria, leading to inadequate payments by distribution companies and Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading company (NBET) to generation companies like NDPHC.

"The huge indebtedness to the generation companies affects the ability of the generation companies to pay for gas supply leading to gas supply shortage and the resulting low generation.

"On 31st January 2024, the Honourable Minister of Power visited our Olorunsogo Power Plant (near Papalanto in Ogun State and Omotosho Power Plant near Ore in Ondo State) and saw first-hand the extent of gas supply constraint to the two power plants which put together have over 1,000MW installed capacity.

"At a recent press conference, the Honourable Minister of Power, rightly identified this severe liquidity crisis as a major impediment to electricity supply in the country with over N1.3 trillion owed to generation companies. NDPHC alone is owed close to N200bn out of that.

"These challenges of lack of sufficient transmission and distribution infrastructure to transport electricity from the plants and the sector market liquidity crisis have resulted in gross underutilisation of installed generation assets with unserved potential grid electricity consumers, particularly industries (some of which are represented here today), resorting to expensive and often inefficient self generation.

"In response to these challenges, NDPHC initiated the Light up Nigeria Project, which aims to provide reliable and affordable electricity supply to industries and homes by utilizing underutilized generation capacity, establishing trading agreements with bulk

purchasers of electricity, and mobilizing investments to address technical, commercial, and collection losses in the

supply chain.

"Additionally, NDPHC aims to receive full payment for the electricity generated and delivered, without relying on the Federal Government for such payments.

"The project aligns with the Electricity Act of 2023 (graciously signed into law by His Excellency Present Bola Tinubu GCFR), which provides a strong framework for state governments to develop electricity markets at the sub-national level, with the aim of delivering consistent and affordable electricity to residents.

"Through the Light up Nigeria project, state governments will derive the benefit of increased access to electricity, attraction of investment opportunities, revenue generation and economic growth.

"At the Federal level, the project will help to reduce the financial burden on FGN's balance sheet from debt exposure of NBET.

"The project is further reinforced by NERC's MYTO 2024 which mandates distribution companies to secure adequate bilateral contracts and exit from contractual relationships with NBET.

"NDPHC remains at the forefront in pursuing bilateral electric power sales and other projects that ensure efficient and targeted electricity delivery to end-users.

He assured South-East Governors and business community that the Light up Nigeria Project would have the dedicated and diligent attention of the team of NDPHC and its project parties devising creative and bankable solutions to addressing power supply challenges to industries in the Zone.

"We are grateful for the support and leadership of His Excellency, the Vice President, in these roadshow events. We also extend our appreciation to Your Excellencies, the State Governors, especially those in the South-East, for your support to NDPHC projects in your respective states. Special thanks go to the Governor of Enugu State for hosting this event.

"We would also like to express our gratitude to EEDC, EnerixOne, Electric Utilities Limi

We are excited about the collaboration and opportunities that lie ahead.

"Together, we can make a significant impact on the electric power sector and contribute to the growth and development of our nation.

Top dignitaries physically present at the event included, Imo State and Chairman, South-East Governors' Forum, Senator Hope Uzodinma, the Host Governor, Dr. Peter Mbah, that of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo and that of Ebonyi State, Hon. Francis Nwifuru, Minister of power, Adebayo Adelabu, former Imo state governor, Owelle Rochas Okorocho, amongst others.

Others are, former senate President Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, Emeka Offor, the Chairman, Board of Directors, Enugu Electricity Distribution Company, (EEDC) among other dignitaries.

Dignitaries Throng Burial Of Ex Speaker, Dogara's Mother, Who Died At 103

By; AMOS MATHEW, Kaduna

Several dignitaries were spotted at the burial of mother of former Speaker, Yakubu Dogara, Mama Saratu Yakubu Tukura in Bauchi State, last weekend, who died at 103 years. Notable among those sighted, include, Niger State Governor, Mohammed Umaru Bago, Senator Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Hon. Shehu ABG, Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole, as well as serving and former governors, National

Assembly members, religious and traditional leaders. Also, several eminent personalities that cut across party, religion, and ethnic divides, attended the funeral service of the mother of former Speaker, House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, late Mama Saratu Yakubu Tukura. The funeral service took place at the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) Gwarangah Bogoro, Bauchi State over the weekend.



Dignitaries Throng Burial Of Ex Speaker, Dogara's Mother, Who Died At 103



Illegal Mining: Oyo Govt Arrests 3 Chinese, One Other, Shuts Down Factory

***To prosecute arrested suspects**

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Three Chinese and one other suspect have been arrested in Oyo State by security agents on the order of Governor Seyi Makinde over illegal mining activities.

Also, the state government has shut down the factory operated by the arrested suspects to process and package lithium out of the state.

Governor Makinde ordered the arrest of the three Chinese and one other suspect on Saturday during an unscheduled inspection tour to the factory at Idi Ayunre area of Ibadan.

The governor maintained that the factory is operating against the approved licence secured from the government for business operations in the state.

