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- Will remain closed until - Gov. Uba Sani

By ; ALEX UANGBAOJE, & FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

There's palpable fears in Kaduna yesterday morning over an outbreak of disease suspected to be Viral Haemorrhagic Fever otherwise known as Lassa Fever at the Nigerian Army 44 Reference Hospital in Kaduna. It was gathered that already over 10 people

(though not confirmed) were affected as at yesterday morning, some are dead while others are in critical conditions as a result of the outbreak. Though details of the affected persons were not disclosed yet, but information has it that a youth corps member, two medical doctors and a nurse are feared dead. Some of those that have been confirmed dead include a Youth Corp

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Patients stranded as they were prevented access to 44 Army Reference Hospital in Kaduna yesterday.

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Defense Chief Sues For Peace In Southern Kaduna Communities

Dangote Cement Trucks Wrongfully Intercepted In Adamawa - Management

***Says they don't need to export to Cameroun where they have an existing cement plant**



By ; I M R A N A
ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The management of Dangote Cement Plc has stated that two of its trucks that were wrongly intercepted in Adamawa State have been released.

The company said the two trucks loaded with 900 bags of cement each from the Obajana Cement Plant were on their way to Jamtari, Maiha Local Government, Adamawa State, based on a customer's request.

However, they were intercepted by security agents who accused them of trying to export banned products to the Republic of Cameroun through the Adamawa routes.

The interception, on

Friday, February 9, 2024, followed an executive order banning the transportation of food and building materials across the country's border through Adamawa routes by the Adamawa State Government.

A statement signed by the Group's Chief Branding and Communication Officer, Mr. Anthony Chiejina, revealed that the company has a functional cement plant in Cameroun and that, the allegation of attempting to export cement there is false and malicious.

Chiejina explained that the two trucks were on their way to deliver products requested by a customer and wondered why the security agents would

intercept and accuse them of attempting to divert their load to the Republic of Cameroun.

Mr. Chiejina said: "It was surprising that on their way to deliver the products to the stated address, the security agents on that particular route intercepted them at a village called Wurolabi."

He said the officers who made the arrest insisted the trucks were on diversion since they apparently did not pay attention to details of what was written on the waybill. The company said the two drivers tried to explain to the soldiers, but to no avail.

He added: "Our officials were thereafter invited by the DSS Adamawa State, and we explained to them

the true position of things. We had to show them the tracking movement of the trucks from the DCP Obajana to the last point where they were arrested by the soldiers, to convince them that the trucks were not crossing to the republic of Cameroon as was being wrongfully insinuated by some media."

In the same vein, the Government of Adamawa State, at a press briefing with the Adamawa State Police Headquarters, also on Friday February 16, confirmed that both trucks were intended to deliver within the state and were escorted by police to deliver the products to the customer.

Senator Lalong Condemns Murder Of Plateau APC Spokesperson, Calls For Arrest Of Perpetrators

By; BUHARI B. BELLO,
Jos

Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Plateau State and Senator representing Plateau South Senatorial District, Simon Bako Lalong has expressed shock and condemnation over the gruesome murder of the Plateau State APC Publicity Secretary, Mr. Sylvanus Namang who was killed by yet to be identified gunmen in Pankshin shortly after arriving from Mangu where he had attended a funeral event.

Lalong said he was devastated by the news of the barbaric killing of the APC spokesperson who was an accomplished journalist, politician and community leader.

He described the act as unfortunate and condemnable, urging the security agencies to swing into action and ensure that the killers of Mr. Namang are fished out and brought

to justice.

He said although it is too early to conclude on motives behind the assassination of the Plateau APC spokesperson, his death is certainly a big loss to his immediate family and the APC in the State and nation at large.

The Senator said the late Sylvanus Namang was an accomplished journalist and media manager who rose to the peak of his career and retired successfully before taking part in active politics where he gave the APC sound visibility upon taking over as State Publicity Secretary.

The former Governor commiserated with the family of the deceased and prayed God to comfort them at this difficult time, assuring them that the APC family will do everything possible to unearth those behind his gruesome murder and ensure they face justice.



Tragedy: Pregnant Wife Throws Husband Out of Two-Storey Building In Ebonyi

By; MKPUMA ENYINNA,
Abakaliki

A pregnant woman has thrown her husband out of two-storey building as a result of unresolved family problem.

According to an eyewitness who wouldn't want his name in print, the tragedy occurred on Tuesday morning in Ebonyi, when the victim, Mr Nwoga Maduabuchi, a middle-aged man was pushed

away from a two-storey building.

The victim, Mr Nwoga Maduabuchi, from Akparata Village, Igbeagu community in the Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, was said to have been married to the suspect, his second wife, from Uburu community, in the Ohaozara Local Government Area and lived in Abakaliki, the state capital.

A security officer, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the victim was arguing with his second wife over a family issue, when the incident occurred.

A source said, "The man is just a victim of domestic violence.

"He had two wives. The first wife is from Izzi Local Government Area; while the second wife is from Uburu, in the Ohaozara Local Government

Area of the state.

"It's a family matter. But the second became so enraged over the matter and acted the way she did, by pushing her husband down from the two-storey building. That's the height of it. That's the height of wickedness." Another reliable source, who equally pleaded anonymity, said the suspect was heavily pregnant but was intermittently having quarrels with her late husband,

adding that, "The second wife was constantly nagging."

Speaking with a villager, Mr. Ogo Mike, he described the situation as horrible, saying the victim was an elder brother to his friend.

When contacted for his reaction, the Police Public Relations Officer in Ebonyi State Police Command, DSP Ukandu Joshua, did not respond to all the calls placed on his phone as at the time of filling this report.

Delta Govt Debunks Relocation Rumours Of Campus, Calls For Peace In Isoko Community

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

The Delta State Government has issued a resolute call for peace amidst swirling rumours and discord, in a bid to quell rising tensions in Ozoro, Isoko North Local Government Area of the State. Recall that hundreds of women and youth in a protest few days ago, blocked the Ozoro/Kwale/Asaba Expressway in Isoko.

Our correspondent earlier reported that the women and youth are protesting the relocation of the Faculty of Business Administration, Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro to Orokpe community, the local government of the current Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori.

The protesters had earlier said, "the relocation of the faculty from the institution will greatly affect the economic life of Ozoro town"

The Isoko Protesters bore different placards with inscriptions, demanded that the faculty be returned to the institution.

The youths were seen at the Owhegbo junction, just as the women were dancing round the community.

Travellers going to Asaba and Onitsha in Anambra State have been forced to take alternative routes.

The protesters called on Governor Oborevwori, to as a matter of urgency, relocate the faculty back to the university's main campus.

Reacting to the protest, the Delta State Governor, Oborevwori Refuted the Relocation but said it's a rumor and called for peace in Isoko community.

Dr. Ifeanyi Osuosa, the State Commissioner for Information, delivered a stern message urging communities to steer clear of divisive narratives and embrace harmony.

According to Osuosa, "the alleged relocation of the Delta State University of Science and Technology, Ozoro, such claims were unequivocally false.

"This narrative is not only dangerously misleading, it is also deviously manipulated misinformation and negative propaganda, fueled by known political detractors to achieve selfish political gains," he started.

Osuosa expressed disappointment over recent protests purportedly instigated by certain factions within Isoko land, despite constructive engagements between the government and community leaders.

"The sponsored protest is uncalled for after the successful meeting with His Excellency, the Governor of the state," he lamented.

Osuosa further clarified that the institution in question was not undergoing relocation, but instead, celebrated a significant academic milestone.

"For the avoidance of doubts and to set the records straight, the Delta State University of Science and Technology is NOT being relocated and has not been relocated" he affirmed.

Meanwhile, He highlighted the approval by the National Universities Commission (NUC) for the establishment of crucial faculties at the university, emphasizing the government's commitment to bolstering educational standards.

"This is indeed a tremendous academic achievement and masterstroke of immense proportion," Osuosa emphasized.

In a direct appeal to the people of Isoko nation, the commissioner for information, Osuosa reassured them of the government's dedication to their welfare, particularly in education.

He said, "We want to assure the good people of Isoko nation that His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Sheriff F.O Oborevwori would not do anything directly or remotely and for very obvious and personal reasons, to undermine the Isoko people, especially in the area of education," he affirmed.

Osuosa urged citizens to remain vigilant against divisive elements seeking to sow discord. "Deltans are therefore called upon to be wary of elements who don't mean well but hell-bent on spinning half-truths and deceptive information just to cause confusion and disaffection against the administration of Governor Sheriff Oborevwori and his well-laid-out MORE Agenda," he

Nationwide Protest: Governors Sabotaging Tinubu's Efforts, Coalition Says

**Warns Nigerians against backing NLC*

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nigeria Civil Society Forum has warned the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) against its proposed nationwide protest against hardship scheduled to hold on February 27 and 28.

The CSO forum said Nigerians should rather blame the state governors for sabotaging the federal government by embezzling the palliatives meant for the masses.

Addressing a press conference yesterday in Abuja, Convener of the Coalition, Dr. Godwin Abutu said while it's a known fact that Nigerians are going through difficult times at the moment, the government has given assurances on a daily basis of rallying round the clock to ameliorate the sufferings of the people with different incentives.

The CSO forum said NLC chapters in the state where state Governors sabotaging federal government efforts, the Labour leaders have

played the toothless bulldog scenario they are known for, and Nigerians keep suffering under their watchful eyes.

Dr. Abutu said: "While we are not worried over the empty and baseless threats to drag the government through the strike, we are once again concerned that this groups has always used these threats to collect gratifications from government and betray the people, a situation we are out to arrest this time as spokespersons of the masses of this country.

"Even though the NLC further contradicted itself by abandoning the wage negotiation table set up by the government to improve the wages of workers to go and embark on this macabre dance that has no head or tail. We expected the leadership of these trade unions to have contributed their opinions of how we would come out of this quagmire with such a privilege rather than embarking on this wild goose chase."

The group emphasised

that it was common knowledge that embarking on strike actions has not resolved any problem faced by the Nigerian masses recently.

