

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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Ramadan 5, 1445 AH

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NAFDAC To Court
Over Refusal
To Release
Laboratory
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Since 2015, Nigeria Has Become Hell On Earth - CUPP

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- Insists Tinubu facing law of karma for roles in 2012, beyond.
- Backs state police, cautions Against abuse by governors

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has while lamenting that Nigeria has gone through hell since the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) took over power in 2015, coming along with sorrow and tears. CUPP National Secretary, High Chief Peter Ameh expressed this yesterday, in an interview with our correspondent. "Fast forward to 2015 and beyond, Nigeria has become like hell on earth, killings and bloodletting have become our new normal. The humanity in us has been benumbed. We hardly shudder anymore at the mention of more than

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NSCDC Discovers Unidentified Corpses Along Kaduna-Zaria Highway

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Makinde Mourns As Olubadan Joins Ancestors

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*Gov commiserates Olubadan in Council, late Olubadan family



From left: Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and Zonal Manager, South West, Bank of Agriculture, Mr. Adekunle Osho during a courtesy visit to the Osun State Governor by the Zonal Manager, Bank of Agriculture South West @ Governor's office, Abere, Osogbo. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Disaster Management: Kano Gov. Receives FG Donation Of Fire Fighting Equipment

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*Appreciates FG for the kind gesture as he assures judicious utilisation

Resume Work At Nigeria-Niger Border, Immigration Boss Orders Personnel

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Court Convicts Ex-NASS Member Over Defamation, Forgery, Murder Threat

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*Gets option of N.5m fine

Lagos Police Busts Kidnap Syndicate, Arrests Female Suspect, Rescues 3 Pupils

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

Luck ran out on a suspected kidnapping syndicate in Lagos on Monday, as police operatives thwarted their efforts, with the arrest of a female member of the gang.

Three pupils already kidnapped from a school by the gang were reportedly rescued by the brave and gallant operatives.

Our correspondent gathered that members of the syndicate had invaded the school premises located in Ijegan area of the state at about 3.30pm on Monday and kidnapped the children aged 4, 5, and 6 years respectively.

Following a report report at the Area "M" Command Headquarters by the headmaster of the school, detectives were said to have swung into action and gave the kidnapers a

hot chase, leading to the arrest of one of them, while others fled with a get away motorcycle.

The Lagos State Police Command Spokesperson SP Benjamin Hundeyin confirmed the incident in a release made available to journalists.

He gave the names of the rescued victims simply as Sofia, 4, Isreal, 5 and Mustapha, 6, saying that they are pre-nursery pupils and have been reunited with their families.

Hundeyin, who also identified the female suspect as one Akintola Alima, 40, hinted that investigation revealed that she abducted the children for criminal purposes and had a motorbike waiting for her on which to escape with before luck ran out on her.

The statement reads, "ON 11/03/2024 AT ABOUT 1530HRS, ONE SEGUN 'M', THE

HEADMASTER OF A SCHOOL SITUATED AT IJEGUN LAGOS, REPORTED AT AREA M AREA COMMAND THAT SOME UNKNOWN PERSONS INVADED THE SCHOOL AND ABDUCTED / KIDNAPPED THREE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL PREMISES.

"UPON THIS INFORMATION, DETECTIVES SWUNG INTO ACTION AND LED A FORMIDABLE TEAM TO THE SCENE OF CRIME.

"FURTHERMORE, THE CULPRITS WERE GIVEN A HOT CHASE, WHERE ONE AKINTOLA ALIMA 'F' AGED 40, WHO KIDNAPPED THE THREE PRE NURSERY CHILDREN WAS ARRESTED AND THE CHILDREN WERE RESCUED.

"HOWEVER, THE

OTHER UNKNOWN SUSPECTS ESCAPED WITH AN UNREGISTERED MOTORCYCLE ON SIGHTING THE POLICE.

"THE VICTIMS NAMELY ONE SOFIAT 'F' AGED 4, ISREAL 'M' AGED 5 AND MUSTAPHA 'M' AGED 6 HAVE REUNITED WITH THEIR FAMILY.

AND THE SUSPECT IS IN POLICE CUSTODY.

"INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT SHE ABDUCTED THE CHILDREN FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES AND SHE HAD A STAND BY MOTORCYCLE, NOW AT LARGE WHICH WAS WAITING FOR HER TO ESCAPE WITH THE CHILDREN BEFORE SHE WAS APPREHENDED. INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING."



Hon. Ahmad Munir

Ramadan: Be steadfast In Prayers For Country, Reps Member Munir Enjoins Constituents

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Member House of Representatives, Hon. Ahmad Munir representing Lere Federal Constituency has enjoined Muslim faithful to utilize the Ramadan period for supplication for God's divine intervention and succour for Nigeria to overcome economic hardship experienced across the country.

He underscored the potency of prayers in the Month of Ramadan, saying supplications of fasting Muslims would go a long way in getting the attention of God to specifically grant respite to Nigerians in the face of economic bottlenecks.

The federal lawmaker in a statement, also emphasized the importance and the reward of giving out alms to the needy, especially in the present economic downturn.

The member while decrying rising cost of living and its resultant effects on the masses, expressed hope that the present travails would soon

be a thing of the past with fervent prayers performed in complete faith and belief in the ability of Allah to ease pains of mankind.

"We must all admit the fact that our beloved nation is going through a trial where majority of masses find it difficult to feed as it should be.

"Times are indeed difficult for most families who have a number of mouths to feed and cater for.

"We must not lose hope and become overwhelmed by our current challenges which are not beyond the control of our Creator Who has enjoined us in several verses of the scriptures to turn to Him in repentance and intercessions whenever we encounter difficulties in life.

"I am optimistic that our present situation will soon be transient because Nigerians are known for their resilience rooted in adherence in the worship of God Almighty.

"I therefore, call on us to endeavour to be steadfast in prayers for our country in this holy Month of dawn to dusk fast," he added.



The suspected kidnapper and the rescued pupils

FCE Gusau Lecturers Commence Indefinite Strike, Demand Provost Removal

By; ADAM MUHAMMAD, Gusau

The Academic Staff of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau in Zamfara State have embarked on an indefinite strike, calling for the immediate removal of the Provost of the College, Mrs Hauwa'u Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim.

A statement signed by the chairman of the Academic Staff Union of the College, Dr. Abdullahi Muhammad on Wednesday, explained that the provost is not qualified for the position and must resign before they would return to work.

He added that members of the union would not be able to work under a provost

that has been declared unqualified and unsuitable by the Federal Ministry of Education.

"The Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) FCET Gusau chapter held its congress meeting on March 12, 2024.

"The union members have resolved to suspend all academic and administrative activities until the Federal Ministry of Education's directives over the vexed appointment of Dr (Mrs.) Hauwa'u Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim as the substantive provost of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau are implemented and she should resign and

hand over to the most senior academic staff in the college". The statement contended.

It explained that Dr. (Mrs.) Hauwa'u Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim took appointment as the substantive provost of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau on August 14, 2023.

"On her assumption as the substantive Provost of the college, the attention of the union (COEASU) was drawn to the petition labelled against her by a human rights group (Equity Alliance) demanding for cancellation of her appointment as substantive provost of the college on the ground of misrepresentation of forged

document.

"We noticed that the implication of the allegation is that, it is a gross violation of section 2.8 of the revised condition of service (2015) of the Federal Colleges of Education in Nigeria and the requirements in the advertisement placed on the position of the provost.

"Therefore, our members will not be able to work under a provost that has been declared unqualified and unsuitable by the Federal Ministry of Education.

"The decision was taken in good faith to protect the integrity of the college as a teacher training institution which is guided by the rule of law". It said.

Education: Gov Nwifuru To Remodel 39 Schools As Moral Reset Factory

By; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

Ebonyi State Government has approved the upgrade of 39 secondary schools in the state into model schools to serve as moral reset factories for the children of the state.

The Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Mr Jude Chikadibia Okpor, disclosed this on Wednesday, while briefing journalist on the outcome of Tuesday's State Executive Council Meeting, which is the first for the year.

According to the Information Commissioner, Okpor, the state Executive Council also approved the introduction of the Spelling Bee, a perimeter survey of public primary and secondary schools in the state to avoid encroachment, which according to him, is gradually becoming a recurrent issue in state-owned facilities.

He said, "Keeping to the tenets of His Excellency's People's Charter of Needs policy, especially in the area of quality education, the EXCO after thorough deliberation, approved the upgrade of thirty-nine (39) Secondary Schools in the state to Model Schools, with each local government allocated three. The schools at completion will not only be citadels of learning but

will serve as moral reset factories for Ebonyi children..

"Considering the benefits of spelling drills to the basic stages of educational development, the EXCO approved the introduction of a Spelling Bee for primary and secondary schools.

"The council also approved the perimeter survey of public primary and secondary schools in the state to avoid encroachment, which is gradually becoming a recurrent issue in state-owned facilities," he said.

He further noted that Exco has directed a total seal off of the illegal mining sites to ensure the safety of the lives of the people within the area.

"In a bid to permanently put an end to all illegal mining in Ameka, Ezza South LGA, particularly at Community Primary School, Amajim, the council constituted an EXCO Committee comprising the Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Honourable Commissioners for Solid Minerals, Lands & Survey, Commerce and Industry, Education (primary and secondary), and directed a total seal off of the illegal mining sites, and subsequent establishment of fortified security to ensure safety of lives of the people of the area"

Budget Padding: PRP Senatorial Candidate Condemns Suspension Of Sen Ningi

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

A Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Kaduna North Senatorial Candidate in the 2023 elections, Abdullahi Ahmed Wakili, has strongly condemned what he described as the hasty suspension of Senator Abdul Ahmed Ningi by the Nigerian Senate.

According to him, the allegation of budget padding, amounting to a staggering three trillion Naira, is of utmost concern and should be thoroughly investigated before arriving at any conclusions.

In a statement he personally issued on Wednesday in Kaduna, he observed, "I strongly condemn the hasty suspension of esteemed Senator Abdul Ahmed Ningi by the Nigerian Senate. While we must uphold the integrity of our legislative body, it is crucial to ensure due

process and fairness. The allegations of budget padding, amounting to a staggering 3 trillion Naira, are of utmost concern and should be thoroughly investigated before arriving at any conclusions."

Suspending Senator Ningi, according to him without a proper inquiry might give rise to suspicions that the Senate is attempting to conceal any potential wrongdoings.

"We must maintain transparency and accountability in our governance, and this includes addressing allegations of financial misconduct," he stated.

He urged the Nigerian Senate to reconsider their decision and allow for a comprehensive investigation into the claims made by Senator Ningi, saying that it would not only strengthen the credibility of the country's institutions but also ensure that the voices of



Abdullahi Ahmed Wakili, PRP 2023 Senatorial candidate in Kaduna North general elections

concerned citizens are heard and addressed. He believed, "In doing so, we can foster a more just and responsible government that serves the interests of all Nigerians."