According to him, a preliminary investigation revealed that the factory was being operated by

some Chinese and that the factory and its operators have contravened the Executive Order 001 of 2024 on the safe handling of harmful substances.

Emphasizing that the arrested suspects would be prosecuted accordingly, the governor said though the Federal Government issued an operational licence to the miners in line with constitutional provision, there will always be security threats and concerns when states do not have an input in the issuance of mining licences.

"You can see what is going on here; it is still the same problem, the illegal mining activities. Sadly, the folks are even getting bolder. This place, according to records available to us, was meant to be a yard for recycled tyres and batteries. But coming in here, you can see there is no single battery or tyre here", he said.

Gov Makinde added, "

They are crushing lithium here and they had support from all over. The preliminary investigation indicated that some Chinese are the ones leading this. They also have a lawyer from Katsina. Some four persons have been arrested and they are with the security agencies".

"The Chinese people have been taken to immigration and, once we are able to find something to prosecute them, then, we will prosecute them. The state government will take over the facility via a court process, as this is a clear violation of the Executive Order that I signed and it is a problem that we have to address".

Gov Makinde stressed, "We need to get to the bottom of this but, in the main time, this facility will be taken over by the government of Oyo State." Speaking further, he expressed concerns with the retention of mining in the Exclusive Legislative

List, adding that there will always be issues of security threats when states do not have input in the issuance of mining licences.

The governor maintained that though Oyo State remained open to investors and will always do everything to make businesses thrive, those business must obey local laws and regulations.

"I think it is the same thing about the constitutional provision where they issue licences to miners in Abuja without the state governments having an input. And when you have the fallout, the state will still have to bear the brunt. We will still try to foster cooperation among stakeholders, because we want businesses to thrive in Oyo State but local laws and regulations must be obeyed. We are not asking you not to come to Oyo State but when you come here, you should be able to obey the local laws. That is where we are,"

Sanwo-Olu Urges Multinationals In US, Africa To Invest In Lagos

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

Lagos Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his administration's commitment to providing a friendly environment for investors, particularly multinationals from the United States and Africa, to invest in the state.

He said Lagos is open and ready for investments and therefore urged foreign and local investors to see the State as an investment attractive destination, noting that his administration is willing to do what is expected of the government to create a conducive environment for business to thrive.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke during a courtesy visit by the Corporate Council on Africa led by its President/CEO, Ms. Florie Liser at the Lagos House, Marina, on Saturday.

He said: "The world is actually moving and it is moving very fast. And it is no longer news that if the world wants to move, Africa is where that movement can happen. For us in Lagos, we are ready and our government is open."

"We have a city to run, a massive subnational that's bigger than some other African countries. We are striving to make the city livable, resilient and equally competitive with other cities in the world and when we see ratings and outcomes of global rankings, we are excited. What it does for us is that it makes us also work harder because nobody is slowing down.

"This government is certainly committed. We are pushing on all the verticals of our economic agenda. We are trying to make life more meaningful for our citizens. We are trying to galvanize all the opportunities that are here. Lagos is open; it is ready and it is really for people to see it, smell it, and make the right call. The call is to see it as an investment attractive destination. And whatever you want us to do as a government, we are always willing to do it.

"We are happy that you have come on a courtesy visit. We are willing to grow the partnership. My government is open and willing to engage further in whatever form that can make your members feel

confident that the government is helping and willing to help investments. The number is here, people are here and the environment is here. Let us create a mutual government-to-business and business-to-government relationship." Speaking about his administration's achievements in line with the THEMES + developmental agenda, Governor Sanwo-Olu said his government has intervened and created several intentional opportunities in critical areas such as public transportation, health, education, technology and entertainment.

Governor Sanwo-Olu also expressed his excitement about the Red Line rail, which is expected to be inaugurated by President Bola Tinubu on Thursday. He said he is excited that his administration, which started the project, is going to hand over the infrastructure to the public.

He said the train service, which is expected to carry hundreds of thousands of Lagosians from one destination to another, is one of the ways his government can make Lagos livable for the residents of the State.

Speaking earlier, Ms. Liser, said the Corporate Council on Africa, which is a business association with members of both United States and African multinationals, is willing to partner with Lagos State Government in energy, power, infrastructure, agro-business, technology, trade and finance, among others.

Liser, who disclosed that they are excited to be in Lagos for a trade and investment mission, commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration for his laudable achievements in the State, especially the Red Line project.

She also praised the State Government for focusing on fintech, health and driving investment into Lagos State.

Liser also invited Governor Sanwo-Olu to the CCA Africa business summit holding in Dallas, Texas on May 6-9 for him to address the summit on what he has done as the Governor of Lagos State.



Protection Of Lives, Property Major Priority Of Governor Uba Sani - Mamman Lagos

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos has said that the protection of lives and property of the good people of Kaduna State is a major priority of the administration of Governor Uba Sani.