The group, therefore, gave the NLC "24 hours to drop the idea of a warning strike and come to the round table where patriotic Nigerians are concerned and are doing everything humanly possible to make sure they curb hunger, stabilise currency and secure the people.

"We do not expect the leadership of NLC to pretend not to be aware that the warning strike won't proffer any solution to our present predicament but rather satisfy only their ego and cash out from their sponsors and co-travelers.

"We demand the arrest and persecution of anyone that comes to sabotage the system and make our situation worse. This group has proven time and again that it is responsible in aiding our woes by always coming out in Defence of those sabotaging our system and

frustrating the efforts of government. Only their prosecution and punishment can assuage the pains they have inflicted on our people.

"They may be enjoying the sympathy of opposition politicians and saboteurs now but that will not be forever, as they shall be brought to Justice sooner than later. As the members of the civil society have always reiterated there is no room for sabotage our country is all that we have and we must always do our best to make it grow.

"In the meantime, we urge Nigerian people to shun political differences and put aside any kind of sentiments to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR as he stands up to our enemies and follow legal means to protect our country."

The CSO forum also urged the federal government to urgent come up with lasting solutions to the rampaging herdsmen terrorising farmers across the country.



Corps Member, Doctors, Nurse Allegedly Die Of Lassa Fever In Kaduna Military Hospital

- Kaduna Ministry of Health enhances surveillance
- Facility shutdown, prevent patients access to medical care
- Will remain closed until - Gov. Uba Sani

member serving at the hospital and three staff of the hospital.

The hospital as at the time of this report was sealed and restrictions placed to control and prevent further spread of the disease.

Some people seen around the hospital gate trying to catch up some appointments and those seeking medical attention lamented that the hospital management was yet to address them on what was going on and couldn't get them an alternative.

But in circular by the Nigerian Army Medical Corps, sent to all military hospitals and medical centres signed by the Ag, Corps Commander of the Nigerian Army Medical Corps (CCM), Brig Gen. S.O. Okoigi, the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Dept of 44 NARHK witnessed the loss of three members of staff and a patient in the last 48 hours with some in critical condition.

According to the circular, "They are suspected to have died from Acute Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF). This followed the management of a patient with febrile illness thought to have been the index patient with the disease 10 days ago, having presented with a febrile illness.

"The patient also died from the suspected disease condition. The common symptoms in those affected included fever, and nonspecific symptoms likened to malaria. However, the illness was complicated by abnormal liver function, acute kidney failure, encephalopathy, microangiopathy, elevated D-Dimer among others.

"The A&E has been closed for thorough disinfection process and samples have been taken from suspected contacts and the deceased and sent to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

laboratory in Kano for analysis. Similarly, the Kaduna State Epidemiologists have been invited to help in unraveling the aetiology of the febrile illness with a view to curtailing the



spread of the disease.

"This is in addition to strict disease Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures that have been directed to be emplaced. Ribavirin injection (antiviral agent) has also been commenced on other suspected cases and those identified on contact tracing. 44 NARHK have also been directed to suspend accepting new cases from the general public in the interim while the situation is being contained."

The hospital in a notification, explained that the Epidemiology Unit receive a report 20/02/2024 of outbreak of suspected Lassa fever and a team of surveillance officers from the LGA was deployed to investigate the report.

The team confirmed that the index case was a female Youth Copper who resides in the quarters of 44 Army Reference Hospital, noting that her illness started a week ago with symptoms of fever, head ache and later convulsion.

"In the process of convulsing, she bites her tongue and started bleeding. Three other patients presented with similar illnesses.

The hospital has recorded four mortalities from the similar illness." They added.

They further explained that some of the actions taken so far includes "Six Lassa fever samples were collected and sent to Bayero University Kano for analysis and the result are being awaited. A total of 25 contacts have been line-listed for follow up. The close contacts were placed on prophylactic treatment.

"Ribavirin was supplied from the Ministry of Health to 44 Army Reference Hospital to support case management.

The hospital said why they await results of samples collected, and active case search within the hospital communities and the environs is already intensified. And that a follow up on the contact line-listed to intensify risk communication activities on prevention of Lassa fever is ongoing.

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State government has advised members of the public to maintain proper food and environmental hygiene as they remain hyper vigilant as they immediately report any

suspected cases of Lassa Fever to the nearest health facility.

The State Governor Senator Uba Sani, in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Muhammad Lawal Shehu, said the State Ministry of Health has been directed to enhance surveillance across the state in collaboration with local government health departments. "Additionally, all Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures have been instituted at the facility while it remains closed to the public until full containment has been achieved." He added.

Governor Uba Sani on learning of this potentially dangerous outbreak directed the Kaduna State Ministry of Health on 20th February 2024, to immediately investigate and ascertain the situation at the health facility.

Consequently, a surveillance team was promptly mobilized to assess the situation and containment measures were initiated alongside the hospital management.

According to a statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on

22nd February 2024 said Lassa Fever, generally infects victims with the following symptoms - fever, general body weakness and after a few days, headache, sore throat, muscle pain, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, and abdominal pain may follow. Currently, four deaths have been recorded all within the hospital premises while three other patients with similar symptoms are currently being managed.

The Kaduna State Ministry of Health and management of 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital, are working assiduously to contain the situation as all those who came in contact with those infected have been identified and are closely being monitored while receiving urgent medical treatment.

Furthermore, samples have been carefully collected from contacts and sent for confirmation to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control laboratory and are closely being followed up.

Additionally, all Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures have been instituted at the facility while it remains closed to the public, until full containment has been achieved. Members of the public are hereby advised to maintain proper food and environmental hygiene as they remain hyper vigilant to immediately report any suspected cases of Lassa Fever to the nearest health facility.

Kaduna State Ministry of Health has further been directed to enhance surveillance across the state in collaboration with local government health departments.

Amidst Economic Crunch, Sen. Girei Suggests How Nigeria Could Generate Over N500trn

***Commends Tinubu for listening to the outcries of Nigerians**

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Senator Abubakar Halilu Girei has marshalled out strategies which the federal government can use to generate huge resources to be able to address the economic and security challenges rocking the nation.

Girei during a press conference in Yola on Wednesday, said Nigeria can generate over N500 trillion which is enough to cater for the yearnings and aspirations of all Nigerians and to combat the socio-economic challenges besetting the nation.

He advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to as a matter of serious national emergency constitute an independent judicial panel of enquiry to unravel the massive economic and financial crimes carried out in the last 12 years and to recover stolen monies which he said will be enough to resolve all our developmental needs and address food shortages and other critical national challenges.

"I'm calling on Mr. President to set up an independent panel of enquiry to carry out forensic investigation into the massive theft of our resources in the last 12 years.

It will enable us to recover humongous amount of money looted. I have no doubt we will be able to recover more than N500 trillion that have been stolen from Nigeria.

"These monies will be more than enough to revamp our economy. I have no doubt Tinubu has the capacity and political will to do that if only Nigerians continue to

advise him appropriately.

Girei who represented Adamawa central senatorial zone between 1999 - 2003 in a ten point recommendation made case for the banning of Bureau de change markets and establishment of state police.

"I want to use this singular opportunity to appeal to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to as a matter of critical urgency establish an Independent Judicial Commission of Enquiry with the mandate to carryout forensic investigation and recover all the funds that have been looted in the last 12 years especially as it concerns; mismanagement of petroleum subsidy; mismanagement and looting of forex by officials of CBN, commercial banks and other financial institutions; carry out forensic investigation on fraud associated with tax, VAT and other revenues accruing to the federation , including tax waivers over the period of 12 years.

"Those who rode our nation roughshod in the last 12 years, and looted our treasury with impunity should be brought to justice to answer for the atrocities they meted to our people and their loots confiscated. A special purpose entity should be empaneled by the presidency to investigate, recover and punish the ones found guilty," he said.

On the security turf, Girei advised the president to come up with a supplementary budget of two trillion naira to address Nigeria's social insecurity including putting up robust

structures for the take off of state policing.

"The sum of two trillion Naira to be approved by the national assembly as an additional supplementary budget to tackle insecurity challenges nationwide including the establishment of the state police when passed into law should be pursued," he said.

Girei also appealed to the president to come up with another one trillion supplementary budget for immediate approval for bank of agriculture to fund credit delivery to all value chains in the

agricultural and Livestock sectors in order to address the issue of hunger and create job opportunities for millions of Nigerians.

"I call on the president to present a supplementary budget of one trillion naira to the NASS for immediate approval for Bank of Agriculture to fund credit delivery to all the value chains in the Agricultural and Livestock sector," he said.

The politician who vouched for the commitment of president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to find a lasting solution to Nigeria's challenges urged well meaning Nigerians to come up with cogent suggestions on the way forward.

"I believe very strongly that



Senator Girei

there is a great difference between Bola Ahmed Tinubu and other leaders because he is a thoroughbred politician who has demonstrated that he is listening to the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians making him to be passionate about the cries of Nigerians by convening stakeholders meeting with governors, security operatives and other critical stakeholders including cement manufacturers so that he will be able to bring down the prices of goods and services in order to make life easier for the common man.

"This is not a time for blame games. This is a time for each and every Nigerian to contribute to help president Bola Ahmed Tinubu take the right actions that will bail us out. That is why I

came out to make about 10 recommendations here.

"This is a new government as far as I'm concerned. The president should be advised on how to go about leading the nation in a just manner and that is what I'm doing now. I'm urging other Nigerians who are concerned, who are patriotic who are interested in the well being of this country to assist our leaders to do something good.

"During the eight years of president Buhari we had almost on everyday basis hoped, wished and prayed that things will improve tomorrow but they never did. We cannot continue to do that now we must help our leaders with advise to salvage the situation," he added.

Hunger: 41-Year Old Father Stages Lone Protest In A'Ibom

***Says leaders refusing to heed advice of Nigerians**

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Worried by the current economic bites on the lives of Nigerians, a 41 years old man identified as David Ubaha, has staged a lone protest in Uyo Akwa Ibom State, to register his grievances over the situation.