Adegoke To Nigerians: Continue To Support, Pray For Success Of Tinubu, Other Political Leaders

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman of Solution 93.9 FM and the Aare-Onibon Balogun of Ibadan land, Chief Adegboyega Adegoke on Wednesday, called on Nigerians to continue to support and pray for the success of President Bola Tinubu and other political leaders in Nigeria

The Aare Onibon Balogun of Ibadanland made the call while supporting 200 widows with total sum of N5,000,000 at N25,000 per widow in the holy month of Ramadan and Lent.

He emphasised that there is the need for Nigerians to be patient with President Tinubu and use this period of Ramadan and Lent to offer prayers for God to guide the political leaders aright so that the economy can bounce back.

Chief Adegoke maintained that both Islamic and Christianity religions teach their adherents to always support and pray for people in power and that



Chief Adegboyega with one of the beneficiaries

this becomes necessary considering the fact that if the government performs well, it will make the economy to be in good shape and all citizens will benefit from a sound economy.

"It is just to help humanity. We have done it before and we will continue doing it. I just feel like helping the needy. We should assist our mothers especially the widows during this Ramadan and Lent", he

said.

The Aare Onibon Balogun added, "People incur a lot of expenses during these period. Also, even before the Ramadan and Lent many people have been finding it difficult to feed themselves".

"During these period, it is expected that we take care of the needy and that was what facilitated the programme".

He stressed that the prayer for the success of the

governments at both the federal and State levels is very important especially during these holy periods. A total of N5M at N25,000 per widow was disbursed at the brief ceremony, noting that the token given to widow has no political undertone with the beneficiaries praying for the safe protection of Chief Adegoke's life and prayed for the progress of Solution FM.



Gov Nwifuru

Ajadi Felicitates Muslims, Holds Ramadan Lecture April 6

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Achieftain of the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) and Chairman of Bullion Records, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo on Tuesday, congratulated the Muslim Ummah across the country on they commence the month of Ramadan 1445.

Ajadi also said that as part of ways to enhance piety and to imbibe the spirit of Ramadan, his company, the Bullion Records will be organizing a Ramadan Lecture titled "Submit Yourself For Whom God Has Shown Mercy To". The NNPP chieftain in a statement, described the holy month of Ramadan as a blessed month in which Allah rewards the worship of the Muslim Ummah, charged Muslims to increase their prayers for the country.

Ambassador Ajadi in the statement called for increased prayers for the country due to the

economic hardship currently being faced by the people, saying prayers are of greater essence at this time to turn things around in the country.

He then urged Muslims to demonstrate the lessons of love, kindness and good neighbourliness as taught by Prophet Mohammed, urging those who have enough to remember their neighbours, saying more people are going through hard times.

On the Ramadan Lecture, Ambassador Ajadi said it is the second in the series, which will hold at Torotoro Quarters, Ibafo, Ogun State on April 6, 2024 between the hours of 12 in the afternoon to 6.30pm in the evening.

The guest lecturer is the Chief Tafser of Ilorin Emirate, Al - Adoby, Alfa Usman Sannu Sheu while the lecture will also feature musicians such as Alhaja Modinat Ashabi Barrytide; Alhaji Kehinde Oriyomi Abdul Lateef; Femo Lancaster; Tope Indomie among others.

Kano Electric Assures Of Better Services Across Franchise States

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Kano Electricity Distribution Company (KEDCO) has reassured its customers of improved power supply across franchise states despite some challenges.

This was disclosed by the acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company, Alhaji Abubakar Yusuf at a press conference held on Tuesday at the company's head office in Kano.

He stressed that KEDCO

is trying to meet the customers demands of constant electricity supply in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa states, where he urged the customers to exercise more patience as the company is making good efforts towards achieving the mission.

He added that, "we are making advancements in tackling major obstacles that retard our efforts and from what is going on, our services would reach everywhere despite many challenges affecting the company's zeal and

determination to better services, but we are succeeding," he stressed.

Abubakar Yusuf reiterated that KEDCO is having various issues that are affecting its determination to supply power although the company requires 600 megawatts, but only gets 180 megawatts, which is a great challenge.

He lamented that other challenges affecting the company include lack of prompt payment of electricity bills and vandalism of equipment by unpatriotic elements, but assured that

they are making efforts to actualize their objectives of providing constant power supply.

Responding to the alleged diverting of power supply to some selected industrial areas, Abubakar Yusuf announced that the company operates on bands which are based on the capacity of the consumers and according to him, this will not deter constant electricity supply as all hands remain on deck to ensure that KEDCO reached everywhere without bias.



Kogi Assembly Confirms 2 Commissioner Nominees, 50 Special Advisers

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Kogi State House of Assembly has confirmed the appointment of two commissioner nominees sent to the law making body by the governor of the state, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo.

The confirmation came on Tuesday by the eight, during the House plenary in Lokoja.

The commissioner nominees that received the blessing of the hallowed chamber were, Dr. Adeniyi Helen Aderibigbe, (Ijumu) and

Atuluku Levi Victor, from Omala State Constituency. Imbued by the ecstasy of the lawmakers blessing shortly after confirmation, Dr Adeniyi Helen Aderibigbe who spoke to newsmen, promised to put in her best in realizing the campaign promises of the present administration.

Dr. Aderibigbe cowed to commit her resources to tje development of the state through her commitment to do the state and Nigeria proud through hard work and diligent to her duties.

"As the name of my ministry implies innovation, so the first

thing to be brought in is innovation. We will review what is on ground. Actually, is a new ministry, but is not a strange ministry.

"There has been precedent as it regards the ministry. We will study what is on ground, take our own review, see areas that improvement has to be put in. If there is need for change, we will change. If there is need for restructuring we will restructure" the new commissioner assured.

" We will study every problem on ground, then we device means of

providing solution for the problem. For us this are the technology aspects of it. I want to see Kogi State that other states will be emulating in term of technological improvement" She added. The Assembly also approved 50 special advisers to serve under the Government of Kogi State.

It could be recalled that the Kogi State Governor Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo had written to the house to confirm 50 special advisers to work in his cabinet.



Ambassador Ajadi

Since 2015, Nigeria Has Become Hell On Earth - CUPP

- Says Buhari headed most corrupt provincial government in history of Nigeria
- Insists Tinubu facing law of karma for roles in 2012, beyond.
- Backs state police, cautions Against abuse by governors

one hundred and fifty persons killed in a single night.

"The APC government that President Tinubu brought to power in 2015 brought with it sorrow and tears. Hardship became the order of the day, coupled with rising inflation. Corruption which was in single digit under Jonathan rose to close to triple digits under Buhari.

"And now Tinubu has taken the helm of affairs, the situation has not improved and is not improving. It is getting worse by the day, and exchange rate of the naira to the dollar nearing two thousand naira to the dollar. President Tinubu has always been prepared for the office," he said.

According to him, "the performance of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's predecessor in office was so dreadful and appalling that he has been reputed to be the president that has superintended the most corrupt and provincial government in the history of Nigeria, mortgaging our future and going home with whatever that would have survived us in the present.

"The second reason is the law of karma and retribution which is playing a part in the happenings now because of the ignoble role President Tinubu played in 2012 and beyond," CUPP Secretary said. Fielding a question whether Tinubu was prepared for the presidency, or has been overwhelmed, he said, he is facing the Law of Karma.

"You are talking about the grab 2023 presidential election, there is this Biblical quote that says, 'He who plans evil shall see destruction waiting for him at his doorstep'. I remember that in 2012

when President Goodluck Jonathan was in power, there was this attempt to remove the fuel subsidy which was vehemently and fiercely resisted by ex Governor Tinubu as he then was and others including Prof. Wole Soyinka, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, as he then was, and others.

"There was also this conspiracy of the elites, especially the Northern elements, led by former Governor Nasir el-Rufai, Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, etc in collaboration with their South West partners to remove President Goodluck. At that time, life in Nigeria was still bearable to the ordinary Nigerian, except the Boko Haram menace in Borno and Yobe states, which was also encouraged by these elements to help make Goodluck's government ungovernable and normal sundry criminality here and there," he pointed out.

On if state police will solve the present insecurity bedeviling the country, he said that it would be a step in the right direction.

"Let us begin on the premise that every crime is local, the law preventing such crime and their enforcement should be local too. The challenges are local and thus require local solutions. I am of the opinion that state police should be the starting point for restructuring of the country.

"Nigeria has been yearning for this in the last fifty-four years. The centralisation of authority as a result of the unitary federalism that was forcefully imposed on us by the military both before and in the 1999 constitution as Amended has

resulted to the stunted economic and democratic growth of Nigeria, but also in the insecurity that has enveloped the country.

"I feel that with the introduction of state police, the locals and indigenes who will constitute one hundred per cent of the force will fully and faithfully take custody and the fate of their locality and state into their hands by ensuring that no criminal entity from within and without the locality and state are given any breathing space, and the idea of waiting for order or permission from Abuja before major operations are carried out will come to an end but must be made that the legislation is well drafted to prevent abuse by the state governors and my being apprehensive is due to what the state governors have done to prevent smooth running of state independent Electoral Commission (SIECS) to conduct an inclusive, transparent and credible election process for Local Elections," he said.

On the current economic hardship resulting to hunger in the land, he blamed ex President Buhari.

"The hunger and starvation ravaging our land did not start today. The genesis could be traced to 2015 when President Buhari, as he then was, assisted by the current President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, ascended to power under the platform of APC.

"The then President Buhari came with a hateful and vengeful mind and attitude, consigning whatever thing that was good from the outgone PDP government into the trash can.

"He imposed his provincial and

religiously bigoted bent on the nation, alienating a majority of the citizens from participating in Nigeria's affairs, elevating nepotism to an art, elevating the rights of animals such as cows and rams herded by his fulani kinsmen way and beyond the constitutionally and God given rights of ordinary Nigerian.

"Herders/farmers clashes became the new normal and killer herdsmen were literally given the marching orders to go, conquer, and occupy the Middle Belt region including Southern Kaduna, Taraba State, which are reputed and recognised as the food basket of the nation, and the forest Southern Nigeria.

"These areas became afflicted with unending killings and bloodletting. Farmers who hitherto depend on agriculture for their livelihoods were either killed, kidnapped for ransom, or forcefully removed from their ancestral inheritance by these cold blooded murderers.

"With the above violent setting orchestrated by President Buhari, coupled with the desertification that had ravaged the far North, farmers, both commercial and subsistence farmers, were driven out of their vocation, leading to low output in production thus necessitating the astronomical rise in the cost of agricultural products which has gone beyond the purchasing power of both the average and unaverage Nigerian, and now recently exacerbated by the now famous "subsidy is gone" that has pushed the cost of goods and services to levels that are pushing Nigerians to great beyond prematurely," he alleged.

Gov Ododo Calls For More Funding Of Tertiary Institutions In Kogi

Continued from Backpage

Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja, College of Education, Ankpa, College of Education (Technical), Mopa".he said.

That notwithstanding, "we will continue to seek your support for intervention in developing critical infrastructure in our tertiary educational institutions to help in advancing our agenda for accelerated human capital development in the state," Ododo added.