He made this known when the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Kaduna State Command paid him a courtesy call in his office at the Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in Kaduna.

"As you are aware, this administration is fully committed to the security and safety of the whole of kaduna state, because security is the cornerstone for the realization of governor Uba Sani SUSTAIN Agenda" he said.

Mamman Lagos also

added that in area of providing security, the Kaduna State Government is doing everything possible to make sure that the citizens of the state go to sleep with their eyes closed.

He went further to say that, governor Uba Sani will continue to give maximum support to the security agencies to enable them function very well for the protection of lives and properties.

Hon Sadiq Mamman Lagos appreciated the delegation for the auspicious visit and urged them to visit at any convenient time as his office is always open.

Earlier, the Kaduna State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Comdt Lucy Fakoya, thank the Commissioner for receiving them and promised to partner with the state in safeguard the lives and property of the citizens.



Protection Of Lives, Property Major Priority Of Governor Uba Sani - Mamman Lagos



Police, Military Rescue 16 Kidnapped Passengers In Kogi

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

A joint team of Police and the Military has rescued sixteen kidnapped passengers in Kogi State. This was contained in a statement issued on Monday by the Police Public Relations Officer of the command, SP William Ayah.

The command's image maker said that while eleven passengers were kidnapped from the Peace Mass Transit Bus, five others were kidnapped from a Sienna Bus along Ette Enugu Ezike road the previous day.

According to him, the Joint Kogi Police and Military Team from Enugu State promptly

swung into action, trailed and rescued all the victims from the bush unharmed. However, ASP Ayah said that concerted efforts are on to apprehend the suspects and bring them to deserved justice.

The Commissioner of Police, Kogi Command, CP Bethrand C. Onuoha, while commending the Joint Security Team

reiterates the Command's unwavering determination to sustain the ongoing onslaught against criminalities in the state. He appealed to the good people of the state for their continued collaboration with the police and other security agencies in ensuring adequate security of lives and property.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya Excited, As Gombe Indigene Wins International Quranic Recitation Competition in Jordan

**Says Haraja's triumph, source of inspiration, pride for Gombe, Nigeria*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, has expressed excitement upon learning the outstanding victory of a young girl from Gombe, Hajara Ibrahim Dan'azumi, at an International Female Quranic Recitation Competition held in the Kingdom of Jordan.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Monday February 26, 2024.

Hajara Ibrahim, from Abubakar Siddiq Islamiyya and 200 Level Botany Student at the Gombe State University who was selected to represent Nigeria, emerged the overall winner among other contestants from 39 countries in the 60 Hizb with Tajwid category at the 18th Edition of the Hashemite Jordan International Qur'anic Competition for Female.

During the competition which held between 17th and 22nd February, 2024, Hajara had achieved an impressive score of 99.5, securing her position as the overall winner of the 18th edition of the competition organized annually by the Ministry of Endowments, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places of Jordan.

Reacting to the development, Governor Inuwa Yahaya conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to Hajara, her family and teachers, praising her hard work, and commitment to mastering the Qur'an, while expressing confidence that her achievement would serve as an inspiration to countless others in Gombe and beyond.

He further stressed the importance of nurturing and supporting the educational pursuits of young people, particularly in the realm of religious studies, which he said, play a vital role in shaping their character and contributing to the development of the society.

"I am deeply proud of our daughter's exceptional achievement on the global stage. Hajara's triumph exemplifies the vibrant academic heritage of Gombe State. Her victory brings pride not just to us in Gombe, but to Nigeria as a whole. I am convinced that this feat will inspire numerous others, particularly our young



girls", the Governor remarked. He added, "Our commitment to promoting the educational journey of young individuals, particularly in the realm of religious studies, remains unwavering. We recognize its pivotal role in moulding character and fostering societal advancement. Gombe is known for excellence, and we shall continue to identify with those who promote the good image of Gombe to the world. Hajara is one of such people, and we are

proud to celebrate her." As Hajara returns to Nigeria in days to come, Governor Inuwa Yahaya looks forward to receiving her in his office, saying her presence will serve as both a motivation for sustained efforts and an encouragement for others to follow her footsteps in striving for excellence in their various endeavors, while emphasizing the importance of recognizing and celebrating outstanding achievements in the state.



Adamawa Deputy Governor

Analytical Laboratory Will Provide Scientific Solution To Research/Development - Adamawa Dep Gov

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

Adamawa State Deputy Governor Professor Kaletapwa George Farauta has commended the Federal Government for building the Analytical Laboratory in Adamawa State, saying the project is a sustainable way of providing scientific solution to research and development

Farauta, who stated this on Monday, at the commissioning of the Analytical Laboratory build by the Federal Institute of Industrial Research for North-East said the state government is committed to payment of scholarship to students to support research and development in the education sector.

According to her, the FIntiri led administration has invested heavily in the area of education as well as award of scholarship to students in tertiary institutions to study science courses abroad. Earlier, the Minister of Innovation Science and

Technology, Uche Nnaji said the Analytical Laboratory would provide scientific conservation of food for export.