Ubaha, a businessman who deals in electronics, and a native of Itu Local Government Area of the state, expressed displeasure over the skyrocketing cost of living, saying that the situation has become unbearable, with scores of people dying on daily basis due largely to hunger and lack.

The lone protester who tucked a placard in the front and back of his shirt, expressed sadness that when ideas are proffered on how to fix the economy, those in leadership position don't take such ideas into consideration, adding that such has

been bane of the country's development

He listed the Nigeria's problems to include devaluation of the Naira to Dollar and other foreign currencies, unbearable hardship, ravaging insecurity, unplanned subsidy removal, uncontrolled inflation among others.

The father of two, who also offered solutions to revive and resuscitate the economy, calling on President Bola Tinubu, to start local production, diversify the economy, revamp dying industries and invest in mechanical farming.

He also suggested that Nigeria should stop unnecessary borrowing, equip hospitals and stop seeking medical attention abroad.

Speaking with New Nigerian in Uyo, Ubaha said, "the idea on how to fix this country does not reside with our readers alone; it resides with the people, but the

saddest episode is that when these ideas are being profered by the people, the leaders will not take them into cognisant.

"On the other part, the people do not know how to compel the leaders to fix the country for the common good of everybody and the posterity.

"So, I David Ubaha, a true son of Ibibio, have sworn to myself that i will never keep quiet and watch this country go down the drain"

He said he was not embarking on the protest to blow his own trumpet alone, adding when he looks at the situation in the country, his mind always pricks him.

He added, "the situation has affected me negatively. The cost of fuel has gone up, cost of food in the market have gone up. I'm not just blowing my trumpet alone, but looking at what the society is passing through, it pricks my mind".



The lone protester

Gombe SEC Celebrates Inuwa Yahaya's Governor Of Year Awards, Other Accolades

***Gombe Governor vows to sustain excellence in leadership, good governance**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, has been presented with several prestigious awards earned by him and other MDAs in recognition of his outstanding leadership and steadfast dedication to good governance in Gombe State.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Wednesday February 21, 2024.

The awards, garnered across diverse sectors including education, good governance, e-governance, Hajj performance, peace and security and more, were presented to the Governor by his deputy, Dr. Manasah Daniel Jatau, at a brief ceremony shortly before the commencement of today's State Executive Council meeting at the Government House Gombe.

The awards presented include The Sun Newspaper Governor of the Year 2023, The Telegraph Newspaper Governor of the Year (Education), the Best Supporting Governor on Hajj Operations and the Best State in E- governance and Geographic Information System in Nigeria amongst others.

Thrilled by the recognitions, the Governor responded with a genuine happiness, expressing gratitude to the members of his team for their support and cooperation in implementing transformative policies and programmes that foster good governance and propel the progress of Gombe State.

"I am delighted to receive these awards this morning. Let me say that whenever I am honoured in this way, I don't view it as an individual recognition, but rather a recognition of our collective efforts as members of my administration. I am grateful to each of you for your support and genuine dedication to realizing our shared goals and fulfilling the mandate entrusted to us by the people of Gombe", he said.

He further urged the team not to waver in their commitment to the progress and development of Gombe State, urging them to brace up as this term will be more challenging. He however assured them of his commitment to delivering even more for the people of Gombe State.

In a brief comment on the current state of the nation, Governor Inuwa Yahaya remarked that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is cognizant of the prevailing economic challenges and the hardships faced by citizens.

He emphasized that Tinubu's administration, in collaboration with the governors of all 36 states, is diligently working on genuine initiatives aimed at alleviating these hardships and improving the quality of life for the citizens.



Gov Oborewori Commissions Warri South Council Ultra-Modern Cottage Hospital Built By Tidi

**Reiterates support for financial autonomy to LG*



By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, His Excellency, Rt Hon Elder Sheriff Oborewori, on Wednesday, commissioned the Warri South Council Ultra-Modern 30-bed Cottage Hospital built and furnished by the Warri South Council Chairman, Dr. Micheal Tidi.

Commissioning the Ultra-modern cottage Hospital furnished with state-of-the-art equipment, the very elated governor, reiterated his support for financial autonomy for local government administration.

"With this hospital our people, our women and children will have access to quality and affordable health care services. This is what cottage hospitals are known for. This is why I am in support of financial autonomy for local government administration," Oborewori said.

He said that he was happy to commission the cottage hospitals because Warri South Council has shown a good example of why the local government administration was needed.

He further said that with what the Warri South Council Chairman has done, further proves that once the local government administration is given financial autonomy, they will be able to achieve a lot.

Oborewori therefore, urged other council chairmen to emulate the example of Dr Tidi who he said has done very well as the council chairman of Warri South Local Government Area.

He said that the cottage Hospital will advance the distribution of quality health care at the grassroots level, adding that that gesture was in line with the cardinal programme of his administration.

He said that as a grassroots politician he believed in the bottom top approach to governance noting that the people must come first in whatever thing they are doing.

"As the third tier of government, it is the kind of government that is closer to its people. Therefore, when it lives up to its responsibility, it lift up the living conditions of the people. But the people suffer when the reverse is the case.

"I glad that the Warri South Local Government Area under the leadership of Hon Dr Michael Tidi, has performed very well.

"I am impressed by the array of project that have been executed by the council. You have done very well and I expect this

momentum to be sustained by the next administration," Oborewori said.

Former Delta State Governor, Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan, in his brief remarks, congratulated the Warri South Council Chairman, for turning the former playground to a cottage hospital.

"Congratulations, your Excellency, for been here today to personally commission this project. It is a dream come true. It's a dream that we are happy is alive. There is still a lot to be done in Warri," Uduaghan said.

On his part, Chairman of the Warri South Local Government Area, Dr Tidi, appealed to Governor Oborewori to assist the council with qualified medical personnel that could help put the facility to its maximum use.

He said the Cottage Hospital was built for the purpose of efficient health care service delivery to the people of Warri South Council Area.

Tidi, who will be leaving office March this year, said that his administration have made tremendous progress in the primary health care sector, adding that from available statistics, the council has consistently and effectively carried out Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA).

Some of the activities according to Tidi include; National Immunization Plus Days, Integrated Measles Campaigns (IMC), and Yellow Fever Campaigns Outbreak Respons.

"Warri South Local Government Area have always had a coverage of above 100%, it ranges from 100% to 111% and since 2020 till date the coverage has improved tremendously,".

"Permit me, not to bore Your Excellency with statistics, however, it must be noted that the successes my administration has recorded in primary health care is a testimony of our determination in prioritizing the health and well-being of our people. This has made us to support our primary health care programmes," Tidi said.

The Warri South council chairman also used the opportunity to highlight some of the project he has embarked on since he assumed office.

Tidi said that within the tenure of his political mandate, the council's commitment to service delivery and infrastructure development has been unparalleled.

He thanked the Delta Governor Governor for his encouragement and support to the Local Government and also thanked the good people of Warri South and the political leaders for stabilizing the political system that paved way for their success as a local government.

"Our results were a testimony of our superlative and unequaled management of materials and human resources within our disposal. Our massive infrastructural development and unequaled articulation of developmental modules is geared towards rebuilding Warri South.

"Few months back, we were gathered to commission the state of the art Warri South Local Government Lodge. An edifice that was second to none in the 25 local government areas.

"To the glory of God Almighty, today we are gathered once again to witness the inauguration of yet another gigantic infrastructure, a landmark project, the

Ultra Modern Cottage Hospital. This project is so dear to me because it is bringing health care service delivery closer to my people. And it came at no better time than when my political mandate is winding up.

"Besides the massive structure, the equipments are unprecedented, as my good people deserve nothing but the best. May I once again remind Your Excellency, that my administration came on board when the Local Government was in need of a credible and purposeful leadership.

"Leadership that would have the political will of providing the desired road map to lead our people from a condition of despair to hope and prosperity. Sir that we have delivered.

"As we all know, the main essence of Local Government is for the development of an efficient democratic system of governance at the grassroot level. This implies a system of government that should be close to the people, a system that is capable of managing local resources/services in a way that will help to raise the living standard of the citizens," Tidi said.

The Cottage Hospital, comprises Admin room, Card room, Nurse station, Male and female Wards, Private Ward, Pediatric Ward (for children) Chief Matron room, Labour Ward, Milking Station (for breastfeeding mothers) Recovery rooms, Main theatre, Scan rooms, Scrub and storage room (for staff) Theatre room, Treatment room, Lab, Chief Medical Consultancy and Conveniences.

The Olu of Warri, Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Orosuen of Okere-Urhobo Kingdom, HRM Morris Oghenechuko Eyekpimi, the Regent of Agbarha-Warri Kingdom, the Vice Chairman of Warri South Local Government Area, Chief (Mrs.) Divine Ann Iniovosa.

Others are the member representing Warri South Constituency I in the Delta State House of Assembly, Dr. Augustine Uroye, representative of the member representing Warri South constituency II in Delta State House of Assembly, former three-time Chairman of Warri South Local Government and Warri South PDP Leader, Chief Joseph Otumara, Chief Israel Abido, Chief (Dr.) Roland Oritsejafor, Hon. Omimi Esquire, Hon. Kenneth Efejuku as well as Warri South PDP Chairman, Mr. Johnson Agbeyegbe, were among other prominent personalities that attended the colourful ceremony.



Gov Adeleke Has Not Taken Any Loan, Not Planning To Take Any - Osun Govt

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Osun State Government on Wednesday, described as a fake report that it obtained a N10 billion loan facility in 2023.

The state government in a statement by the Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Oluomo Kolapo Alimi emphasized that Gov Ademola Adeleke did not take any loan and is not planning to take any such loan now or in the near future.

Describing the report as a demonstration of either ignorance or mischief, Oluomo Alimi said all current indebtedness of the state were contracted by previous governments of the All Progressive Congress, (APC).

The Commissioner stressed that, "since inception in November 2022, the current government has been servicing inherited debt and ensuring project implementation where the loan is tied to any project like the Ilesa Water

Project".