The governor who appreciated TETFUND for its previous interventions

in the state's owned higher institutions, however, noted that the state government is in need of more interventions for its tertiary educational institutions especially under the Special High Impact Intervention Fund by the organization.

He restated his administration's agenda for human capital development, emphasized that education remains the most important catalyst for the development of any society.

He gave assurances that his

administration will promote key priority areas in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) in all the higher institutions in the state to ensure that no child of school age is left behind in the state.

In his welcome address, the Executive Secretary of TETFUND, Sonny Echono, commended Governor Ododo for his servant – leadership approach to governance, describing him as a hands-on leader who has put himself forward in the

service of the people of the state.

He promised that TETFUND will continue to support Kogi State through its interventions in tertiary education to enhance the governor's vision of accelerated human capital development in the state.

Ododo was accompanied on the visit to TETFUND by the state commissioner for education, Hon. Wemi Jones and the Vice Chancellor, Kogi State University, Kabba, Professor K.I.T. Eniola.

SAHCO PLC Appoints Director Of Finance/Admin, General Manager, Cargo Services

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Board of the Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) PLC, has confirmed the appointment of Adegbesan Abiodun as Executive Director of Finance and Administration.

Adegbesan Abiodun Olugbenga is a highly accomplished seasoned professional in the realms of Accounting and Finance, boasting a wealth of qualifications and a career spanning over thirty years.

The foundation for his career commenced with a BSc (Hons) in Accounting from the University of Ilorin in 1989, followed by an MBA in Finance from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology in 2008.

Additionally, his fellowship statuses in prestigious professional bodies such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA) and the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (FCIT), Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management (CIPDM) alongside certifications as a Chartered Certified Forensic Investigator (CCPI) and Chartered Certified Forensic Accountant (CCrFA), attest to his commitment to continuous learning and development.

Throughout his career, Adegbesan has held pivotal roles, notably at the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria in the Directorate of Finance and Accounts where he served as General Manager of Credit Control and General Manager of Budget.

A statement signed by the Head, Corporate Communications, Skyway Aviation Handling Company PLC (SAHCO), Mrs Adetola Vanessa Uansohia, said that in addition, he handled a lot of assignments in resolving Inter-Agency issues and Revenue improvement and cost effectiveness.

These positions demanded

exceptional proficiency in financial management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership. His adeptness in navigating both public and private sectors, demonstrated by his earlier role with the Great Commission Movement of Nigeria as a Management Accountant, underscores his role versatile capabilities.

Adegbesan's professional acumen is complemented by his interpersonal finesse, evident in his adeptness at fostering relationships with stakeholders and his aptitude for problem solving and process improvement.

By this appointment, Adegbesan is to oversee both the Finance department and Admin department of Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) PLC. Similarly, Donald Adekunle has been appointed as the General Manager, Cargo Services, having served with Emirates Airlines for 17 years as Cargo Manager, Nigeria.

He is a graduate of the University of Agriculture, Markurdi with a degree in Food Technology and Masters degree in Business Administration and Human Resources from the University of Ado Ekiti.

With a strong leadership skills and ability to manage teams for result stems from his educational background. Along with specialized training programs like Project Management from Regenesys Business School (South Africa) (2022), a PG Diploma in Supply Chain Management from Westford University College, Dubai (2020), and a Senior Management Program (SMP17) at the Lagos Business School, Lagos.

Donald has an outstanding career spanning more than 26 years in the air freight and logistics space. He is widely regarded as a model professional in this area due to his unwavering commitment to the

intricacies of managerial oversight, strategic planning, and general cargo operations.

By this appointment, he is responsible for spearheading the advancement of airfreight within the Import and Export cargo operations at SAHCO.

SAHCO is an Aviation Ground Handling

company, offering services in Passenger Handling, Ramp Handling, Cargo Handling and Warehousing, Aviation security, Baggage Reconciliation, Crew Bus and Executive Lounge services and other related Ground Handling services.



Mr Abiodun Adegbesan.

Confusion As EFCC Names Yahaya Bello In Amended Corruption Allegations Perpetrated Before He Became Governor

*Ali Bello, Suleman refute EFCC's allegations in amended charges

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

There was confusion yesterday at the Federal High Court in Abuja, following amended charges filed against Alli Bello and Daudu Suleiman, including the immediate past Governor of Kogi State, in which the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) claimed they allegedly diverted about N100 billion belonging to the state government in September 2015, months before former Governor Bello assumed office as Governor.

Governor Bello was not a defendant in the original suit, and was not in court. However, Ali Bello,

currently Chief of Staff to Kogi State Governor and Dauda Suleman have denied the fraud allegations in the amended charges brought against them at the fresh arraignment yesterday in Abuja.

Their plea was taken by Justice James Kolawole Omotoso. Both Alli Bello and Dauda Suleman vehemently denied the allegations contained in the 17 counts amended charges.

Earlier, Yahaya Bello through his counsel, A.M. Aliyu, SAN, had objected to reading of the amended charges to his client.

His ground of objection was that the anti-graft agency had failed woefully to comply with

Section 218 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015. The senior lawyer submitted that a copy of the amended charges was not served on them as required by the provisions of the ACJA Act.

EECC lawyer, Rotimi Oyedepo SAN asked the court to reject the arguments of the defendant, adding that the court had on its own endorsed the amendment.

In a brief ruling, Justice Omotoso recalled that he had granted accelerated hearing in the matter and had also ordered that all forms of objections must be kept in abeyance till address stage.

He then directed the Registrar of the Court to read the amended charges.

In the first count, former Governor Yahaya Adoza Bello, Alli Bello and Dauda Suleman were accused of conspiring with each other in September 2015 and converted N80, 246, 470, 089 to their personal use.

They were alleged to have run foul of section 18(a) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011 because they ought to have reasonably known that the money was a product of fraud and criminal breach of public trust.

In other charges, Alli Bello and Dauda Suleman were alleged to have concealed several millions of Naira with one Rabi'u Musa Tafada, a Bureau De Change BDC operator trading under Global Venture in Abuja.

Alli Bello's counsel, Aliyu SAN, at this point, applied that one of the EFCC witnesses, Edward Fanada, be recalled for fresh cross examination in view of the contents of the amended charges.

The request was granted by Justice James Kolawole Omotoso due to no opposition from the EFCC lawyer.

Meanwhile, Justice Omotoso ordered that Alli Bello and Dauda Suleman should continue to enjoy the bail conditions granted them in the previous charges.



Anti-democratic Forces After INEC Chairman, Mahmood - Ohanaeze Youths

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Youth wing of the apex Igbo socio-cultural organisation, Ohanaeze Ndigbo has raised the alarm over what it called an attempt to destroy key democratic institutions in Nigeria.

The Igbo group said the main targets of the plot are the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), under Prof. Yakubu Mahmood and the Senate under Senator Godswill Akpabio.

This is coming in reaction to the demand for the resignation of both Mahmood and Akpabio by a group under the aegis of United Nigerians in the Diaspora (UND).

UND had accused Mahmood of conducting what it described as sham elections and recent ugly events in the nation's polity.

On the part of Akpabio, he was accused of padding the 2024 budget.

However, in a statement by the National President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Council Worldwide, Mazi Okwu

Nnabuike, he described those behind the calls as enemies of democracy.

According to him, "it is disheartening that those who failed elections have sworn to bring every democratic institution in this country down.

"Some failed politicians have not rested ever since the 2023 elections were conducted and concluded.

"In line with extant laws, they also went to court and exhausted their legal rights.

"It is, however, curious that almost one year after, the ghost of their failure is still hunting them, hence their call for Mahmood's resignation. Their stand is that if they can't pilot the boat, they would have to rock it.

"But our question is this- why are they not also asking judges who adjudicated in the litigations to all resign from office? These cases went to court and were treated on merit.

"It is on record that no single governor was sacked by the courts, an indication that the INEC under Mahmood deserves some accolades."

Okwu urged Nigerians to



Mazi Okwu Nnabuike

rise up and defend the country's democracy from those who never meant well for the system.

"Having said this, we condemn in totality the demand by the so-called UND and whoever they represent.

"We urge the INEC chairman, Prof. Yakubu Mahmood, to ignore their

rantings and antics as they are not speaking for Nigerians but for a selfish few.

"We also call on Nigerians to stand firm in defence of our democratic institutions as these desperadoes would never rest; however, evil will never triumph over right," Okwu stressed.

Nigeria Opens Land, Air Borders With Republic Of Niger, Lifts Other Sanctions

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

President Bola Tinubu has directed the opening of Nigeria's land and air borders with the Republic of Niger.

The President has also lifted of other sanctions against the country with immediate effect.

Chief Ajuri Ngelale, Special Adviser to the President on Media & Publicity, in a statement on Wednesday said, "This directive is in compliance with the decisions of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government at its extraordinary summit on February 24, 2024, in Abuja."

The statement added, "ECOWAS leaders had agreed to lift economic sanctions against the Republic of Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and



Guinea."

The statement explained that sanction imposed on the Republic of Niger be lifted on the closure of land and air borders between Nigeria and Niger Republic, as well as ECOWAS no-fly zone on all commercial flights to and from Niger Republic. The President also lifted the suspension of all

commercial and financial transactions between Nigeria and Niger, as well as freeze of all service transactions, including utility services and electricity to Niger Republic.

The suspension of Niger, according to the statement from all financial assistance and transactions with all

financial institutions, particularly EBID and BOAD has been lifted, as well as travel bans on government officials and their family members.

"President Tinubu has also approved the lifting of financial and economic sanctions against the Republic of Guinea," the statement explained.

Oyo Anti Corruption Agency Investigates Over 300 Cases

*Recovers huge sums of money from politicians, civil/public servants, others

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman of Oyo State Anti Corruption Agency, (OYACA) Justice Eni Esan (rtd) on Wednesday, said that over 300 corruption cases have been investigated by the agency since its inception in 2021.

Justice Esan (rtd) made this known during a chat with the Oyo State Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade who paid an official visit to her office.

She stressed that the agency has made significant strides in investigating cases of corruption and that 14 cases are currently being tried while a large sum of money have been recovered from politicians, contractors, Civil/Public Servants among others.

"Corruption fighting begins with sensitization on prevention. The agency has initiated this process by educating traditional leaders, tertiary institutions in Oyo state, civil/public servants, Members of the Judiciary and other stakeholders in the campaign", she said.

Justice Esan (rtd) added, "While we are committed to zero tolerance for corruption, we also recognize the importance

of due process and ensuring that individuals are given a fair hearing to defend themselves against any allegations". She maintained that Oyo State is determined to create a culture of transparency and accountability, where corruption is reduced to the barest minimum.

Justice Esan (rtd) pointed out that states like Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Ondo, Lagos, Cross River State have come to understudy the anti-corruption blueprint of OYACA in a bid to intensify the fight against corruption in their respective states.

According to the OYACA Chairman, the Oyo State Anti corruption agency's mandate is to promote ethical conduct, preventing corrupt practices, and protecting public resources from mismanagement and embezzlement, adding that all cases brought before the Agency are treated with confidentiality.

The Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade, while responding appreciated the sensitive task of the agency and assured that the Ministry will periodically sensitize the public on the agency's activities in line with the state government's determination to rid the state of corruption.

Oborewori Tasks Varsities On Research For National Devt

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori on Tuesday, charged Nigerian universities to significantly enhance their efforts in viable research and innovation to enable them proffer solutions to the myriad of challenges bedeviling the country.

Governor Oborewori gave the charge when he received on a courtesy visit, the management of Federal University of Petroleum Resources, (FUPRE), Ugbomro, led by its Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akpofure Rim-Rukeh, at Government House, Asaba.

The governor, who commended FUPRE for their ingenuity, said his administration would continue to support education in the state as a cardinal point of his MORE Agenda.

He added that it was only when universities embark on more relevant research that they would be able to solve the peculiar challenges facing the nation, especially in their host states.

He said, "As a university, you are doing very well, but one thing I must tell you today, is to encourage the university to continue to do more relevant research.

"You find out that universities these days don't do enough research. When you research, you will be able to do more things, just like you said that you people helped to clean up a polluted village. This was done because you are doing relevant research.

"As a specialised institution, there is a lot to gain from the university. So, I encourage you to go into more relevant research."

Governor Oborewori said that with the number of functional



universities in the state, Delta was fast becoming a hub for education in the country, assuring that his administration would continue to support the growth and development of education in the state.

"I believe in education, and, like I said few days ago, you may acquire everything on this earth, those things may go but education will remain with you till death.

"The best legacy you can give to your children is education. We

want to encourage our children to focus on education. You can see that a lot of our children are always enrolling to go into these universities.

"What I have promised Deltans is that I will continue to support anything that will impact the state and education is one of them.

"You have made some requests about the road leading to the main gate of the university. The Commissioner for Works (Rural and Riverine) would go and see

how they can scope that road immediately."

Earlier, Professor Rim-Rukeh had, on behalf of the university, congratulated Governor Oborewori on his electoral victory and subsequent affirmation by the judiciary.

He said the university was established in 2007 with its first set of students admitted in 2008, adding that the student population of the University had since grown to over 10,000.

The Vice-Chancellor also said

the university had established several centres of excellence and contributed immensely to environmental reclamation and sustainability, especially in the oil pollution- affected community of Obi-Ayagha in Ughelli South Local Government Area of the state.

He assured the governor of the university's commitment to excellence in research and innovation for national development and training of Niger Delta youth on various



Court Convicts Ex-NASS Member Over Defamation, Forgery, Murder Threat

*Gets option of N.5m fine

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A former member of House of Representatives, Dr Folaranmi Oyebamiji was yesterday, sentenced to 16 months imprisonment with an option of fine by an Oyo State Chief Magistrate's Court sitting in Ogbomoso Town

The former lawmaker was found guilty of offences of conspiracy, false publication, forgery, threat to murder an Oko Town High Chief and his households, and conduct likely to cause breach of the peace.

Chief Magistrate Muedeen Salami in his 90 minutes judgment, however granted the former lawmaker a fine of N500,000 in lieu of the sentence.

The Chief Magistrate sentenced the former lawmaker to six months imprisonment on count of conspiracy with option of N150,000; three months for count 2 of false publication/defamation with fine of N150,000; six months for the offence of forgery with option of fine of N100,000; and one month for the offence of threat to murder with a fine of N100,000.

The sentence is to run concurrently, the Chief Magistrate ordered.

Chief Magistrate Salami in his judgment, sentenced the former parliamentarian to 16 months imprisonment with an option of N500,000. The convict was subsequently whisked to the Abolongo Correctional

Centre in Oyo Town pending when he could settle the awarded option of fine

It would be recalled that the former House of Representatives member from Ogbomoso South was arraigned in 2021 by the Oyo State Police Command along with a 94-year old Oko Town traditional title holder, Mathew Wojuade Ademola, and five others. They included Wojuade Gbemiga, Wojuade Philip, Bello Semiu Opeyemi, Eyolade Joshua Adewumi, and Adeniyi Idowu. They were charged with alleged conspiracy to murder High Chief Solomon Ojedayo in Oko Town, a suburb of Ogbomoso.

While the prosecutor, Mr M.A. Ojei, represented the Commissioner of Police in the charge marked MOG/190c/2021, Dr. Olutayo Oyewale holds the watching brief for the complainant, while Prince Niran Oyekale represented the defendants.

After the prosecution had called five witnesses against the defendants, the six other defendants except Oyebamiji informed the court on December 22, 2023 through Dr. Tayo Oyewale, that they had deposed to separate affidavits in Ibadan High Court Registry in which they had settled with the complainant, High Chief Solomon Ojedayo. Their names were therefore struck out from the charge, leaving Oyebamiji to open his defence to the charge brought against him.

Resume Work At Nigeria-Niger Border, Immigration Boss Orders Personnel

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

All immigration personnel deployed to the Nigeria-Niger border, have been directed to resume work.

The Comptroller-General of Immigration (CGI), Kemi Nandap, gave the directive in a statement issued by the Acting Service Public Relations Officer (PRO), Mr Kenneth Kure yesterday in Abuja.

The CGI order followed an earlier order the reopening of the borders between the two countries, which were shut down in conformity with the decision of ECOWAS by the Federal Government.

Sanctions was imposed on Niger by ECOWAS, including the closure of land and air borders, following the coup that ousted President Mahmed Bazoum.

The Comptroller-General, according to the statement, also directed all Comptrollers stationed at States and Border Commands along the Nigeria-Niger Republic border to comply promptly and lift all restrictions on human movement.

The CGI assured, "the service will continue to facilitate safe and orderly border crossings while upholding the integrity and security of Nigeria's borders."

Spoilt Milk: Enugu Trader Drags NAFDAC To Court Over Refusal To Release Laboratory Result

*Demands N100m compensation

By; KELVIN. OKPARA, Enugu.

A Nigerian citizen, Mr. Paul Eze, has begun the process of instituting a legal action against the National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control, (NAFDAC), over the refusal of its South East Zonal Office to release result of a laboratory investigation the organization carried out on spoilt liquid peak milk he purchased from the open market which he reported to the regulatory body since 2023.

The Enugu based trader, revealed this in a pre Action Notice he sent to the Director General of NAFDAC in Abuja, through a human rights body, Civil Rights Realization and Advancement Network (CRRAN), and made available to our newsmen yesterday in Enugu.

The notice signed by President of CRRAN, Barister Olu Omotayo reads, "we write to you in respect of the above-mentioned matter on behalf

of Mr. Paul Eze, of No. 24, Edinburgh Road Ogui, Enugu, whom we shall hereafter refer to as our client.

"We have his instructions and authority to issue this Pre Action Notice," the group added.

"This is to inform you that we earlier wrote a letter to you based on the complaints of some citizens that purchased peak milk on different occasions from our client who had purchased them in large quantities in the open market and they turned out to be spoilt and not good for human consumption.

"The said letter dated 25th January 2023, is attached herewith. On the 8th February 2023, NAFDAC officials from the Enugu Zonal office, visited our client and took away tins of milk of the same batch with the spoilt peak liquid milk, and promised to revert back to him after laboratory test to be conducted on the affected peak milk tins.

"When our client did not get any response from the agency we wrote a letter on his behalf demanding to

know the outcome of investigation in respect of his complaint in respect of the this matter.

"The said letter dated 4th August 2023, and titled "DEMAND FOR OUTCOME OF INVESTIGATION IN RESPECT OF THIS MATTER: RE: COMPLAINTS OF CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF SPOILT COAGULATED LIQUID PEAK TIN MILK TO SOUTHEAST MARKET BY FRIESLANDCAPINA WAMCO NIGERIA PLC," is attached herewith.

According to the rights group, "it should be noted that till date our client has heard nothing from the agency.

We submit that citizens of this country are entitled to know the outcome of their complaints to the Agency.

"This letter is therefore important in compliance with Pre Action Notice requirement before instituting action against the Agency and its officials.

"Be informed also that we intend to take appropriate legal action on behalf of our

client as soon as the period of one month stipulated by the Law expires.

"Take notice that the Proposed Plaintiff is: Mr. Paul Eze, the Proposed Defendant is: 1) Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, (NAFDAC).

"The Proposed Plaintiff will seek these Reliefs in the proposed suit. a Declaration that it is illegal for the proposed Defendant to withhold from the Proposed Plaintiff the results of the laboratory test in respect of the spoilt peak milk submitted to the Agency and those taken away from the proposed plaintiffs' shop.

"An Order of the Honorable Court to Compel the Proposed Defendant to release to the Proposed Plaintiff the laboratory results of its' investigation into the spoilt milk submitted to it by the proposed Plaintiff.

Also, "N100,000 000: 00K (One hundred million naira) compensation against the Proposed Defendants for negligence and several tins of Peak Milk carted away from his shop".

NSCDC Discovers Unidentified Corpses Along Kaduna-Zaria Highway

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Disaster Management Unit, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Kaduna State Command Headquarters, has discovered some unidentified corpses along Kaduna-Zaria Highway.

This was disclosed in a situation report made available by HOU/DMU NSCDC Kaduna State Command, ACC Akhaine King Michael, dated Thursday March 14, 2024.

It informed that the incident was

recorded on Wednesday March 13 at Dutsen Abba Community, Abba Ward of Zaria Local Government Area at about 7am.

"Through checks by the NSCDC Zaria Division, it was revealed that at the same hours of the day, a driver that had a faulty vehicle on the highway was in search of stone to wage his vehicle and in that process, discovered two dead bodies and one person laying down and still breathing, suspected to be abandoned by its killer," the situation report informed.

According to ACC Akhaine King Michael, personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Zaria Division worked in collaboration with the personnel of the Nigeria Police, Kaduna State Vigilante Services in successful evacuation of the two dead bodies to the morgue of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria and took the other person who was still breathing and alive to same Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Zaria for medical attention.

Makinde Mourns As Olubadan Joins Ancestors

*Dies at UCH Thursday night

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde yesterday, announced the demise of the 42nd Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Dr. Mohood Lekan Balogun, Alli Okunmade II.

The governor in a statement on Thursday night, by his Special Adviser (Media) Sulaimon Olanrewaju declared that Olubadan Balogun, joined his ancestors late Thursday evening at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan.

In the statement, Governor Makinde described the late Oba Balogun ' as an epitome of royal excellence and a

great achiever, who made great marks on Ibadanland in just a little over two years of his reign".

The governor expressed his condolences to the Olubadan-in-Council, the Oyo State Traditional Council and the people of Ibadanland and Oyo State, praying to God to grant repose to the soul of the deceased monarch.

"With total submission to the will of God, I announce the passing unto glory of our father, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Dr. Mohood Lekan Balogun, Alli Okunmade II, the 42nd Olubadan of Ibadanland", he said.

Gov Makinde added, "A mighty

Iroko has fallen; Oba Dr. Balogun has joined the ancestors. In Kabiyesi, Ibadanland had a cosmopolitan and well-experienced Olubadan, who made indelible marks on the sands of history and achieved greatly within a short while.