The minister, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Esuabana Asanye said the ministry is targeting developing the economy through science and technology for the economic prosperity of the region.

"The new office would develop technologies that promote the ideals of entrepreneurship development"

"It would open up and boost farming and fishing as well as small and medium scale enterprise aimed at moving the the region forward", she stated.

In her remarks, Dr Jummai Adamu, Director General Institute of Industrial Research pointed out that the institute will provide a platform for people to excel through impartation of innovative skills for job creation geared toward poverty reduction.

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

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Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

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

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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
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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

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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

Critical Stakeholder Laments Slow Pace Of Work On Yola-Mubi Highway Rehabilitation

*Asks President Tinubu to revoke the contract and the construction coy be investigated by EFCC, ICPC

By; TOM GATBA, Yola

A one hundred and ninety-four (194) kilometer road from Federal Government Girls College Yola to Mubi was awarded to AG Vision Construction Company Limited for rehabilitation, a critical stakeholder in Adamawa, Hamisu Idris Medugu has lamented the chameleon speed which the work awarded in 2017 is suffering. The road was awarded to AG Vision to have a completion period of two years during the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari, awarded at the cost of twenty-one billion Naira (N21,841,578,000.00.) According to Hamisu five years after, AG Vision couldn't do up to thirty per cent of the road work and in 2022, a threat of contract revocation on AG Vision

compelled them to mobilize to the site, but they lamented the exchange rate of Dollars for a Naira as the reason of the slow pace. The road contract was later reviewed on June 22, 2022 to be completed at the cost of twenty-nine billion Naira (N29,826,449,000.00) in four months duration time. Our correspondent traveled who traveled to Mubi from Yola and saw AG Vision heavy-duty trucks working on the road in a slow pace. He witnessed the gory experience when embarking on a journey on the road for any commuter or person to travel from Yola to Mubi, the Adamawa commercial town as the road is hard to ply. Our correspondent saw a self-helper, Malam Sama'ila who availed himself of

the potholes on the road between Maraban Mubi to Mubi by easing the navigation of the road by drivers. Sama'ila expressed worries that AG Vision has not done much in trying to help the communities of Adamawa State, explaining that the level of work done is below expectation. A business man, Sani Hama Fablus in Mubi, granted an interview to our correspondent and lamented how the road became a nightmare for everyone using it. He said one has to spend hours from wherever or whichever direction, either into or out of Mubi. He expressed worries that the dilapidated nature of the road is hampering businesses from thriving, as well as claiming lives of many Adamawa people daily through accidents.

Hamisu while drawing the attention of the Federal Government, said the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari reviewed the money upwards and deadline for job completion, lamenting that the work done is not up to fifty per cent and it is four months left, going by the extended time. Hamisu said it's corruption at play and AG Vision is becoming a conduit pipe of some few Nigerians using the road as a milking cow at the detriment of millions of people. "Despite many efforts made by the two past Secretaries to the Government of the Federation (SGFs), many notable Nigerians, especially those from Adamawa to see to the completion of the road, nothing much is being done to finish. It's just corruption at work and the beneficiaries are using the AG Vision." He



Alhaji Ibrahim Dende Egungbohun: A Philanthropist Par Excellence, Business Magnate

By; SOLANKE AYOMIDEJI
TAIWO

Alhaji Ibrahim Dende Egungbohun, born on March 3rd, 1970 in Igbo Atan, Ebute Igbooro, Yewa North, is a prominent Nigerian businessman and entrepreneur known for his successful ventures in various sectors. He hails from Ebute-Igbooro in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Early Life and Education:

Alhaji Ibrahim Dende was born and raised in Ebute-Igbooro, located in the Yewa axis of Ogun State. He received his primary education at Saints John Anglican Primary School and later attended Ebute Secondary School. Additionally, he pursued further education by enrolling in various online courses. Notably, he obtained a Master's Class in Leadership from the Commonwealth University and acquired knowledge in Business Art and Technology from the London Graduate School. Throughout his career, he continuously expanded his expertise by completing several business courses online.

Career:

Alhaji Ibrahim Dende began his career in the field of clearing and forwarding, gradually diversifying his business interests into multiple sectors. He demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial skills and successfully ventured into hospitality, quarry and mining, automobile sales, and real estate. His company, IBD-Impex, has become one of the fastest-growing privately-owned companies in Nigeria. Under the subsidiary, IBD Hotels, he has established a leading brand in the hospitality industry within Ogun State. Through his business endeavors, Alhaji Ibrahim Dende has made significant contributions to the local economy, generating employment opportunities and actively supporting the communities in Yewa land.

Personal Life:

In addition to his professional achievements, Alhaji Ibrahim Dende enjoys a fulfilling personal life. He is happily married and blessed with children. Furthermore, he is widely recognized for his selfless philanthropic activities, which reflect his commitment to giving back to society.