Hon Alimi maintained that as a responsible government with a focus on legacy attainments, Gov Adeleke adopted a no-loan policy which he has maintained since assuming office, adding, "We recognize the deficiency of the person behind the latest hoax to misrepresent the Adeleke administration, but the mistake he and his backer made is failing to intelligently scrutinize the erroneous claim before going public.

"What the opposition mischievously calculated as loans are World Bank and other multilateral institutions projects like NCares, Ramp and Ilesa Water Project. Is the opposition asking Osun state to opt out of many beneficial multilateral projects which are inherited from previous governments?" he said.

The Commissioner added, "We affirm that the State government will continue to support the people of the State in alleviating poverty through the Nigeria Covid-19 Action

Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NCARES) with reimbursement from the World Bank through the Federal Government. This forms part of what the mischievous attackers are parading as loans taken by the State government.

"We invite the public, particularly the Osun people to recall that the Rauf Aregbesola administration secured a facility from the Islamic Development Bank for the execution of the Ilesa Water Work project at the twilight of that government. The facility which totalled \$65 million, was structured in such a way that it is provided upon need for any aspect of the project.

He stressed further, "Between 2018 and 2022, the Gboyega Oyetola administration received several billions of Naira from that fund. What the Osun APC minion misread for a fresh loan under Governor Adeleke, was the continuation of the flow of the fund for the Ilesa Water project and other multilateral projects like the NCARES, Rural

Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAMP), State Action Business Enabling Reforms(SABER) among others.

"The public will recall that the current administration on inheriting the Ilesa Water project for which the loan was taken undertook a major cleaning up, stopping major corruption and setting the project on a sustainable path of completion and value for money.

"As much as we recognize the failed bid of the opposition in Osun amidst its frantic search for fault finding no matter how ridiculous, we however expected a bit of informed postulation as against the illiterate understanding of state finance the Osun APC has so far demonstrated.

"We assure the public of this administration's financial discipline. As such, this government will not repeat the horror of the reckless borrowing that crippled the state and inflicted untold pains on the people in the past."

Police, Not Army Responsible For Internal Security - Senator Yar'Adua

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Chairman Senate Committee on Army, Senator Abdul'aziz Musa Yar'adua (rtd) has said that, curbing of internal security in the country is the work of the Nigeria Police and other security agencies but not the Nigerian Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Musa Yar'adua who is serving as the Senator representing Katsina Central Senatorial Zone expressed concern over the involvement of soldiers in curbing kidnapping and banditry which primarily was not its assignment.

Senator Yar'adua recalled that, from 2011 to date, the Army has been involved in internal security situation which was not their primary mandate.

"The primary role of the Nigerian Armed Forces is to defend the territorial

integrity of Nigeria while the internal security remains as its secondary role," he emphasized.

He said, "pursuing kidnappers and armed robbers is an essential training given to Police but not Armed forces, and as an ex-Military officer, I've never been trained to pursue kidnappers and armed robbers. It is the duties of the Police to address it but not armed forces.

"You can see that the armed forces have been on the issue of internal security for over 13 years today, and this undermines the capacity of the Police in policing the nation," he noted.

Senator Abdul'Aziz Musa Yar'adua charged the Inspector General of Police to rebrand the Nigeria Police by bringing back Nigeria Mobile Police Force into lime light and create special forces meant for rescuing

Benue Youth Pledge Support To FUHSO Vice Chancellor

**Say Ujah is an asset to Nigeria*

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Concerned Youth of Benue State extraction have pledged support to the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo (FUHSO), Professor Innocent Ujah, describing him as a man with sound records and integrity.

At a press conference held in Otuokpo, the headquarters of Otuokpo Local Government Area, the group which comprises youth from the three senatorial districts of the state, called on all critical stakeholders across the border lines to support the growth of the first Federal University of Health Sciences in the land with the view to ending medical tourism.

The leader of the youth, Comrade Daniel Edoache Atayi, lauded the vision, astuteness, and developmental strides of the Vice Chancellor and enjoined well-meaning sons and daughters of Idomaland not to be distracted by any slight vested interest as long as it does not reflect the general interest of vast majority.

The group said they have observed with keep interest the politically orchestrated campaign of calumny carefully crafted by some vested interests to malign the hard earned reputation of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Innocent Ujah, saying that Ujah is an asset to Nigeria not only to FUSHO, but Nigeria.

The group who registered their concerns in placards and banners with different

inscriptions "FUHSO is for world class students, commended the high quality and standard set for the university by the management team.

According to them, they will not allow outside politics distract the management team of FUHSO from laying the solid foundation for the first Medical University in the North Central in line with the policy direction of the Federal Government.

FUHSO, they said, is a specialised medical university and the need collectively work together for the general development of Benue South in particular and the state in general cannot be overemphasized.

On the FUHSO Teaching Hospital which is more of the practical wing of the medical university, the group expressed satisfaction with the management of the hospital the aggressive infrastructural development which they attributed to the mutual relationship that has existed between the management of the university and the teaching hospital.

They acknowledged the leadership style of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Hyacinth Alia for their driven programmes aimed at emancipation, socio-economic, infrastructural development which includes the health sector.

Comrade Edoache Atayi who acknowledged the sacrifices of the erstwhile President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, GCON, for his

foresight in the establishment of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo, further said that with the kind of leadership and support from the Federal Government Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo is fast becoming a citadel of global reckoning. Speaking on the recent appeal to the university management by some aggrieved youths from the host community, the Concerned Youths of Benue State, maintained that having evaluated their grievances, they were of the firm conviction that Prof. Innocent Ujah is on the right trajectory, while acknowledging the inalienable rights of citizens to peaceful protest.

The Concerned youth while calling on the management of the university to passionately look into their request judging by the current situation in the country, the group equally cautioned that, "we must not spite the face because of the runny nose. We sincerely appeal allow peace prevail, as no meaningful progress can be achieved in an atmosphere devoid of peace and tranquility".

Speaking further, the group said FUHSO is an answered prayer for the people of Benue South Senatorial District, all hands must be on deck to nurture it like a baby to a position of envy.

"We should not allow politics of animosity, greed and self centredness to rob them (Idoma) of these feats because no one cuts away its nostril for discharging flu or catarrh".



Senator Yar'Adua

Civil Service Reforms: Gombe Recruits Over 400 Personnel To Man Biometric Attendance Machines

***Governor Inuwa Yahaya Flags-off Induction Training for Supervisors**

***Biometric system not intended to witch-hunt civil servants — NLC**

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Government has recruited over 400 personnel to man Biometric Attendance Machines (BAS) to oversee the operation of over 4,000 Biometric Attendance Machines installed in various state and local government offices aimed at boosting productivity and efficiency in the State's Civil Service.

This was disclosed by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON during the inauguration of a 1-day induction training for supervisors numbering 305 who were recently selected after a screening process.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, represented by his deputy, Dr. Manassah Daniel Jatau, reiterated that the implementation of the biometric system in the civil service was essential to identify ghost workers who have long imposed a significant financial strain on both state and local governments.

"The issue of uncertain number of employees at the local government council, state civil service and even the Federal Civil Service has bedeviled the governments and those in authority over the years. In Gombe State attempts by previous governments to solve the riddle by way of verification year in year out has not solved the problem. This is unacceptable, lamentable and a clear negation of transparency, integrity and even religious teachings".

He emphasized that during his tenure, funds earmarked for addressing socio-economic challenges and citizen welfare would not be indiscriminately allocated to non-working individuals masquerading within the civil service.

"In 2019, upon assuming office, we initiated transformative policies to reform the civil service. Recognizing the previous administration's attempts to tackle the issue of an uncertain number of employees through annual verification exercises - which proved unsuccessful, we opted for a new approach. Our goal is

to identify ghost workers, facilitate employment opportunities for genuine workers, and improve overall productivity within the service. My dear 305 Supervisors and the 115 others engaged, the deployment of these machines is equally part of our reform initiatives in the civil service", the Governor said.

"We have no ill intentions on the implementation of this Biometric Attendance System. Our sole aim is to have a highly effective and efficient civil service in Gombe, one that fosters productivity and drives the development and prosperity outlined in our development plan. As a direct outcome of this initiative, Gombe now receives foreign grants, which we utilize to reshape the socio-economic landscape of the state. Furthermore, the implementation of the biometric system has enabled us to engage over 400 individuals on our payroll as new employees", the Governor added.

The Governor also noted that since the introduction of the biometric system in October 2021, Gombe has consistently saved over 23 million naira monthly, totaling over 1.4 billion naira.

He emphasized that these savings are part of what is being allocated towards settling the backlog of gratuity at both the state and local government levels.

In his remarks, the Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development, Malam Muhammad Gambo Magaji, explained that the implementation of the biometric system is an integral component of the financial management reforms initiated by the Inuwa-led administration, underscoring the importance of cleansing the state's payroll.

He announced that as a direct result of implementing the biometric system, Gombe State has successfully obtained a \$4 million grant from the World Bank's SFTAS programme.

He also highlighted that the introduction



of the biometric system, along with other initiatives, has positioned Gombe State as the top-ranking state in Nigeria for Payroll Management.

In their separate remarks, the Head of Service, Alhaji Ahmed Kasimu Abdullah, the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission, Hajia Rabi Shu'aibu Jimeta, mni, and the Accountant General of the State, Dr. Aminu Umar Yuguda, emphasized the significance of the biometric system.

They urged the newly recruited employees to approach their roles with dedication and sincerity, recognizing the sacredness of their responsibilities and the importance they have towards the success of the system.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Biometric Programme Consultant, Dr. Isma'il Musa Jibrin, explained that the system is designed to promote fairness and accountability, guaranteeing that no worker is unfairly penalized as every diligent civil servant will continue to receive their monthly remuneration.

The representative of the Gombe State Chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Adamu Garba, expressed gratitude to Governor Inuwa Yahaya for his commendable reforms in the civil service and for the consistent payment of gratuity to retired civil servants at both state and local levels.