"On behalf of the Government and good People of Oyo State, I condole with the immediate family of the Oba Dr. Balogun, the Olubadan-in-Council, the Oyo State Traditional Council and the people of Ibadanland.

"It is my prayer that God grants repose to the soul of our late monarch."



COMMUNITY FOCUS

ARISE Initiative For Elderly Brightens Hope For 600 Elders In Akwa Ibom



By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

No fewer than 600 elders in Akwa Ibom State have each received N50,000 as part of the ARISE Initiative For The Elderly, a programme designed by the state government to identify the priority needs of senior citizens and to cater to such needs. Speaking on Tuesday March 12, 2024, at the maiden edition of the programme tagged, "Celebrating Our Parents" held at Government House Banquet Hall, Uyo on Tuesday, wife of the state governor, Pastor Patience Umo Eno, commended her husband, for initiating the programme. Pastor Eno explained that the programme which was created in the state in line with the directive given to wives of Governors in the country by Nigeria's First Lady, to host a similar programme in all the 36 states of the country. She said the programme which would hold monthly, is expected to help cushion the effects of the hardship experienced by

senior citizens. The governor's wife prayed for long life for beneficiaries of the programme so as to continue to enjoy all the benefits the government has in store for them. "I want to pray that the Lord continue to strengthen you. May He keep you well, strong and sound even at 100 years old. You will all live beyond 100 years old. You will not leave us just yet," she said. Setting the tone for the event, the Coordinator of the ARISE Initiative for the elderly, Mrs. Mercy Eka, said the event marks the beginning of monthly programmes for the elderly. She said the scheme which was conceived in support of the Renewed Hope Initiative of the wife of the President, has been domesticated in the State to reach out to different sets of senior citizens every month, with provisions made for the elderly of other tribes resident in Akwa Ibom. Mrs Eka said 600 elderly persons for the

maiden edition of the ARISE Initiative were selected from all the wards in the 31 Local Government Areas of the state to receive stipends and medical care, assuring that more senior citizens would be accommodated. Goodwill messages were received from the Presidents of the Women's Forum from Uyo Senatorial District, Dr. Ekaette Ebong; Eket Senatorial District, Mrs. Idara Akpan; and Ikot Ekpene Senatorial District, Mrs. Inibehe Silas. They expressed their gratitude to the Governor Umo Eno for spearheading the meaningful initiative to honour the elderly in the state irrespective of tribe, religion or political lines. Responding on behalf of beneficiaries of the ARISE Initiative for the Elderly, Chief Ime Okon applauded the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno for his inclusive governance style, while also commending the Governor's wife, Pastor Patience Umo

Eno, for aligning with the vision of her husband, believing that the ARISE Agenda will bring about rapid development, growth and stability in the state. The event which was preceded by a medical outreach to cater for the health needs of the elderly, featured dancing competition by the Elderly above 80 years and other fun activities, including performances by children of the Divine Children's home and Ibom Acapella group. The ARISE Initiative Elderly Support programme which is domiciled in the office of the wife of the Governor, was initiated by Governor Umo Eno, in support of the Renewed Hope Initiative Elderly Support Scheme of Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to provide succour to the elderly through providing medical services and money to enhance their welfare.



Disaster Management: Kano Gov. Receives FG Donation Of Fire Fighting Equipment

**Appreciates FG for the kind gesture as he assures judicious utilisation*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf, has reiterated his administration's dedication to emergency preparedness for safety of lives and property. This was contained in a statement issued by the governor's spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, on Wednesday. During the unveiling of two fire-

fighting vehicles allocated to Kano State by the Federal Fire Service, Governor Yusuf expressed assurance in making judicious utilization of the two digital fire-fighting trucks recently provided by the Federal Government. He graciously accepted the donation from the Controller of the Federal Fire Service, Kano Command, conveying his gratitude for the gesture and pledging to furnish the necessary

resources and support for the Service to discharge its constitutional duties efficiently. The governor also praised the Federal Government for the donation, emphasizing its significant benefits to the people of Kano State by enhancing their safety and security. He highlighted that the new fire-fighting vehicles would markedly enhance his administration's ongoing endeavors to ensure a swift and

efficient response to fire emergencies. In his address, Engineer A. Kazeem, the Controller of the Federal Fire Service, Kano Command, underscored the importance of the newly deployed digital fire-fighting trucks in safeguarding lives and properties in the state. He revealed that out of the 20 states selected to receive the fire-fighting trucks, Kano State was privileged to be among the

recipients. The Controller emphasized the advanced features of the fire-fighting trucks, such as their 600-liter water capacity and 50-liter foam compound for effective fire suppression. Additionally, he mentioned that 200 skilled firefighters have been deployed to Kano to further assist the state government in ensuring the safety and security of its residents.



Kaduna Govt Will Sustain Support To Nigeria Police Force - Uba Sani



By ; F U N M I
ADERINTO, Kaduna

Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani on Tuesday, received in audience a high-powered delegation from the Nigeria Police Force led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun. The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun was at Government House to commiserate with the government and people of Kaduna State over the abduction of the Kuriga schoolchildren. The IGP assured of their unrelenting efforts in collaborating with other security agencies to ensure

their safe return. While commending the Kaduna State Government for its sustained support to the Nigeria Police Force, IGP Egbetokun disclosed that a Special Police Squad will be deployed to Kuriga community to give the people a sense of security and safety. Governor Uba Sani in his brief remarks, thanked the IGP and his team for their show of sympathy and support in this difficult times. He assured them that the state government will sustain its support to the Nigeria Police Force to enable them discharge their responsibilities effectively and efficiently.



Ramadan: Kaduna South Reps Member Congratulates Muslims, Distributes 3,000 Bags Of Rice



By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Host Communities and Honorable Member Representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency, Malam Hussaini Abdulkarim Ahmed (Mai Kero), has rejoiced with the Muslim Ummah, especially his constituents, on the sighting of the Crescent Month of Ramadan 1445 After the Hijra.

In a statement signed by his Special Assistant on Media and Communications, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida), he urged Muslims across Kaduna South Federal Constituency to seize the opportunity of the Holy month to showcase the good virtues of Islam.

In a statement made available on Monday by his Special Assistant on Media and Communications, Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad (Dan Jarida), Hon. Mai Kero enjoins the Muslim Ummah to pray for Nigeria as the country's economy bites harder.

He described Ramadan as a month of repentance from bad to good deeds, forgiveness, and reaching out to the needy, as exhibited by the Noble Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

While commending the smooth process of rice distribution led by his Senior Legislative Aide, Hon. Hassan Ya'u Musa Kura, Hon. Mai Kero, pleads with the Muslim Ummah to pray for him to have a successful tenure for better representation.

The member prayed to Allah to give Kaduna South, Kaduna State, and Nigeria as a whole long-lasting peace and sustainable development.

Distributing over three thousand bags of rice to ease the situation currently being experienced by his constituents at his Barnawa Constituency Office, Hon. Hassan Ya'u Musa Kura, the Senior Legislative Aide and Chief of Staff, and Hon. Auwal Alhassan Gwadabe, the Personal Assistant, said to avoid congestion, the distribution was done based on Constituency, followed by word, and subsequently, sub-ward.



Hon Ekene Visits Kajuru Despite Health Condition, Commiserates Victims Of Bandit Attack

By: AUSTINE EMMANUEL, Kaduna
Member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency, Kaduna state Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams has paid a courtesy visit to Buda Community in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State to commiserate with them over the unfortunate incident that led to the abduction of over 60 persons in the community. The Chairman House Committee on Sports while sympathizing with residents of the area assured the people of

government determination to put an end to the security challenges bedeviling the state and the country in general. In his words, "the government is working tirelessly to ensure people sleep with their two eyes closed without fear of being kidnapped". The member who visited the only health facility in the community pledged to capture the clinic in the 2024 constituency projects by ensuring the community enjoys dividends of democracy through renovation of the health care center and provisions of drugs which is part of his

2024 projects. Two of the victims of the bandits onslaught who are currently receiving treatment at Bege clinic at Maraban Kajuru were also visited with their medical bills settled apart from cash donated to their families for the upkeep of the patients. The lawmaker enjoined the people not to lose hope as their loved ones would soon be united with them. Reacting to the visit, the Councilor representing the ward, Abubakar Buda, said that they are impressed to see the

lawmaker despite his health condition. Abubakar explained that the bandits stormed the community in their large numbers, moved from house to house to kidnap the residents, shooting sporadically, adding that the intervention of the military prevented the bandits from taking away more people. He also stressed that some members of the community sustained varying degrees of injuries while trying to escape from being abducted.



Zulum Flags Off N140m Livestock/ Agric Programme For 140 Youth

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has applauded Hon. Engr. Ahmed Satomi for his support and assistance to his constituents with empowerment facilities since he joined the National Assembly, while flagging off creation of 140 millionaires programme on livestock, agric feeds and agricultural value chain for 140 youth in Jere LGA.

He also urged the beneficiaries to make proper use of the money and items given to them by investing the N1 million cash given to each beneficiary presented either through bank account or cash by transparently investing the money accordingly and respectively on livestock business.

Zulum who stated this Wednesday while flagging off the Creation of 140 Millionaires Programme on Cattle, Agricultural Allied and Other

Agricultural Value Chain, also enjoined the beneficiaries to work hard and invest on the business with a view to employing others as employers of labour in future

"The House of Representatives members representing Jere Federal Constituency has been doing well and good job in his constituency for his people. My schedules are very tight today, but because it is his programme, I decided to personally come and flag off.

"This a good job. It will go a long in addressing unemployment. If properly managed and utilized, the amount invested will definitely double the income of the investment. I hereby, convey my appreciation to the party executive, Assembly members and other Engr. Satomi team.

"This also means if this huge amount is invested in agriculture, we will go a long way in feeding ourselves and even other states and the nation at large. Thank you once more

national party chairman and other stakeholders," Zulum said. APC Chairman Borno State, Hon. Bello Ayuba advised the beneficiaries to repose their confidence on the donor and people have in them and make proper use of the empowerment financial support and livestock and breeding tools given to them. He further charged them to endeavour to be employers of labour by also training and empowering others as done to them and shun bad attitude and financial recklessness.

Earlier in his welcome address, Hon. Ahmed Satomi passed encomium on Governor Zulum for leading the state and showing the right steps and path for others to follow for good governance on agriculture through provision of security and engaging rangers as well as providing patrol vehicles, seedlings, fertilizer and grains among others to farmers and returnee IDPs to farm across the state, encouraging everybody to

go back to farm.