Awards and Recognition:

Alhaji Ibrahim Dende has received numerous accolades and honors from



prestigious organizations, both locally and internationally. His philanthropic ventures and exceptional contributions to society have garnered recognition and appreciation. Notable among the awards he has received are the Chartered Fellowship Award from the International Association of World Peace Advocates, the Outstanding Award from the Oduduwa Development Initiatives, and the Distinguished Merit Award from the Yewa People Development Council. His dedication to serving humanity

and supporting noble causes has also been acknowledged by organizations such as the Lions International Abeokuta Lions Club, the National Community Ethics and Value Environmental Compliance Corps, and the Arewa Gamji Emirate Royal Council.

Alhaji Ibrahim Dende's commitment to excellence in business, community development, and philanthropy has made him a respected figure and a source of inspiration in Yewa land and beyond. His remarkable achievements

and positive impact continue to shape the lives of many, making him a role model for aspiring entrepreneurs and a beacon of hope in his community.

Furthermore, Alhaji Ibrahim Dende is the founder of the IBD Foundation, a charitable organization that has transformed the lives of many individuals. With the support of his wife, Omolara Egungbohun, and the Managing Director of IBD Hotels, the foundation has made a significant difference in the lives of those in need.

Adumein: Unsung Warrior Goes To The Supreme Court

By Owei Lakemfa

JUSTICE Moore Abraham Aseimo Adumein is one of the eleven new Justices of the Supreme Court to be sworn-in today, February 26, 2024. Some who knew him, in his younger days, did not believe he would move to the bench, not to talk of climbing to the apex court.

This is because he was a very intelligent science student and mainly an environmentalist working in the Niger Delta, including as research assistant to his benefactor, Dr. B. Idoniboye-Obu, taking samples of polluted waters and soils, and helping villagers to build their cases for remediation and compensation.

He was a rights' activist who wanted justice for the Nigerian nationalities, in what later became known as "resource control". In those days, he and some of us, including Chief Alex Ekiotene and Reverend Dadikumo Odondiri, learnt at the feet of the great Niger Delta leader, Pa George Weikezie, whose home in Apapa, Lagos, was open to all.

He was part of the movement that agitated for the creation of a new state out of Rivers State. When Bayelsa State was eventually created on October 1, 1996, he was consulted to be the pioneer Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice. But that was not to be.

Adumein was also very close to the Grand Old Man of Minority Rights in Nigeria, Chief Harold Dappa-Biriye. When the latter founded the Association of Mineral Producing Areas of Rivers State (AMPARS) to agitate for minority rights, as he had done during the 1957 Willinks Commission, Adumein was its youngest member and research officer.

The AMPARS agitation, amongst others, led to the June 25, 1992 establishment of the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) as a special intervention agency in Nigeria. OMPADEC transformed in 2000 into the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Adumein, walking in the footsteps of his mentor, Chief Dappa-Biriye, became a national delegate of the National Republican Convention (NRC), one of the two parties decreed into existence by the Babangida regime. It was here he displayed what can be described as his 'Audacity of Hope'.

The Babangida regime had proclaimed that it wanted to hand over to "New Breed Politicians" and a young Adumein stretched this when he decided to run for the national chairmanship of the party after it was zoned to the South. Incredibly, his

candidacy gained traction. The media dubbed him 'The Eaglet National Chairmanship Candidate'.

On the eve of the party's national convention, the then Chief of Staff, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, addressed the NRC caucus. Adumein was told that the regime was interested in Chief Tom Ikimi, whose candidacy had been declared. He was asked to step down and that he would be compensated. He agreed to step down but said he was not interested in any compensation.

Perhaps, the regime did not believe him, because early in the morning of the convention, the secret police took over his hotel room.

They had come to 'escort' him to the convention venue. Three of the men remained inside his room, while he took his bath and dressed. The armed men took him straight to the convention stage where shouts of "Rivers! Rivers!! Rivers!!!", as he was known amongst delegates, rented the air. He announced that he was stepping down, and raised the hand of Chief Ikimi, who was later elected party national chairman along with other candidates on Adumein's list. Adumein was the best, academically, in his primary, secondary and higher schools. He was also a Senior Prefect at Awori/Ajeromi Grammar School, Agboju, Lagos, and President of the Law Society, University of Lagos. He has received many academic and non-academic awards, both in Nigeria and overseas.

He was part of the movement that agitated for the creation of a new state out of Rivers State. When Bayelsa State was eventually created on October 1, 1996, he was consulted to be the pioneer Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice. But that was not to be.

In 2002, he was appointed a High Court Judge in Bayelsa State and, in 2010, elevated to the Court of Appeal where he served in several Divisions and became the Presiding Justice, first of Ibadan Division and, later, Yola Division.