He affirmed that the implementation of the biometric attendance system in the state civil service is aimed at streamlining the service to enhance productivity and efficiency.

"Let me call on all the civil servants in the state to cooperate for the success of this exercise. The exercise is not meant to witch-hunt any worker. It is meant to sanitize the payroll of Gombe State and at the same time block leakages. It is based on the implementation of this system that these people are employed today. We appreciate the Governor for decreasing the number of unemployed persons in Gombe State through his various initiatives", NLC representative said.





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Defense Chief Sues For Peace In Southern Kaduna Communities

By: ISRAELBULUS, Kaduna

The Chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa, has renewed its commitment to supporting peace and tolerance in Southern Kaduna by holding a 5-days peace initiative across the local government areas, with the sole aim of mitigating and preventing religious conflicts.

The event which took place in Jema'a, Kachia, and Zango Kataf local government areas on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, drew participants across the eight local government areas.

Addressing the participants, the Chief of Defense Staff, who spoke through his Special Adviser, Mr. Musa Likita, said Gen. Christopher Musa is committed to resolving the insecurity challenges in the Southern Kaduna region.

The Special Adviser gave the Fulani, Hausa, and Christian representatives the privilege to voice out their grievances to find out some of the subsequent causes of conflict within their communities.

He urged all parties to embrace peace for development to thrive in the region. He also pleaded with them to sheath their swords. According to him, the summit

aimed at identifying the remote causes of insecurity that have bedeviled the area over the years through community-based solutions.

Some of the participants identified some of the problems, citing a lack of discipline among Parents towards their children.

According to them, Parents must be vigilant about the whereabouts and the kind of company their children keep.

"Communities must take decisive action against known criminal elements living within their domain.

" We are calling on the Government to organize community patrol on vulnerable Communities, noting that will send fear to the criminal elements terrorizing them.

The participants also pledged to collaborate with the military to chase away criminals terrorizing their communities.

" We are appealing to the Government to help deploy soldiers in vulnerable Communities to help restore confidence and hope.

The Executive Secretary of Kaduna State Peace Commission, Dr. Saleh Momale, commended the Chief of Defense Staff over the initiative, noting it helped in mitigating



conflict in the State.

He explained that for the past years, the major challenges were inter-communities conflict that has a relationship with different ethnicities and religions which we generally characterize as religious conflict.

" We are happy because of the various interventions and the commitment that numerous stakeholders put in place over the years we're witnessing an increasing decline in many parts, particularly in the Southern Part of the State, adding the Urban metropolitan centers have

witnessed continuous peace and stability," He stated.

" Most of the Local Governments that were witnessing ethanol religious conflicts as well as violence between farmers and herders have reverted to peaceful coexistence, stressing that even though, there were some challenges relating to management access to resources; like grazing areas, farmlands and addressing the challenges of crop damages and occasional disputes.

Analyzing the insecurity challenges, he maintained that

violence is now very minimal but occurs in only a few communities.

He commended the religious leaders for working hard to create the right mindset to be able to work together to approach some of the challenges. New Nigerian reports that some of the Key highlights from the summit include; discussions and sharing of true live experiences toward strengthening peacebuilding efforts and innovative approaches for addressing the insecurity challenges.



Disaster Management: NEMA Seeks Interagency Collaboration

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has called for inter agency collaboration, synergy between stakeholders to improve disaster management in the state. Imam Garki, North west Zonal Coordinator of the agency, made the call at the Stakeholders Review Meeting of 2023 Disaster Activities on Wednesday in Kaduna. According to him, coordination and synergy among disaster response units and agents was important in managing disasters. He said the meeting is aimed at providing vital opportunities for stakeholders to

come together and share project successes and challenges. "This meeting will serve as a platform for us to exchange insights, share best practices and forge innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of disasters and enhance our capacity to adapt and recover swiftly. "We are here to familiarize ourselves with the major key roles as stakeholders to avert wastages, function overlaps, and reduce inter-agency rivalry. Similarly, it would also give us the platform to understand our capacity in terms of personnel, equipment while identifying opportunities available for us to explore". He commended the National

Metrological Agency (NiMet) for the timely release of 2024 seasonal climate prediction while calling on stakeholders to utilize for early warning and preparedness. Ishaya Chinoko, Acting Zonal Director, North west Zone of the agency, said coordination and synergy among disaster response units and agents was important in managing disaster or crisis. He said stakeholders need to understand the growing importance of effective disaster preparedness and response in safe guarding communities, infrastructure, livelihood and the environment. "We have witnessed the devastating impact of disasters, from windstorm and floods to fires; highlighting the critical

need for coordinated efforts and proactive measures." Earlier, Mr Paul Aboi, Director, Department of Fire Service and Public Safety, Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (KADSEMA) said that emergency management falls under three categories; the National, State and Local Government. He said that enlightenment was key to disaster management, especially when planning emergency strategies. "We can not avoid natural disasters, but we can reduce it". Aboi assured that KADSEMA would continue to collaborate with the agency in ensuring safety of lives and properties in the state.(NAN)



Akwa Ibom First Lady Launches Humanitarian Project

*Targets all ages

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State First Lady, Mrs Patience Umo Eno has launched a pet-project code-named, Golden Initiative For All (GIFA) with the focus to render humanitarian assistance to the people of the state. The official launch of the project, which also coincided with the First Lady's 57th birthday anniversary celebration on

Tuesday in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, attracted cream of personalities who graced the occasion.

Speaking on the project, Mrs. Eno said that the GIFA project would touch lives, address needs and renew hope for the hopeless in the state irrespective of the race.

Expatiating the thematic components of the GIFA project, the Governor's wife said

the project will capture maternal and child health, improve environment, healthcare for people living with disabilities, gender based violence elimination, women empowerment, fight against diseases, enhancing literacy and care for the elderly. She expressed gratitude to the Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, whom she affirmed, has been her greatest supporter in ensuring that the project which was borne out of her

compassionate yearning to address specific needs in families, came to fruition.

The First Lady thanked various organisations and individuals, particularly her fellow governors' wives, for supporting her vision to come to limelight.

Wife of the immediate past governor, Martha Udom Emmanuel, congratulated



Akwa Ibom First Lady Launches Humanitarian Project *Targets all ages



the incumbent First Lady on her birthday and for the courage to launch the pet project which, she affirmed, was all encompassing to complement the effort of the governor and further provide support to families, especially for those that may not easily be reached by the governor. Wives of the Governor's of Lagos and

Ogun States, Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and Bamidele Abiodun, in their separate goodwill messages, congratulated Mrs. Eno for her giant strides in showing care to families in Akwa Ibom especially the women and young people, while also commending Governor Umo Eno's gesture in furthering the Renewed Hope

Initiative of President Bola Tunibu. On his part, Governor Umo Eno, has pledged his commitment to ensuring optimum success of the Golden Initiative For All (GIFA), a pet-project of his wife. Governor Eno poured encomiums on his wife, lauded her consistent commitment to charitable causes in her local

community and church, saying God has only granted her a bigger platform to be a blessing to the larger Akwa Ibom community.

He described GIFA as credible and a reflection of his wife's unwavering commitment to the well-being of Akwa Ibom citizens, especially with thematic components intended to empower and support all members of the community.

In his words, "I want to say that I am very proud of your dedication and compassion. Your drive to make a difference shines through in every aspect of GIFA, and I am confident that this programme will leave a lasting impact on countless lives. You have been true to your name, you have been an incredible wife and mother and I am sure all of us and our children are really proud of you.

"On this day that we celebrate your 57th birthday, and the launch of your pet-project, I can assure you by the love of God that I will walk side by side with you, support you and do whatever I can to ensure that you fulfill this lifelong ambition of touching lives," he added.

New Nigerian observed that the most personalities at the event, did not only give their goodwill messages but pledged their cash donations to ensure the sustainability of the GIFA.

Other highlights at the event was the cutting of the birthday cake and video clips of programmes that the First Lady, Mrs Patience Umo Eno have impacted on the lives of the people in the last months with her husband as the Governor.

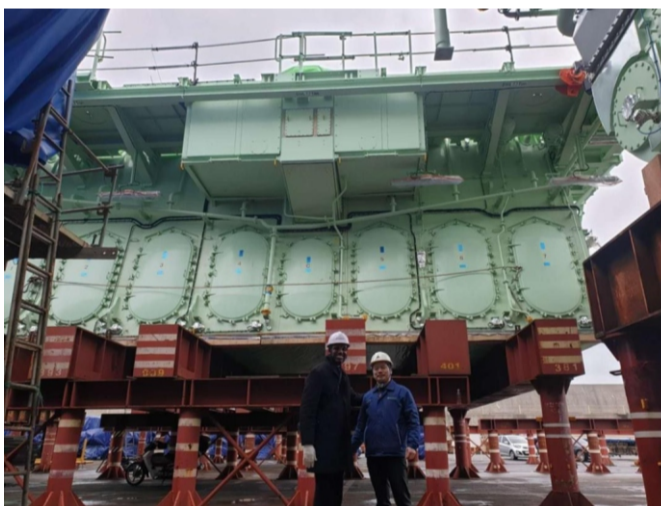


Stable Power For Industries: Reps Committee Chairman Inspects Electricity Equipment In South Korea

*Assures that soon, economy will be impacted

By: AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Commerce, Hon. Ahmed Munir has inspected a 50mw electricity generation equipment at Hyundai Heavy Industrial Plants in South Korea. The heavy energy-generating equipment would be in Nigeria anytime soon, according to Hon. Munir, who expressed satisfaction with arrangements made so far between the country and Seoul. He added that the equipment would boost the economy of Nigeria and create jobs by providing a 50 megawatts of electricity in the nation's economic zones. He asserted that the added 50 megawatts of electricity would go a long way in complementing the effort of the present administration in improving power generation, transmission and distribution across the country. He insisted that no economy would thrive without adequate and sustainable electricity, capable of driving industrial and commercial activities for growth and development.