He noted that farming remains the greatest and major as well as number one occupation of the people of Borno during both the dry and raining season, especially the irrigation farmers, cultivated large size of farmlands

According to him, as a farmer who cherishes farming, he decided to embark on the programme to expand the horizon and consolidate on the achievements of Governor Zulum who started it all by mobilizing for security and return of people back to their ancestral homes to farm and provided the opportunities for large scale farming productivity

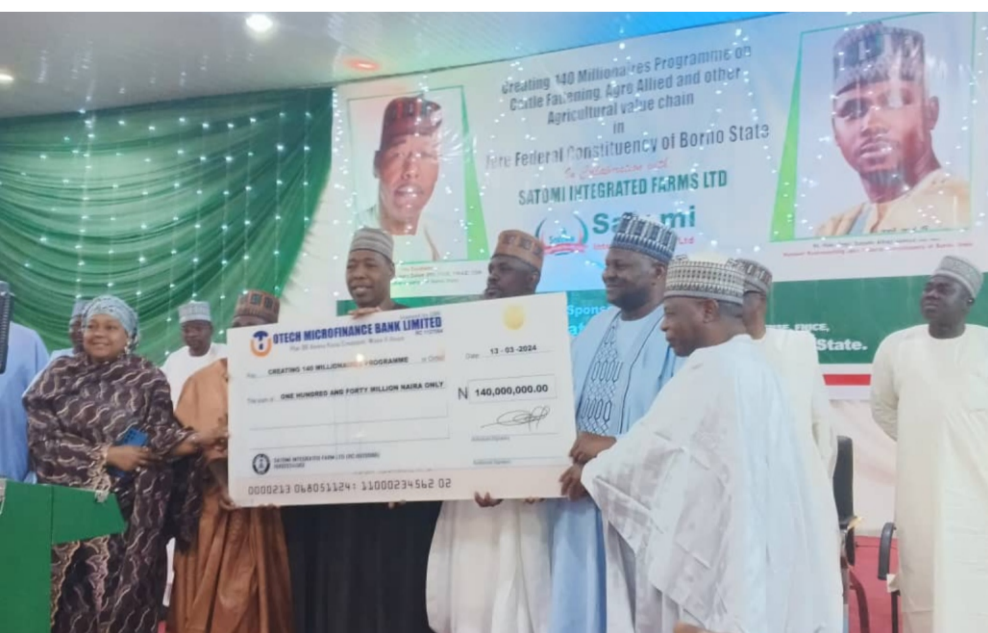
Engr. Satomi promised to prioritize agricultural activities in his federal constituency, hence Jere LGA is an agrarian area endowed with fertile and large farmoands along canals and tributaries while appealed to the state government to reactivate the abandoned canal from Jere

to Mafa for dry season.

The federal lawmaker further called on the beneficiaries to invest meaningfully and prudently on livestock and engage others to benefit from them also in future.

Hon Abba Abba Kyari Kolo, Member representing Jere LGC State Constituency at the State House of Assembly (BOSHA), thanked Governor Zulum for his support and encouragement, while commending the Federal Lawmaker at the Lower Chamber of the National Assembly, Hon. Ahmed Satomi for his remarkable and appreciable support to the youth and agricultural sector of the LGA as well as the agricultural empowerment programme in the area.

Two resource persons and agricultural specialists from University of Maiduguri's Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Engineering, Professor Abdulrahman Mohammed and Prof Abdullahi Mohammed





The U.S Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, H.E Mrs Jessica Davis Ba, the MOWCA SG Dr. Paul Adalikwu flanked by other officials.

Come Out Great In Your Field Of Endeavours, Oyo Govt Tasks Women

BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan
Oyo State Government has tasked Nigerian women to come out great in their field of endeavours and participate for inclusion in the state. The State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, Mrs Toyin Balogun gave the charge, while speaking at the Association of Women Orientation for Sustainable Development in Nigeria's (AWON), programme marking the 2024 International Women's Day at the Women Development centre, Samonda, Ibadan on Wednesday. Represented by Mrs Igein Ibirinke, the Commissioner said in

doing this, the Commissioner said there is the need for Nigerian women to strive to take care of themselves to have the strength to make a difference. The Keynote speaker at the event, Chief Mrs Grace Oluwatoye called on government at all levels to end the economic hardship in the country affecting Nigerian women. Chief Mrs Oluwatoye, the founder of the Women group AWON, lamented the continuous challenges facing women and failure of some state government failing to implement the 35% affirmative action. Frowning against Tokenism where women are given a piece of meal opportunities in top

positions, she recalled how great women have been able to drive the country in their area of career. Chief Mrs Oluwatoye charged government to end the poverty agenda which has been in existence in Nigeria for decades, that women should be supported in the grassroot which will bring about development in all sectors across the country. AWON President, Mrs Adekemi Akinade while speaking called on Government at all levels to embrace women's inclusion in governance in all sectors of the economy. According to Mrs Akinade, women's inclusion has become very

poor in all areas, from the family, community at large and the country as a whole. Mrs Akinade specifically canvassed for the representation of the girl child in Nigeria adding that Nigeria leaders should provide necessary opportunities for women. Vice President of the group, Mrs Bola Thompson lamented that women remains at the receiving end of poverty despite the plenty of resources available in Nigeria. Mrs Thompson tasked women to support women, that in doing this, women will get to the position where we dreamt about many years ago.



Some of the participants of the AWON event in a group photograph

MOWCA Boss Seeks US Support To Lift Restrictions On Member Countries Over Illicit Shipping Activities

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Secretary General of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) Dr. Paul Adalikwu has stepped up interaction with the United States government to lift restrictions placed on some member countries allegedly implicated in illicit shipping activities. Adalikwu who led a delegation from the MOWCA Secretariat to the US Embassy in Abidjan for a first leg of the strategic consultation aimed at promoting seamless participation of MOWCA countries in international trade within the global maritime space, reiterated the organisation's commitment to the best ethical and lawful maritime practices.

Addressing the U.S Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, H.E Mrs Jessica Davis Ba, the MOWCA SG stated the organisation's interest in promoting the International Ship and Port facility Security (ISPS) code which aims at enhancing security of vessels and their ports of call. He expressed the commitment of MOWCA in promoting environmentally friendly, safe and cost effective shipping without any encumbrance that may limit the economic potential of member countries.

Dr Adalikwu recalled that at the instance of the U.S. Department of State invitation, MOWCA participated in the 2023 Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC) Conference in Larnaca, Cyprus, on February 28-March 1, 2023 and a virtual meeting held on June 6 2023, with Mrs Jennifer Chalmers, Officer in charge of Counterproliferation Initiative. Dr. Adalikwu recalled The U.S. DOS willingness to support MOWCA's effort for preventive maritime security through the establishment of the Center for Information and Communication (CINFOCOM) with the aim to ensure a maritime situational awareness domain within MOWCA's

member states waters. He added that MOWCA under his watch is committed to training and retraining of maritime practitioners and experts to enhance the human capital capabilities of member states. The CINFOCOM will help prevent transnational crimes committed at sea like sanctions evasion by North Korea and other state actors, who exploit poor enforcement due diligence by ship open registries to circumvent United Nations and U.S. trade restrictions.

Such enhanced CINFOCOM activities would tackle infractions like money laundering, illegal arms and drug Trafficking, piracy and armed robbery at sea, illegal oil bunkering/crude oil theft along African coasts, Maritime Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Human Smuggling and; closely monitor the activities of asylum seekers travelling by sea within the West and Central African sub region. Responding, the U.S. Ambassador recalled that on February 6, 2024, she signed, on behalf of the United States, a Maritime Law Enforcement Agreement in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to facilitate cooperative maritime law enforcement activities to identify, combat, prevent and interdict illicit transnational maritime activities.

She also sought to know active MOWCA member States, including landlinked countries for clearer identification. She also advised that MOWCA should share a prioritized list of its expectations with the Political and Economic Officer of the Embassy. Since assumption of office, Dr. Adalikwu has strengthened MOWCA's interface with global maritime stakeholders aimed at supporting the economies of member countries and preparing grounds for its eventual transformation into a continent wide African Maritime Organisation (AMO).

CORRECTION OF NAME

OJOGBADUA - I, formerly known as Adejoh Joseph Ojogbadua, now wish to be called and addressed as ADEJOH JOSEPH OJO'GBADUA. All former documents remain valid. The general public, First Bank PLC, and other Relevant Authorities should please take note.

House Of Reps Expresses Solidarity With Kaduna Govt Amidst Security Challenges

*Calls for improved welfare for security agencies

*Mulls convening National Legislative Security Summit



By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

In a show of solidarity and support, the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Dr. Abbas Tajudeen, converged on Kaduna State to extend sympathy and pledge assistance to the government and people of the state in light of recent security challenges in the state. The delegation, comprising members of the Green Chamber, expressed profound dismay over the tragic incidents of the school kidnapped pupils in Chikun Local Government Area, left the region in shock. The Speaker emphasized the House's unwavering commitment to partnering

with Kaduna State authorities to devise effective security solutions aimed at preventing such atrocities from recurring. Acknowledging the proactive measures implemented by His Excellency, Governor Uba Sani, to maintain peace and security in Kaduna State, the Speaker commended the state's security architecture. He further announced plans to host a National Legislative Security Summit after the forthcoming Sallah celebrations, bringing together key stakeholders to address nationwide security concerns. In response, Governor Uba Sani expressed gratitude to the House of Representatives' steadfast support during

these trying times, recalling their previous collaboration during the Tudun Biri incident. He urged the House to prioritize the amendment of the constitution to allow for the establishment of state police, citing it as a crucial step towards enhancing security across Nigeria. Moreover, Governor Sani highlighted the urgent need to ensure the welfare and morale of security personnel, emphasizing their pivotal role in safeguarding the nation's citizens. He pledged Kaduna State's commitment to working alongside the National Assembly to address security challenges effectively.

Dr. Tajudeen's leadership and commitment received accolades from Governor Sani, who lauded his efforts in fostering unity and cooperation among stakeholders. Additionally, Governor Sani revealed conversations with national leaders, including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who expressed admiration for Speaker Tajudeen's leadership qualities. As the delegation concluded their visit, assurances of continued collaboration and support echoed throughout the gathering, underscoring the collective determination to restore peace and security in Kaduna State and beyond.



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ADVERT RATE

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

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

Governor of Katsina State, Mallam Dikko Umaru Radda has called on the affluent members of society to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate, emphasizing the importance of sacrificial giving during the holy month of Ramadan. Speaking at the launch of the eighth distribution of the Gwagware Annual Ramadan Package, Governor Radda reiterated the foundation's commitment to supporting widows, orphans, the elderly, and other vulnerable members of society since its inception in 2016. **Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS**



Kaduna: Offering A Glimmer Of Hope For Displaced Communities

By: JAMES SWAM

When the Kaduna State Government took the bold decision late last year, following a security council meeting and expert advice, to announce its plan to resettle communities displaced by incessant attacks in the southern part of the state, it did so with the understanding that the security of lives and property rests squarely on its shoulders.

The Senator Uba Sani administration has once again, demonstrated its commitment to proactive measures that will be remembered for years to come.

It's a decision that brings relief - not only to the victims but also to their families, the entire state, and lovers of peace in the country. For once, a government with a compassionate approach has offered them a glimmer of hope for a return to their ancestral lands, from which they were displaced years ago amid violence and destruction.

Since the announcement in November 2023 of the government's intention to resettle the victims perpetrated by criminal elements, indications emerged that this administration is poised to make a lasting impact.

This pronouncement marked the first phase in a strategic plan developed by the state's top security council, including military, paramilitary, and Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) commander, to address the ongoing security challenges in the area.