The Court of Appeal, with Adumein presiding, and Justices Gyarazama Sanga Bitrus and Ganiyu Lateef Adebayo as Justices, on November 17, 2023, upheld the nullification of Kano State Governor Abba Yusuf's election. The main basis was that Yusuf was not a



member of the NNPP – the political party that purportedly sponsored him contrary to Section 177(c) of the Constitution. Adumein held that: "A person must be a member of a political party before he can be sponsored for an election. Sponsorship without membership is like putting something on nothing."

Some years ago, Adumein told me in an emotion-laden voice that he went from the back waters of environmentally-degraded Rivers to the rough life of Ajegunle (Jungle City) in Lagos; through the hardship he endured in Warri and Port Harcourt, he found himself under the glittering lights of Hong Kong doing post-graduate studies, he could not but marvel at God's hand in his life.

The ruling turned controversial when the certified true copy was contrary, obviously the result of a mix up. There was an instant media trial of the Justices, even without hearing from them or giving them the benefit of the doubt. Things got as ridiculous as some lawyers petitioning the United Nations! The Court's Chief Registrar, in reaction, explained it was a mistake and that "Order 23 Rule 4 of the Court of Appeal Hand Book" empowers the court to correct such errors.

The subsequent Supreme Court decision on the Kano State case, raised more questions than answers. It might go the way of the controversial 1979 "Twelve Two-thirds" judgement that cannot be cited as a judicial precedent.

As if he had premonition of what was to happen in his last days on the Court of Appeal bench, Adumein, in 2012, held in the case of Sijuade v. Oyewole that: "A tribunal or court is not a science laboratory where facts, issues and matters can be tried, tested and resolved with scientific certainty or

exactitude...Courts only apply the test of 'a reasonable man' which is prone to human errors. Even in a scientific test, errors are not completely eliminated or ruled out...That Judges are fallible is a matter of ancient acclamation and acknowledgement... Judges will continue to acknowledge their fallibility, as only God is omniscient and infallible."

Justice Adumein is a survivalist having been knocked down many times, but each time, like a great boxer, he rises from the canvas to continue fighting; he never gives up.

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Upon being called to the Bar, and after his National Youth Service, Adumein was the pioneer junior legal practitioner in the well-known law firm of E. C. Ukala & Co. (Efe Chambers), Port Harcourt, Rivers State, where he was groomed under the tutelage of Emmanuel C. Ukala, SAN.

Some years ago, Adumein told me in an emotion-laden voice that he went from the back waters of environmentally-degraded Rivers to the rough life of Ajegunle (Jungle City) in Lagos; through the hardship he endured in Warri and Port Harcourt, he found himself under the glittering lights of Hong Kong doing post-graduate studies, he could not but marvel at God's hand in his life.

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Football Has Power To Unite Us, Hence Leveraging On It - PS Homes' Boss

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Group Managing Director of PS Homes and Properties, Dr. Taiwo Paul Olukunle has described football as strong unifying factor of among Nigerians.

Dr Olukunle said this while signing Ibadan based Yoruba Sports presenter, Babatunde Saheed, Mr. Sport as a brand ambassador of his firm.

According to him, the recently held AFCON has better shown the strong unifying factor of football to most Nigerians, saying, apart from serving as a means of entertainment, football is regarded as a strategic marketing tool that brands can employ to warm themselves into the mind of their loyal fans.

"Interestingly, many brands across the world that recognised these benefits have tapped into football marketing through sponsorship, enabling them to leverage the enthusiasm and loyalty of the die-hard football fans to market their products and services", he said

Dr Olukunle added, "Sports has a spirit that gives joy and happiness, and when we're talking about the key that binds family together, is love, and that's the spirit of sportsmanship, so if we can take the joy in sports and leveraging it into real estate, because the purpose of real estate is to provide shelter for father, mother and children, so if there's love and joy we have a very good family."

"A country like Nigeria with more than 250 ethnic groups and 250 million people can be divided along ethno-religious lines, but AFCON has the power to bring us together."

The GM PS Homes and Properties stressed, "At a time of growing hardship and insecurity in Nigeria, one in which there is real, deep mistrust and disillusionment among much of the population with the government, AFCON serves as a reminder that there is something good that can come from the country. There is still something to celebrate."



Dr. Paul Olukunle with a friend

UC Rusal Remains Major Shareholder In ALSICON - MD

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

UC Rusal has said that it remains the majority shareholder in Aluminum Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSICON), saying it will contest any claim affecting its title to share in the

company.

This is as it expressed sadness over the false statement deliberately published in various news media to discredit it as the major stakeholders in the company.

A statement by the Managing Director,

Mr Dmitry Zavyalov made available to New Nigerian in Uyo on Friday, said it is currently negotiating with the Nigeria government on resumption of operations at ALSICON.

The statement further said that neither the ALSICON nor UC RUSAL was party to the proceedings of the Supreme Court ruling on the 26th of January, 2024 which ruled in favour of BFIG

"It came to our knowledge that on January 26, 2024, the Supreme Court of Nigeria ruled in favour of BFIG claiming that the Bureau of Public Enterprises failed to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court of 2012. Neither ALSICON nor another company of UC RUSAL group is party to the these proceedings. UC RUSAL through its subsidiaries continues to be the majority stakeholders' of ALSICON and fully exercise it right over the company.