Qur'an Is Muslims' Golden Constitution - Chief mam

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria
The Chief Imam of Federal College of Education (FCE) Zaria, Abubakar Muhammad Shitu (Samaruddani) has said that the Qur'an is Muslims golden constitution and contains full way of life, as well as fasting is the solution for treatment of body diseases. He stated this while delivering a lecture on fasting during the economic hardship: challenges and solutions at the 3rd Annual General

Meeting of the Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN) ABUTH/ABU Chapter held in Shika. Imam Shitu said fasting can help to attain the most prosperity of life in this world and the hereafter. According to him, during the economic hardship, poor people can get relief for charities distributed to them from richest Muslim brothers, in items like food, clothes, money etc. He added that Month of Ramadan is relief to everybody, and relief from

criminal activities, sins, poverty and other evil and devilish acts. According to him, withholding Zakat, neglecting prayers, killing innocent people and disobedience to parents, are among the vices, The Islamic cleric attributed all these social vices to bad leadership, bribery, corruption, extravagance and ignorance excessive debt from foreign countries, economic policies and collapse of factories,

leaving vacuum for young people to be helpless, neglecting advise from economic experts and solutions for economic hardship. "God fearing for all, good leadership and justice in it, repentance and seeking forgiveness, avoiding usury in financial transactions, taking advice from economic experts that do not violate Allah by giving Zakat as God Almighty commanded," he said, leads to prosperity.

Abba Yusuf Will Bring Real Change To Kano People - Musan Kano

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano
A frontline New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) supporter based In Oyo State, Malam Musa Mohammed Albarkawa, popularly known as "Musan Kano" has assured that Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf of Kano State would bring real change to the people of the state. He stated this in a chat with New Nigerian correspondent yesterday, adding that from what is going on, Abba Kabir Yusuf is becoming more steadfast in governing Kano state despite challenges. Musan Kano stressed that,

" His Excellency, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf is a leader with listening ears whose ideologies remain focused on the development of our great state though there are challenges in one way or the other, and I am sure his administration is set to deliver democratic dividends across the state in every sector". He said. Albarkawa explained that, "NNPP manifesto is very vital to the human endeavour, therefore, we would continue to support our government to deliver because we are certain that Kano will become an exemplary domain under Abba Kabir administration".

French Embassy Organizes Lecture For MAAUN Students On Higher Education In France

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna
The French Embassy on Tuesday, organized a special lecture session for students of Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria (MAUUN) on the prospects of pursuing higher education in France. In line with the embassy's mandate of fostering educational collaborations, the lecture was aimed at promoting cultural, educational and scientific cooperation between French and Nigerian institutions. The experts from the embassy were led by the Head of French Cooperation, Mr. Judikael Renault. Others in his entourage include the French Language Attaché, Magali Losonge, Scientific and Higher Education Attaché, Sébastien Beddie, International Attaché, Emmanuel Vefin, Campus France Nigeria Manager, Laura Moras, Expert in Agency for French Education Abroad, Isabelle Anelone, and



Emmanuel Resbeut. The lecture was held at the Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed Twin Lecture Theatre. In his presentation, Mr Sébastien Beddie, explained that the lecture was designed to enlighten the students about the numerous opportunities they can exploit while studying in France. He also said the idea behind the program was to give the students some insights on how to study in France at the Masters and

Phd levels. According to him, France is one of the world's leading nations in terms of research and innovation, adding that a wide range of academic programs are made available for the students to choose from in order to pursue their desired career. Also speaking, Laura Moras, disclosed that France is increasingly becoming an alternative destination for international students, which currently has over

400,000 students from all over the world pursuing various academic programs. Moras also took time to explain the application procedures into universities in France as well as how students could find scholarships to fund their studies. In a remark during their entry meeting, Mr. Judikael Renault commended the Founder of MAAUN, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, for providing the enabling environment for effective teaching and learning in the University. Earlier in his welcome address, Prof. Gwarzo, who appreciated the delegation, described the visit as a golden opportunity for MAAUN students to interact, share insights and tap from the vast knowledge and experience of the experts. After lengthy discussion on issues revolving around higher education in Nigeria, Prof. Gwarzo expressed commitment to providing adequate resources to promote higher education research and development.

NMA Alerts Health Workers To Observe Standard Cautionary Measures Over Outbreak Of Lassa Fever In Kaduna

World Health Organization
LASSA FEVER

What is Lassa fever?
Lassa fever is a viral illness that typically occurs in West Africa.

How is Lassa fever spread?
The Lassa virus is transmitted to humans mainly through handling rats, food or household items contaminated by rats' urine and faeces. The virus can spread between people through direct contact with the body fluids of a person infected with Lassa fever, as well as contaminated bedding and clothing. You cannot get Lassa fever through hugging, shaking hands or sitting near someone.

What are the symptoms of Lassa fever?
Symptoms of Lassa fever typically occur 2-21 days after coming into contact with the virus. Many people who are infected do not show symptoms.

- Fever
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Chest and muscle pain
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
- Facial swelling
- In severe cases, bleeding from the mouth, nose, vagina or gastrointestinal tract

By; IBRAHIM ADAMU, Kaduna
Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), has alerted all healthcare workers to maintain a high index of suspicion and observe standard precautionary measure at all times in the course of their duties. The call by the umbrella body of medical practitioners in the country followed the suspected outbreak of lassa fever at the 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital in Kaduna. The association confirmed the death of a nurse, one pharmacist, one paramedic and a patient in Kaduna yesterday, stating that the death was recorded within 48 to 72 hours, following contact from a patient with febrile illness. The Kaduna Branch of the Association disclosed this in a statement issued by its

Public Relations Officer, Dr. Shuaibu Joga and made available to newsmen yesterday. According to Joga in the statement, he stated that six samples had already been taken for the suspected cases and awaiting confirmation, while contact tracing was being intensified by the State Epidemiologist and team. "We call on government, hospital managements and proprietors of private health facilities across the State to ensure the provision and use of PPEs (Personal Protective Equipments) for all healthcare workers to further reduce risk of transmission. "We will continue to sensitize members and the general public on preventive measures in order to prevent further spread in Kaduna State," the statement contained.

Power Supply: Nasarawa Govt Distributes 150 Transformers, Expresses Readiness To Build N500m Substation

By; SAMSONYAKI, Lafia

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State has said that his administration has so far distributed 150 transformers aimed at improving power supply across the state.

This is just as Governor Sule expressed readiness to build another power substation estimated at five hundred million Naira, in order to improve electricity supply especially in Lafia, the state capital.

Governor Sule made this known when he met with Regional Manager of the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), Engr. Baro Ahmed, at the Government House in Lafia.

The meeting, which was at the instance of the governor, was aimed at addressing the persistent power supply problem, especially in Lafia and environs.

According to the governor, though it shouldn't be the business of government to buy transformers, especially that AEDC is the only company responsible for collecting revenue from power consumers, his administration has gone ahead to buy 150 transformers in order that communities in the state could be linked to the national grid.

He showed his readiness to enter an agreement with the management of the AEDC with a view to constructing another power substation in Lafia, estimated to cost five hundred million naira.

The governor thereafter, directed the General Manager of the Nasarawa Electricity Power Agency (NaEPA), Engr. Yakubu Sulaiman Umar to arrange a

meeting with the management of AEDC in Abuja where modalities for the agreement would be discussed.

Governor Sule said he called the meeting because of the persistent complaints from electricity consumers from across the state, who continuously express their dissatisfaction with power supply recently.

He said he wanted to hear from AEDC why power supply especially in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital has been epileptic.

On realizing that the issue is not even the matter of distribution, with Lafia that used to get 20 megawatts of electricity now only able to get seven megawatts, the Governor blamed the AEDC for lacking a robust communication system to inform their consumers of what is happening.

He added that sometimes the AEDC takes the heat that is not theirs because the company is not communicating for their consumers to get to understand what is happening.

"People of Lafia were supposed to be getting 20 megawatts every day. We are only getting seven megawatts. You need to create public awareness. The country is not generating enough but that you are having peculiar issues here in Lafia," he said.

Governor Sule insisted that AEDC should have opened up to the people of Lafia by telling them that four years ago, Lafia needed only 4 megawatts daily but that now it needs 20 megawatts because of the springing up of mini industries.

He explained that his

administration has invested huge resources in the area of power and is ready to take necessary steps towards ensuring steady electricity supply in the state, especially in Lafia, the state capital.

He reiterated the readiness of his administration to work with critical stakeholders in the power sector in order to ensure improved power supply to the state and especially Lafia, the state capital.

Also speaking, Secretary to the Government of Nasarawa State, Barrister Mohammed Ubandoma Aliyu, urged officials of the AEDC to proceed with caution when they go out to collect electricity dues, especially that the power supply in the month of February was poor.

The SGNS called on AEDC to consider the prevailing hardship being experienced across the country, and not to charge their customers exorbitantly, particularly that they did not enjoyed steady power supply in this month of February.

Earlier, General Manager, Nasarawa Electricity Power Agency (NaEPA), Engr. Yakubu Sulaiman Umar, said the meeting was at the instance of Governor Sule, for the officials of the power company to ascertain factors responsible for the poor power supply in the state especially Lafia and its environs.

Responding, Regional Manager of Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) Engineer Baro Ahmed, disclosed that presently the country is generating only 4000 megawatts of power, which he said is grossly inadequate.

Engr. Ahmed pointed out that Lafia



Governor Abdullahi Sule

that used to get 20 megawatts daily now gets only 7 megawatts.

He however explained that Lafia is currently experiencing power supply issues because of peculiar problems associated with overloading of available feeders. The AEDC regional manager accepted to communicate further on the willingness of the state government to partner the power company with a view to constructing another substation that would serve to decongest the valuable feeders.

On his part, AEDC Lafia Manager, Isa Mohammed, said an additional power substation would greatly improve power supply especially

in Lafia the state capital.

He commended Governor Sule for his efforts to attract investors into the state, which has brought improved revenue to the AEDC.

"Today, because of the emergence of mini industries, Lafia is needing about 20 megawatts daily," he said. He particularly appreciated the Governor for doing a lot to ensure that power is supplied across the state.