Speaking to the media shortly after the security council meeting, Governor Uba Sani emphasised that, "It is our responsibility to make sure that everyone that was displaced as a result of insecurity is returned to their homes safely and the government will do that as its responsibility. Where they need to be supported in terms of rebuilding their community, we will do that. That is the responsibility of the government."

Given the project's significance and potential impact, the state government spent a few months assembling a good team to pave the way for the actualisation of the mission. This demonstrates a deliberate approach by the administration, prioritising global best practices knowing the depth of attention the project will attract, rather than rushing for the sake of it.

Interestingly, the second phase of the plan commenced last week with the establishment of a 10-member committee at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim (Government) House. Led by Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa



Balarabe, the committee's objective is to develop tangible strategies to resettle displaced communities. Priorities include providing essential services like healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities, as well as restoring the dignity and sense of belonging of the affected people within their communities.

This proactive approach not only acknowledges the safety and fundamental rights of the communities but also aims to alleviate longstanding grievances, particularly among critics of the ruling party who cried out that the zone was undermined by the posture of the preceding administration. As predicted, Governor Uba Sani's decision has garnered widespread praise, with many eagerly anticipating the return of the displaced individuals to their homes.

The initiative marks a significant achievement for the ruling party, particularly in the southern senatorial zone, an opposition stronghold. It has

generated considerable support for the government, demonstrating a strong commitment to people-centric policies. This is the style of leadership that the electorate expects from those in authority - leaders who listen, comprehend, and take decisive action on the plight and agitations of voters.

Before now, prominent figures from the region had commended the governor for his people-centric governance style, particularly regarding the development of the zone, noting tangible progress since his tenure began. At the Maiden Southern Kaduna Festival (SKFEST) in Kafanchan held early January 2024, General Zamani Lekwot (rtd), an esteemed elder statesman and former Military Governor of Rivers State, publicly praised Governor Uba Sani's leadership qualities, observing significant achievements within six months of assuming office, which he described as uplifting.

Expressing gratitude for Governor Uba Sani's commendable efforts,

General Lekwot declared, "In our prayers, we will continue to ask God to bless you with more wisdom, courage, and foresight in your commendable match to unite Kaduna state so that we can move forward." Lekwot, also serving as the co-chairman of the Kaduna State Elders Forum, voiced support for the administration's initiatives aimed at reconciling fractured communities.

Governor Uba Sani's commitment to propelling the state forward and breaking away from past challenges is evident. This involves not only reconstructing rural areas and communities affected by violence but also fulfilling the pledges outlined in the 2024 budget for rural development. Importantly, the administration's focus on resettling displaced communities underscores its deep concern for humanity.

Swam, a former Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, is the author of 'How to be an Effective Spokesperson.'

Gender Based Violence: CWIDI Seeks Synergy With Police

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Non governmental organisation (NGO), Concerned Women International Development Initiative (CWIDI), has requested collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), to assist them seek intervention on issues of gender based violence.

According to them, the synergy will equally help in addressing marginalization against particularly those in Benue State to have access to justice.

Speaking during an advocacy visit to mark the one week sensitization exercise organised by the group held at the A Division Police Station in Makurdi, Senior Programme Officer CWIDI, Becky Gbihi, lauded efforts of the police in the fight against criminality with cases of gender

based violence inclusive.

She recalled with satisfaction that the police in the past has championed the fight on cases of sexual harassment, battery and assault on women.

The Group is seeking collaboration with the Police to end marginalization of women, particularly on issues of gender based violence in the society as well as to help them have access to justice.

The senior programme officer, CWIDI, also lamented that some women have under gone the worst injustice, emphasizing that most times, those in this category of business are raped multiple times especially as the society views them negatively, "as humans they should also be protected by the law since they are not going into any criminal activity."

She appealed to the Police to always listen to complaints of victims of

gender based violence including irrespective of their sex status on the merits of such cases to avoid stigmatization.

In her contribution, programme management specialist of the organization, Precious Ifan, said it was realized through research, that women are unable to report cases of rape, sexual harassment, battery and other related violent issues for fear of stigmatization.

She explained that CWIDI is seeking synergy with the police so that the Police would be more friendly with women by giving them due attention and their cases treated fairly each time they come to the police to report such cases.

Speaking separately, head of family and gender unit, DSP Ebogu, and Inspectors Grace Sunday, Gloria Atoba and Achenetu Jibrin, all blamed parents refusal to report

gender based issues such as rape on account of stigmatization.

They called on victims of sexual assault and rape to go to the Police and report immediately, any time they suffer such violations for the Police to swing into action, instead of waiting for several months before going to report.

Responding, the DPO A Division, CSP Iiasu Mohammed represented by the officer in charge of administration, ASP Zhattau Andrew, assured the group of the resolve of his division to collaborate with them to ensure that justice is delivered to women who suffer gender based violence such as sexual assault.

CSP Mohammed commended the group for the visit and encouraged women who are sexually assaulted to feel free to report at the counter like any other case for investigation to unravel the suspects for possible punishment according to the law.

Oyenubi Emerges NUAAE President

By; MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

Alabour chieftain, Comrade Obafemi Oyenubi has been elected as the National President of Nigeria Union of Agriculture and Allied Employees (NUAAE) at its extra ordinary conference held in Abuja on Tuesday.

Comrade Oyenubi, while speaking during a press briefing, stressed that the new leadership of the agric union has come to stay and will work with the President Bola Tinubu's led administration to salvage the hardship on Nigerians by ensuring food availability and price control.

"Our efforts will not be left in doubt but to support the government of President Bola Tinubu in ensuring large food production, effective extension service availability and to provide off takers for farms produce with good storage facilities.

The President stressed that the union will engage some foreign investors for modern farming equipment like harvesters, sprayers, planters, chemicals and tractors that will be subsidizes to local farmers in enhancing

commercial farming activities for exports and food consumption. According to him, the union is equally discussing with some state governors to ensure smooth distribution of mechanized tools as palliatives to boost farmers crop production.

"We'll also collaborate with some banks to give soft loans to genuine farmers to increase exports crops production in the country."

Comrade Oyenubi revealed that the union under his leadership, will embrace more unions in the agric sector that are not under NUAAE umbrella to bring them together with common interest.

The NUAAE President tasked some aggrieved members of the union to synergize as his executive to introduce policies that will shape their activities in the right direction.

He stated that welfare of members will be prioritized as



they will engage the federal government in providing hazard allowances.

Other executive include, Cmr. Anedi Ekpo Deputy President 1, Cmr. Amechi Victrus Vice President South East, Cmr. Baba Kaura Vice President North Central, Cmr. Ime

Akpadia Vice President South South, Saidat Abubakar National Women Coordinator and Cmr. Adamolekun Ebenezer Trustee 1, Others are CMR. Ibrahim vice president North West, Cmr. Frank Osierhieki National Auditor, Cmr. Robert N.

Robert Ex-officio 1, Cmr. Eric Ogiefia and Cmr. Chapi Paul as General Secretary.

It would be recalled that comrade Oyenubi was the treasurer of the National Transition Committee (NTC) of the union.

13th African Games: Nigerian Commercial Sex Worker Whipped In Accra For Allegedly Sexually Harassing Muslim Faithful Observing Ramadan



By; JOSEPH ODOEKWU, Accra

A Nigerian Commercial Sex worker was confronted and whipped by a man supposed to be one of those maintaining strict adherence towards helping Muslim faithful observe the Ramadan fast period which started on March 11, 2024. The fair-skinned lanky sex-worker who was simply identified as Precious, was whipped at about 1am Ghanaian time, when she was walking the streets of Avenor with bump-shorts which was almost revealing her sacred spots and by extension, allegedly truncating the efforts of male Muslim faithful who are looking forward to focusing on reaping the full rewards for the Ramadan.

It would be recalled that prior to the beginning of the African Games, some Nigerian commercial sex workers based in Accra who spoke with this writer, had promised to charge Nigerians who come for the games moderately, while providing cool-off services during their period of sojourn, but the Ramadan fast which started while the Games continued, is expected to make Muslim faithful focus on spiritual uplift and shun things of the flesh. Things seemed to be going on fine in the wee hours of yesterday morning along the road, when the lady who was walking on the street was accosted by a hefty man with koboko and whipped mercilessly for dressing in a seducing

manner that is capable of making a man lose focus. The girl tried to put up a defense while she was being whipped, but eventually had to run after seeing that majority of the people on the road did not come for her rescue despite hearing her scream aloud on the road. She immediately disappeared and fear gripped every other young girl who paraded themselves on the road for the purpose of commercializing their bodies, and this writer further observed that some of these ladies were forced to change their wears as it was obvious that they had extra decent clothes in their bags even before coming out to perform their role as night

children. One of the girls who spoke with this writer afterwards, noted that she had to follow up on the girl who was whipped, and she observed that her fair-skinned colour had turned to red with bruises and stripes on some parts of her legs as a result of the whip from the hefty man. Although, the lady argued that the commercial sex worker was not a Muslim and at such, not expected to be subjected to that unfair treatment, but the issue of her dressing with intention to seduce remains a critical point which practically was not helpful for the spiritual growth of those observing the Ramadan fast.

SWAN Suspends Deputy Secretary-General, Olalekan Ige

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has suspended Mr. Olalekan Ige indefinitely as its Deputy Secretary-General for gross misconduct and repeated insubordination. The decision to suspend Mr. Ige was reached after the virtual meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of SWAN on Thursday March 14, 2024.

A statement from SWAN National Secretariat in Abuja through the Association's Secretary-General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, revealed that Mr. Ige who was appointed by the President, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, had been severally advised by NEC to desist from actions that put the professional body in disrepute, instead, he remained persistent in perpetrating illegality. "The NEC met and discussed other issues among which was the repeated ways Mr. Olalekan Ige has behaved

and worked in deviance to the statutes of SWAN which negates his position as Deputy Secretary-General.

"Ige fraudulently went out of his way to produce letterhead papers in the name of SWAN and used same to issue statements and carried out other dubious activities, an action that he didn't only use to put the Association in bad light but intended to tarnish the reputation of the respected media professionals in the entire country.

"In doing so also, Ige has gone ahead severally to usurp the powers of SWAN President, Secretary-General and indeed the entire NEC, contrary to Article 11 of SWAN statute which equally a m o u n t s t o insubordination," the statement said.

Consequently, the SWAN NEC has asked the suspended National officer to immediately submit every document or property of the Association in his disposal to the National Secretariat.

African Games: Nigeria Wins Bronze In Beach Volleyball

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria women's team won a bronze medal in the beach volleyball event at the ongoing 13th African Games in Ghana.

Nigeria beat Rwanda 2-0 (22-20, 21-12) in the women's third place match played at the Labome Beach resort yesterday.

The duo of Esther Mbah and Pamela Bawa were the fans favourite as they outplayed Rwanda in the presence of top volleyball dignitaries.

Mbah and Bawa who were the youngest player in the beach volleyball event gave the Rwandan players tough time from the blast of the whistle.