"UC RUSAL will vigorously contest any claim affecting its title to share in ALSICON. As of this day, UC RUSAL is continuing negotiations with the government of Nigeria on resumption of

operations at ALSICON.

"The restart is subject to government's guarantee of uninterrupted gas supply at a price acceptable for the project economics and is dependent on ensuring the safety and stability of the operational process by all involved parties.

"BPE representing the government being the minority shareholder of ALSICON is well informed about the current state of the plant by way of participating in the regular board meetings.

"In the absence of the opportunity to get acquainted with the full text of the Supreme Court decision delivered on 26 January, 2024, UC RUSAL shall not comment on rumours.

"Deliberately false statements published in various media manipulate facts and public opinion which effectively prevent UC RUSAL, as the majority shareholder of the ALSICON, from doing business in Nigeria and the mutual efforts of UC RUSAL and the government aimed at restart of production are discredited

"We urge leaders of state and traditional authorities to realize the risks in connection with the dissemination and publication of distorted information about ALSICON and to trust only official sources," the statement said.



Isaiah Benjamin's Capacity As SWAN President Intact, Impeachment Report Non-Existing, Mere Figment - NEC

**Says 12 out of 16-member NEC solidly behind the President*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has dismissed claims by few disgruntled elements, that Mr. Isaiah Benjamin has been impeached.

A statement from the SWAN National Secretariat in Abuja on Tuesday February 27, 2024, issued by the Association's Secretary-General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, categorically stated that at no time did NEC meet to suspend the SWAN President, talk more of contemplating his impeachment.

The statement described a certain communicate by few persons as lacking in substance, non-existing and mere figment as 12 out of 16-member NEC as presently constituted are solidly behind the SWAN President.

"By this clarification, the public has been well-informed to disregard any information not emanating from the National Secretariat of SWAN, with headquarters in Abuja.

"Professional SWAN members and indeed unsuspecting public are also alerted not to fall prey of

these elements who have been constituting and parading illegality as they may go further in using the name of the Association for any fraudulent activities.

"Already, the S W A N National Leadership has contacted relevant enforcement agencies on their activities in a view to check them," the statement said.

The statement also called on teaming S W A N members across the 36 states of the Federation and FCT to remain focused as well as go about their duties without any contemplation whatsoever.

"Currently, efforts by the SWAN

leadership are on to hold statutory annual Full Council where necessary discussions will be made and decisions reached as appropriate.

"We also want to use this opportunity to commend the firm character of SWAN executive and members in all states in Nigeria, who have refused to be

cowed or derailed. We will surely continuously live up to expectation of ensuring equity, fair and just leadership," the statement added.



SWAN President, Isaiah Benjamin

Sardaunan Bade Unity Cup Set to Unite Youth In Yobe North

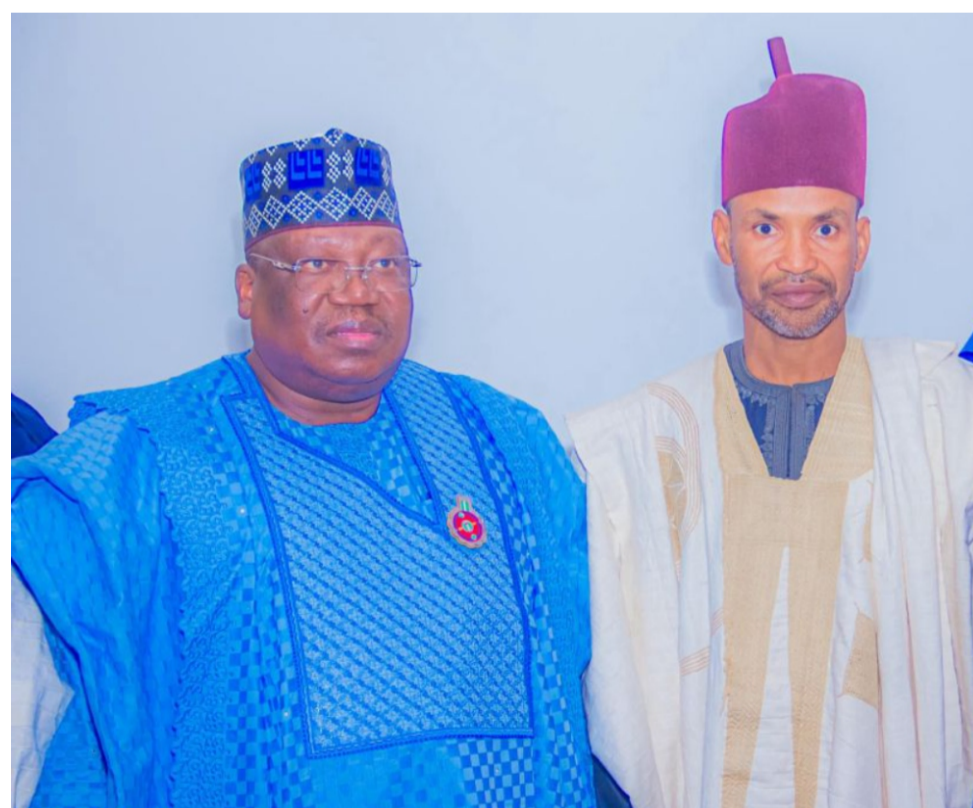
By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In an effort to foster unity and promote sportsmanship among the youth of Yobe State, Engr Hassan Mohammed Dan Madamin Yusufari is organizing the Sardaunan Bade Unity Cup.