"I never new a governor will come, a cable you buy, transformer you buy. What are we talking about? Your people should appreciate you. You are doing a lot," the Lafia AEDC Manager said.

ASUU To Tinubu: Sign, Implement Nimi-Briggs Committee's Renegotiated 2009 Agreements

*Says FG, state govts need to stop acting like slave owners

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) yesterday, charged the federal government to stop being insensitive and address the central demands of public university lecturers.

Addressing a press conference the Ibadan Zonal Coordinator of the Union Professor Oyebamiji Oyegoke said this became necessary for a better welfare and improved conditions of service.

Prof Oyegoke declared that there is the urgent need for ASUU to draw the attention of Nigerians "to the serial insensitivity of Federal Government of Nigeria to central issues connected with Nimi-Briggs Committee's Renegotiated Agreement and care for the welfare of hard working Nigerian lecturers."

He noted that the burning issues which led to the strike action of February – October, 2022 are being met with half-hearted, insincere and incoherent attention from Federal Government of Nigeria and its agents"

According to ASUU, Federal government has not mainstreamed billions of Earned Academic Allowances owed her members while it has also not signed let alone commence the implementation of the Nimi-Briggs Renegotiated 2009 draft agreements.

ASUU pointed out that the "deliberate pauperisation of the intelligentsia has elevated the brain drain syndrome while newly appointed lecturers are resigning for greener pastures. According to him, "Despite the

good intentions of ASUU members to make Nigerian universities globally competitive, the government has continued to unleash hardship on the lecturers as it is doing to other sectors of Nigerian state; a disposition of acting as a democratic government while pursuing IMF and World Bank anti-people policies abound and stares us in the face everyday".

"There is a limit to which people should be pushed to the wall without resistance, ASUU, as a union of intellectuals, remained undaunted in our patriotic mission of rescuing Nigerian public universities from retrogression", he said.

Prof Oyegoke added "Instead of doing the needful by signing and implementing the Nimi-Briggs Committee's Renegotiated

Agreement, best of what FGN can offer, is the whimsical awards of 35% and 25% to Professorial ranks and other levels by the National Wages, Salaries and Income Commission by the Buhari administration; a case of fighting the effects and not the cause of a problem".

"The consequences will be dire in the event of perpetual improvisation of Nigerian University System. Withheld Salary Still unbowed by obnoxious no-work-no pay policy of Nigerian Government, withheld seven and half months' salary and devaluation of Nigerian currency and the adverse economic conditions brought by subsidy removal from petroleum, our members have gone ahead to the cover lost

grounds (of teaching, service and community service) occasioned by the strike action of February – October, 2022".

Prof Oyegoke declared that "In Federal and State universities examples abound of unpaid salaries to our members; an example is Osun State University that has not paid our members who participated in 2020 stike action, an action whose proceeds the university benefited and still benefitting from".

The Ibadan Zonal Coordinator of the Union Professor Oyebamiji Oyegoke comprising the University of Ibadan, Ibadan; University of Ilorin, Ilorin; Ladoko Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho; Kwara State University, Malete and Osun State University, Osogbo.

Prof Bichi; Sustaining Fudma's Growth Through IGR

By: HABIBU UMARAMINU

Dearth of resources has always been the bane of growth and development of any institution or government World-Wide. Scarcity is a basic economic and development problem. It is a gap between limited resources and competing demands.

Hence, the need for prudent management of such scares resources. Nigerian Universities are not immune to such phenomena as running cost of each of such citadel of knowledge is alarming giving the competing needs for electricity and power, laboratory chemicals for teaching and research, fuelling of vehicles and generators amongst others.

All these demands are on the first line charges for continuous running of any University.

Federal University Dutsin-Ma (FUDMA) located in Katsina State is not however, immune to these challenges but what is more appealing and interesting was the ability of our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Armaya'u Hamisu Bichi to weather the storm by not only conquering these challenges but in his prudence of managing such scares resources. FUDMA under the leadership of Prof. Bichi is not

only relying on Federal allocation as most Vice-Chancellors do for provision of infrastructure and other services do, but optimally utilising its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to sustain the development and growth of the young university.

Since the establishment of FUDMA in 2012, a lot of achievements have been recorded mostly on infrastructures provided through the Federal Governments TetFund interventions. However, a new trend of leadership is being witnessed since the emergence of Prof. Bichi through effective and prudent utilisation of such IGR of the University that are carefully and judiciously used in the provision of infrastructures and other social services.

Despite been the lowest charging student registration fees institution in the country, Prof. Bichi through such IGR was able to accomplished the following; Three (3) female students' hostels with each having a capacity of 360 bed space, two (2) 250 seats capacity auditoriums, two (2) storey building blocks the University Staff Junior Secondary School, A Multi-Purpose Laboratory as well as many other structures that are at various stages of

completion.

Aside this, Prof. Bichi was able to through strategic partnerships and linkages with friends, colleagues and well-wishers brought other good tidings to the university especially in areas of scholarships, buses, solar lightening, feeder roads, office buildings amongst others.

All these are visible for any Doubting Thomas to come and see for themselves.

FUDMA under Prof. Bichi's tenure is witnessing one of its largest expansion from academic to infrastructures.

From a modest beginning of only three faculties and a student population of 281, FUDMA presently has a College of Health Sciences, A School of Post-Graduate Studies, 14 Faculties with 58 departments, School of Continuing Education as well as a Distance Learning Centre.

Only recently, the National Universities Commission (NUC) approved 44 courses made up of 23 Undergraduate and 21 Post-Graduate courses.

A state of the art functional Entrepreneur Centre that is fully equipped to train students with various skills for self-reliance. What is more important to note is

that Prof. Bichi has ensured that the University academic calendar is up to date as 2023/2024 academic session commenced in October 2023 last year.

For us in FUDMA, Prof. Bichi's leadership saw the winning of research grants among which was that of a N32 million naira from the National Research Foundation (NRF), Pretoria, South Africa on "Trans Disciplinary Research on Pathways to Sustainable Collaborative Research Action", Another N35.1 million for " Automated Radiotherapy Treatment Planning Aid" amongst others.

It is equally laudable to note that FUDMA as per 2022 NUC university ranking occupies a good position among Nigerian Universities. As a matter of fact, FUDMA is placed First on Effective Teaching Ranking Index.

With just about four years in the saddle of leadership of the university and the numerous achievements recorded under his tenure one will not be out of place to say Prof. Bichi is a Gold Fish that has no hiding space as everything Bichi touches turn to gold.

Habibu Aminu, is the PRO, Federal University Dutsinma



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QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
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FRONT PAGE STRIP	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
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FULL PAGE (COLOUR)	465,967.54	34,947.57	500,915.11
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HALF PAGE (COLOUR)	303,285.71	22,746.43	326,032.14
HALF PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	247,500.00	18,562.50	266,062.50
QUARTER PAGE (COLOUR)	203,877.14	15,290.79	219,167.93
QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	111,692.74	8,376.96	120,069.70

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

Synergy: Nigerian Hunters Service Commends Anambra CP

By: BASHIR BELLO, Abuja

The Deputy Commander General (DCG), of the Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Service (NHFSS), in charge of Technical Services, Ambassador John Metchie, has commended the Commissioner of Police, Anambra State Command, Aderemi Adeoye for the cordial working relationship between the Police and the Hunters in the State.

Metchie gave the commendation yesterday while speaking to newsmen while on a courtesy visit by the Anambra State Command of the NHFSS to the Police Commissioner which took place on Wednesday at the Police Command's headquarters, Amawbia.

Metchie described CP Adeoye as one of the finest security officers you can find anywhere in the world and said that the Police Commissioner's leadership attributes, commitment and gallantry, as well as the motivation he gives to officers and Men under his Command had led to drastic reduction of crimes and criminalities in Anambra State.

According to Metchie, who is also the Prime Minister of the Anambra State Association of Town Unions (ASATU), CP Adeoye's willingness to receive and share intelligence with the Army, the DSS and other sister security agencies as well as local community leaders, was responsible for the peace being enjoyed in Anambra State currently, under Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, the State Governor.

DCG Metchie, on behalf of the Commander General of the Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Service, Dr. Wole



Ambassador John Metchie

Joshua Osatimehin, thanked CP Adeoye and promised that officers and Men of NHFSS would continue to complement the role of the Police and other security agencies in order to rid the country of banditry, kidnapping, terrorism and other similar crimes.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Anambra State Command of the NHFSS led by Commander, Chief Titus Ogudogwo told CP Adeoye that they were in his office to thank him for the existing working relationship between the Police and Hunters in the State.

Chief Ogudogwo who was represented during the courtesy

visit by the Deputy Commander Admin, Destiny Emmanuel Jonas, said they were also there to seek ways towards fostering peaceful and operational coexistence.

DCH Destiny Jonas said the visit was also centered around forging a collaborative partnership aimed at enhancing security across the state especially within the bushes and forest areas within the state.

The Deputy Commander conveyed the readiness of the Officers of NHFSS to collaborate closely with the Police Force to combat security threats effectively and narrated the successes and achievement

of the NHFSS so far in the fight against crime and criminality in the state.

He also restated the continued readiness, commitment, support, collaboration and solidarity of NHFSS to Nigerian Police Force and assured him of providing the force with Intelligence reports and exploring innovative strategies to address the prevailing security challenges in the state.

In his response, CP Aderemi Adeoye welcomed, appreciated and expressed delight over the visit.

He acknowledged what he described as the invaluable expertise and local knowledge

possessed by the Nigeria Hunters and Forests Security Services and emphasized the importance of harnessing their capabilities to augment existing security efforts. He commended the NHFSS for the efforts and resilience in the discharge of their duties and encouraged them not to relent.

The CP also unveils his strategic action plan which includes intelligence led policing, Community and stakeholders partnership, inter agency collaboration, zero tolerance on corrupt practices, strict adherence to the rule of law and lawful discharge of duties without fear or favour.

He assured the NHFSS that the Nigerian Police will synergize with them for the purpose of enhancing it's collective efforts to combat crime and criminality, promote peace and stability in the state.