An elated Esther Mbah said winning a bronze medal at the African Games is a dream come true.

She thanked the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engineer Musa Nimrod for always supporting her dreams and aspirations.

Mbah said, "I am very excited to win a bronze medal despite playing against some highly rated players in the beach volleyball event.

"Our coach told us we could beat the Rwandan team because they were not better than us. We executed everywhere our coaches told us and the result is the bronze match.

"I want to use this opportunity to thank everyone in Nigeria who have been praying for us since the beach volleyball started most especially the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engineer Musa Nimrod. Engineer Nimrod is our father, he has always believed in us even when we did not.

"I have never dreamt of traveling outside the country but volleyball has taken me to countries I watch on television. My life has been transformed since I became a volleyball player and I am encouraging other ladies to take sports seriously".

Two Committees Set Up For Above 50 Football Championship

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

In order to have a successful Season 2 of the annual Above 50 Football Championship, organisers of the tournament have set up two committees namely; technical and media committees that will start work in earnest ahead of the kick off date.

In its inaugural meeting held recently with all the team coaches, coordinators and other stakeholders in attendance, Chairman of the tournament, Dr. Rafiu Oladipo explained that the committees became necessary in order to correct the mistakes identified in the maiden edition and also put modalities on ground that will make this year's edition more glamorous.

Coach Sunny EPOCHI is to head the technical committee, while Mr. Oyeniyi Sunday Adebayo will serve as the secretary. Other members of the committee are; Peter Niekietien, Sunday Samuel Ilevbare, Alhaji Salau Abiodun Rauf, Princess Olayori and Dr. Rafiu Oladipo who will serve as honorary member.

Veteran journalist, Effiong

Nyong was appointed Chairman of the Media Committee.

Other members are Raymond Akparhuere, Ayo Ojedokun and Ogunsile Olukayode with Ifeanyi Eduzor serving as the secretary.

The technical committee was charged to meet at least twice a month.

Apart from setting up the committees, it was resolved that teams will carry out fresh registration for this year's championship which will comprise of 20 players and two goalkeepers while NIN will be used to identify the true ages of players.

The Above 50 Football Championship is an initiative of Ambassador Dr. Edward Olutoke, President of Ikeja Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

It enables senior citizens and retired international and national team players opportunity to once again play football, recreate, keep fit and network.

Winner of the maiden edition got N5 million while the first and second runners-up got N2 million and N1 million respectively.

CSR: UfitFly Backs Rotary District 9110 On Sports Festival



By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The foremost destination management firm, owner of the UfitFly brand has said the multi million Naira support to the recently concluded Rotary Sports Festival tagged 'ROSFEST 2024' was part of its commitment and unwavering support for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The star prize of the event is an all expense paid trip to The Kingdom of Jordan worth three million five hundred thousand Naira (NGN 3,500,000.00) which was presented to the overall winner in scrabble

competition and winners in Draught and table tennis games respectfully also went home with East Africa entry clearance E-visas worth two hundred and fifty thousand each all donated by Ufitfly.

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the maiden edition of the event, the District Governor, Rita Ejezie, said her District decided to introduce the festival to increase blood circulation, healthy living, mental health and increase the team work of all Rotarians.

Various sports participated by the Rotarians includes: football, scramble, golf,

volleyball, lawn tennis, tug of war, draught, Ayo, table tennis, badminton and chess as the final match of the football event which was played during the closing ceremony was between Rotary Abeokuta City and Rotary Lagos City.

Ejezie said the goals of the competition include fostering more cordial relationship and social cohesion amongst Rotarians and to improve the physical and mental well-being of her members, while commending UfitFly for identifying with ROSFEST.

Bisola Folarin, the

Director of Operations of the destination management firm, (Ufitfly) in his remarks said "ROSFEST is a game we are proud to identify with owning to its uniqueness and moreover our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy supports the idea of identifying with sports and vocations that impact positively on the society." Among other dignitaries that graced the closing event were Chief MI Okoro, former Captain of Ikoyi Club Golf section, the District Governor Elect 9112 Femi Adenekan and Chief Mike Larry Izamoje the CEO Brilla FM Nigeria.

Chief Of Naval Staff/ NOWA Football Tournaments Get Date

By; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) has announced that the 20th edition of the Chief of Naval Staff U-14 Boys and the 12th edition of Naval Officers Wives Association (NAOWA) U-17 Girls football competitions will hold from April 6 to 13, 2024 in Enugu, the Enugu State Capital.

According to a

statement from the federation, signed by its National Secretary, Patrick Okpavuerhe, teams that want to participate in the glamorous competition will present 20 players whose ages must be strictly 14 years for boys and 17 years for girls as at April 30, 2024.

It also advised participating teams to ensure they arrive Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium, Enugu on Saturday, April 6 before

6pm, accompanied by three officials; one of whom must be a YSFON official, noting that the teams upon arrival, shall be received by YSFON officials at the stadium.

The statement reminded teams that the body size of the boys is 51 kg with a maximum height of 158m while that of girls is 60kg and 1.78m body size.

Teams are also to confirm their participation on or

before Thursday March 28, to enable the federation make adequate arrangements for their accommodation and accreditation cards.

The federation finally reminded teams that accommodation shall be in school hostels, while all the participating teams shall feed and transport themselves to and from venue of the tournament.



Initiator of Above 50- tournament, DR. Edward Olutoke

ECWA Evangel VVF Centre Offers Free Surgery To 36 Women In Gombe

By; **ABUBAKAR RABILU, Gombe**

A team of doctors from the ECWA Evangel VVF Centre, in collaboration with CBM, are performing free surgery for about 36 women in Gombe, to solve their problems, especially those suffering from urinary tract challenges.

However, 56 others have been sent to Jos, for further check up and treatment.

Addressing the media in Gombe, the medical Director at the Zainab Bulkachuwa, Women and Children Hospital, Dr. Ahmadu Dangana said 180 women were screened for the surgery, but 36 were treated and 56 others were sent to Jos for their surgery.

Dr. Dangana said the only problem they faced was that the doctors were supposed to stay for two weeks, but that due to some problems they only worked for one week, before they returned, because they did not start the work at the right time.

He said the cause of urinary tract infection was the failure of women not going to see a doctor regularly during pregnancy and giving birth at home without receiving professional care.

He praised the Gombe State Government for focusing on the

health sector and called on women to go to the hospital every time they get pregnant, so as to avoid the issues that would cause them such problems.

Dr. Dangana added that poverty and early marriage played a significant role in preventing pregnant women from going to the doctor.

In the meantime, Dr. Gowon Ayuba, from ECWA Evangelist Centre Bingham Teaching Hospital, Jos, said that they have been doing carrying free medical outreach in Gombe for four years, and they were only doing it in two states, Gombe and Taraba, since 2023 till the end of 2027.

According to him, the present outreach was witnessing the number of women and children with the issue of VVF/RVF Medical/Surgical outreaches for women and girls leaking urine and or stool.

Dr. Ayuba said that they had already wasted time and didn't start early, so they didn't finish the work, so they referred the other women to Jos to work on them there.

He said their transport and feeding had been paid for, as well as any other tasks they have to do.

"But we have given them the option that anyone who thinks she can't go to Jos, should wait for us to come back in April to continue this work.

If they want to come back, they should check them," Dr. Ayuba said.

One of the staff who works with this health centre, Mrs. Grace Gideon, clarified that they had a collaboration between Aseitini and the CBM Centre, working with the Gombe and Taraba states from the North East region.

Mrs. Gideon said that they were also working because of the leakage of urine that women face and those who did not have money to pay for the surgeries.

She said that there were some cases that were impossible to handle outside the hospital, but had to go to the Jos hospital, because of the available tools for the surgery.

Mrs. Gideon said they had always conducted their surgeries in private hospitals, but that this was the first time that the government gave them the Zainab Bulkachuwa Government Hospital for the surgeries.

Some of the beneficiaries of the programme praised the institution for the intervention in offering them free services without receiving a dime.

They also called on women with such medical conditions, that they should come out to get the needed intervention.



Gov Ododo Calls For More Funding Of Tertiary Institutions In Kogi

By; **ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja**

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State has called for improved funding of education to accelerate human and capital development in Nigeria. The governor made the call in far away Abuja yesterday, when he paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Mr Sonny Echono.

The governor expressed unreserved gratitude to TETFUND for its various interventions in Kogi State owned tertiary institutions as he called on the Executive Secretary to further assist the state with improved funding for high impact projects in public tertiary institutions.

"I commend TETFUND for the impact in the development of tertiary education in Kogi State particularly the speedy development of our brand

new Kogi State University, Kabba which recently held its maiden matriculation over 1,000 students and has fully commenced academic activities.

"I must say that TETFUND has made remarkable impact in supporting higher institutions in Kogi State such as the Prince Abubakar Audu University, Ayingba, Confluence University of Science and Technology, Osara,

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Katsina Govt Commences Dualisation Of Kofar Soro-Kofar Guga Road

By; **SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina**

Katsina State Government has commenced the dualisation of Kofar Soro to Kofar Guga road in Katsina metropolis as part of its urban renewal programme aimed at expanding and modernizing the Capital city.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda who flagged off the commencement of the Work at Kofar Soro according to a statement by the Public Relations Officer of the state Ministry of Works, Bello Salmanu Sayaya that,

"Government takes the bold step to widened the road by dualising it despite the cost implications of paying compensation for structures to be affected by the construction work, his administration has taken into cognisance of some historical buildings along the road and decided to maintained them there."

To this end, Governor Radda said a spur road to serve as alternative route would be constructed from the Galadanci sharp bend to Late Chiroman Katsina, Late General Hassan Usman Katsina's Residence to behind Central police Station.

The governor noted that, the alternative road would give road users a chance to divert and avoid the usual congestion or road blockage at Kofar Soro especially during Sallah festivities and other similar large gatherings on special occasions.

Governor Umar Radda expressed his appreciation on the resolved and pledged of the Contractor, Mother Cat Nigeria limited to complete the project even before the 18 months completion period. Governor Radda called on

all Residents in the affected area to endeavour to give the Contractor all the necessary support and cooperation needed to complete the work on time.

In his welcome address, the State Commissioner of works, housing and transport, Engineer (Dr) Sani Magaji disclosed that the project was first awarded at the cost of over two billion Naira and subsequently abandoned by the previous administration because no funds were made available for the project, but was later re awarded and reviewed to a little over three billion Naira by the Dikko Radda administration with additional works such as the spur road and redesigning of the street lights to solar powered ones.

Engineer Magaji explained further that the Kofar Soro to Kofar Guga road dualisation was one out of about ten number of road projects recently approved and awarded by the Dikko Radda administration in addition to release of outstanding monies owed to the various Contractors handling other inherited road projects from the previous administration which would also be continued vigorously up to completion stages.

In a remark, the Representative of the Contracting company, Mr. Maroun Ghostine thanked Katsina State Government under the leadership of Governor Dikko Radda for giving the company the opportunity to contribute in the development of Katsina State.

Mr Ghostine appealed for support and cooperation of people of the area towards the successful and timely completion of the project.