This football competition aims to honour the exemplary service of Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan GCON, President of the 9th Senate at the National Assembly, for his outstanding representation of Yobe North Senatorial District and Nigeria as a whole.

Football, known for its ability to bring people together and provide a platform for relaxation and camaraderie, will serve as the medium through which the youth of Yobe North Senatorial District will come together in friendly competition.

The tournament also seeks to



promote the standard of sports in Yobe State and encourage a

sense of commitment and teamwork among the

the prestigious Gashua

participants. A total of 10 football teams will be competing in the Sardaunan Bade Unity Cup, with representation from various local government areas, including Bade, Guru, Machina, Karasuwa, Yusufari, and Jakusko.

Additionally, the TY Buratai Football Academy will be participating as a visiting team, adding to the excitement and diversity of the competition.

The tournament will take place at

Township Stadium, a befitting venue to celebrate the legacy of Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan GCON and his contributions to the development of the constituency.

From infrastructural projects like airports and stadia to initiatives promoting youth and women empowerment, Sen Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan's impact on the region has been significant and enduring.

The organizer of the Sardaunan Bade Unity Cup, Engr Hassan Mohammed Dan Madamin Yusufari remains dedicated to highlighting and celebrating the positive works of Sen Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan.

Through this tournament, they aim to not only pay tribute to his service, but also create lasting legacy of unity and sportsmanship among the youth of Yobe State.

Football Has Power To Unite Us, Hence Leveraging On It - PS Homes' Boss

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IAR Commences NEMEDUSSA Module Trial For Empowering Nematologists

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University Zaria has commenced the Nematology Education in Sub Saharan Africa (NEMEDUSSA) Module trial for empowering tomorrow's Nematologists between February 27 to 29, 2024.

The training was led by external assessor, Prof. Biodun Claudius-Cole from the University of Ibadan and promoted by Dr. Bulus Julius of Crop Protection Department, Ahmadu Bello University, which marks a significant milestone in advancing nematology education in our regions.

The opening ceremony was graced by the Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. S.B. Abdu and Head of Department Crop Protection Prof. R.abi'u S. Adamu were at the opening ceremony.

The Dean and HOD appreciated the consortium for the gesture in supporting Nematology Education through equipment donations and staff training.

With eager anticipation, 500 Level students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Ahmadu Bello University will partake in the



teaching evaluation.

This module comprises 11 chapters, designed to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and skills in nematology.

Participants will earn

certificates of participation, jointly signed by Ghent University, in partnership with Ahmadu Bello University, acknowledging their dedication to advancing their understanding of nematology.

Beneficiaries extended gratitude to the European Union for their generous sponsorship, enabling the realization of the important initiative.

"As we embark on this journey of learning and discovery, we are

confident that the NEMEDUSSA Module will empower future nematologists and contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture in our region and beyond," a beneficiary said.

Ondo Tantita Boss, Asonja Hails Aiyedatiwa For Appointing Bayo Phillip Head Of Service

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Commandant of Tantita Security Services in Ondo State, Senior High Chief Idowu Asonja, has congratulated the newly appointed Acting Head of Service of Ondo State, Mr. Bayo Phillip, stressed that Governor Aiyedatiwa of Ondo State has found a troubleshooter, genius and quintessential administrator as Ondo State Head of Service.

Senior High Chief Asonja who hails from the same ward in Aheri, Ilaje Local Government with the newly appointed Head Service, confirmed to Coastal



Renaissance News correspondent that Mr. Bayo Phillip is an exceptional personality and superstar of Aheri kingdom.

"Bayo Phillip, a man of impregnable integrity and ingenuity, a man with vast administrative experience, spanning various key sectors of government, and he was the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget until his appointment as Ondo State Head of Service.

"Bayo Phillip is a man of integrity who values what is honest, true, noble, trustworthy, kind, and right,

ahead of personal gain. Characteristics of a good leader are firmly embedded in his foundation, where integrity ceases to be optional but instead becomes a way of his life.

"Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa has found a Saint, a problem solver, a golden rule ambassador of Ondo State, a quintessential administrator per excellence, a renowned public servant, a cool headed personality, a peace loving superstar and God-fearing servant of God Almighty as Head of Service of Ondo State."