Highlight of the visit was the presentation of an Excellent Service Award to the Commissioner by the Anambra State Command of the NHFSS for CP Adeoye's open door policy which have contributed to the drastic reduction of crime and criminality in Anambra State.

Other NHFSS officers that accompanied DCH Destiny Jonas to the visit include the State Provost, ACH Arinze Victor Chukwuka, ACH Nwalioba Ikechukwu Dominic (AREA 2 Commander), ACH Chima Henrietta (State Finance Officer), ACH Lawrence Okafor (State Logistics Officer), SH Nneke Chibuikem (State HPRO), SH Nneke Ifeanyi Peter (Divisional Hunter LGA Officer, DHO, Awka South LGA) and SH Ibemesi Alexander (DHO Oyi LGA).

FRN Vs Ali Bello & Anor: Co-defendant, Daudu Tackles EFCC On Competence Of Amended Charges

By: ADEBOYEADO, Akure

Trial could not continue yesterday, in the Charge mark ed FHC/ABJ/CR/550/2022: FRN v. Ali Bello & Anor, before Justice J. K Omotosho at the Federal High Court, in Abuja, owing to concerns about the competence of the charge, including the amended charges brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Ali Bello's co-defendant,

Suleiman Daudu, through his counsel and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Nureni Jimoh, raised objections against the fresh charges by EFCC.

Although the amended charges have not been read to them for their plea to be taken afresh, the co-defendant is praying the court to reject it outrightly.

However, the motion challenging the amended charges could not be entertained by Justice James Omotoso due to

some flaws discovered in the motion.

Justice Omotoso subsequently ordered the lawyers to the 2nd defendant to re- file the motion and bring it back to the court on February 23.

The Judge said that he would unfailingly determine the motion first before proceeding with the trial of the defendants in the alleged offences filed against them by the anti-graft agency.

The matter has been shifted to

February 23 for the motion and objections of the EFCC to be heard.

When the matter was called, Nureni Jimoh, SAN told the court that he had filed an application challenging EFCC's amended charge.

The prosecutor, Oyedepo Rotimi, SAN, however, said that he had yet to receive the application.

The 2nd defendant counsel also objected to the presence of the prosecution's 4th witness in

court, Yakubu Haruna, on the ground that his name was not listed on the witness list given to his team.

The prosecutor said that he had filed the amended charge against the defendants and that all the names of the witnesses he intended to call were listed.

Ali Bello and Dauda Suleiman, are standing trial on a 10-count criminal charge, bordering on money laundering brought against them by the EFCC.

Edo Primaries: APC National In Its True Element



Ganduje

By: SANI ISARORO

The recent development in the All Progressives Congress (APC) over their back and forth on the drama which their primary(ies) to elect their gubernatorial candidates has come up with, leaves much to be desired.

While the Electoral Act prescribes the emergence of one gubernatorial candidate per party (and which other parties are working on), typical of the APC, under Dr. Umar Ganduje, the party produced three gubernatorial candidates (someone even said four candidates) for one slot. Without doing critical thinking, APC endorsed one of the candidates and even went ahead to congratulate him.

Meanwhile, the ugliest of the comedy, the party has made a u-turn, by

unreasonably declaring the exercise of Saturday, February 17, 2024, inconclusive.

This should not come as a surprise, considering the person at the helm of affairs at the national level of the party. Someone gave to creating confusion. The question to ask is, what is the big deal in conducting a primary that a particular party would endorse three governorship primaries for one position in the same state? A Chinese proverb says, "A fish starts to get rotten from the head".

It would be recalled that the massive shame that the APC suffered during the pendency of the Kano State governorship tussle in the judiciary was due to the unwholesome conduct of their national Chairman in his desperation to get the Kano State

Governorship seat by any means.

However, thanks to the patriotic disposition of Mr. President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who resisted every pressure to interfere in the judicial process and save our democracy and the country from anarchy.

For APC to make any progress in governance, as the party in government especially at the national level, it has become expedient to get a new National Chairman, to save itself from unnecessary distraction and shame which its current leader is subjecting the party to.

Without doubt, the government of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu seems to be at the receiving end of some harsh criticisms by many Nigerians as a result of the unpleasant conditions

under which they live. This shouldn't be so, precisely.

The President is a man of massive experience to solve the problems of this country. Perhaps, the distractions being put in his way by the conduct of his National Chairman could be the reason why we are where we are today.

We members of the NNPP want Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to succeed for the sake of his legacy and Nigerians in general. But he has to remove all obstacles blocking his focus.

In clear terms, he needs a new party national chairman who will efficiently and effectively complement his efforts.

Hon. Sani Isa Roro
Chairman, Internal Democracy Alliance, writes from Abuja

World Bank And IMF: In The Shadow Of Their Talons

By Owei Lakemfa

THE AMERICAN World Bank and the European International Monetary Fund (IMF), have in the past few weeks circled round Nigeria like vultures waiting for the prey to die.

The twin organisations have become more active and quite audacious since President Bola Ahmed Tinubu came to power on May 29, 2023. They are like predators, ready for the kill.

While Nigerians are hungry and their anger is beginning to boil over to street protests due to the stifling economic policies of the Tinubu administration, these organisations are praising Tinubu to the high heavens and telling him to tighten the noose round the necks of the people.

So, why are the IMF and World Bank so callous and inhuman? It is simply because that is why they were set up in the first place; to exploit poor countries, degrade and destroy their production capacity, control their resources and destroy their education system so they will be incapable of thinking.

Inflation is at 32 per cent. Fuel price increased from N238 per litre on Inauguration Day to N617-N700, and the naira has dipped from a depth of about N700 to the dollar last year to over N1,500. While these have resulted in devastating consequences, both institutions tell Tinubu he has not gone far enough.

In its Friday, February 9, 2024, statement, the IMF praised Tinubu for making “a strong start”. It further encouraged him to heavily tax hapless Nigerians as part of a so-called “ambitious domestic revenue mobilisation agenda”.

In the statement signed by its spokesperson, Julie Ziegler, the IMF, like a schoolmaster to an errant pupil, told Tinubu: “Fuel and electricity subsidies are costly, do not reach those that most need government support and should be phased out completely.” In other words, it is instructing him and his team to further increase the current prices of fuel and electricity.

The IMF also encouraged Tinubu to take more foreign loans because in its view: “Nigeria’s capacity to repay the Fund is adequate under the baseline.” As an incentive, it offered trade-offs “... between urgent humanitarian needs and debt service, including to the Fund”.

These IMF assessments and instructions tally with those of the World Bank. The latter’s Lead Economist for Nigeria, Alex Sienaert, had on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, told Tinubu: “We think the price of petrol should be around N750 per litre more than the N650 per litre currently paid by Nigerians.”

So, why are the IMF and World Bank so callous and inhuman? It is simply because that is why they were set up in the first place; to exploit poor countries, degrade and destroy their production capacity,

control their resources and destroy their education system so they will be incapable of thinking.

Let me tell you a verifiable story. The World Bank told African countries in the 1980s that they do not need universities; what they need is technical education to run a basic economy. So, it discouraged African countries from developing education by seeking to destroy the existing university education.

For instance, while the twin agencies are insistent on increasing the price of fuel, they do not encourage the local refining of fuel by an oil producing country like Nigeria. That will go against the belief they have instilled in the African people; that our role in the world is to produce raw materials while their God-given role is to manufacture.

This is why apart from raising what Franz Fanon called 'Black Skin, White Masks' as elites, they also go for the jugular by destroying our education system and convincing generations of Nigerian governments that we do not need to know about our past. That was why until 2022, they banned the teaching of history in all Nigerian schools.

Surely, it is dangerous to allow slaves to be educated. But where it becomes inevitable, the bosses of the IMF and World Bank, try to ensure that the education the former slave colonies receive, are uncritical, subservient, if not useless.

Let me tell you a verifiable story. The World Bank told African countries in the 1980s that they do not need universities; what they need is technical education to run a basic economy. So, it discouraged African countries from developing education by seeking to destroy the existing university education.

It got a listening ear in the Babangida military regime that thought learning is a danger to its dictatorship. The regime which had accused academics in tertiary institutions of “teaching what they are not paid to teach”, agreed with the World Bank to stop funding university education.

The World Bank also demanded the commercialisation of facilities which may include classrooms and lecture theatres, and that the procurement of 60 per cent equipment by the universities “shall be in accordance with standard specifications and approved manufacturers” of the bank. To cap these, the bank demanded that it must scrutinise all the curricular of the universities and that there must be the mandatory importation of expatriate staff whose salaries are to be heavily topped.



So, both sides in 1987 signed an agreement for the World Bank to carry out a “restructuring exercise” of all federal universities in Nigeria using a loan facility of \$120-150 million.

Under the “Eligibility Criteria for Federal Universities” the government accepted the conditionality of the World Bank which included the freezing of recruitment of all categories of staff, mandatory staff retrenchment, increase in tuition fees for remedial and non-degree students, cancelling remedial courses in the Arts and phasing out sub-degree programmes that are being offered in other tertiary institutions.

Other World Bank conditionality accepted by the Nigerian government, include eliminating post-graduate programmes in any department that had not yet graduated undergraduate students, phasing out any department that has been “in existence for more than ten years, but has less than 40 full time equivalent undergraduate students” and phasing out any department that has been “in existence for more than ten years, and has less than two thirds of the normally required academic staff.”

This slavish project was buried when in the bloody April 22, 1990 aborted coup speech, Major Gideon Orkar gave one of the reasons for the coup as: “The cowing of the university teaching and non-teaching staff by an intended massive purge, using the 150 million dollar loan as the necessitating factor.”

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whose salaries are to be heavily topped.

The bank and the conniving Babangida regime agreed that Nigerian universities must meet all the conditionality between June 1990 and June 1994. All these were published by the World Bank under its “Progress Report on the World Bank-Federal Universities Adjustment Operation.”

The World Bank and IMF remind me of 'The Vultures', a poem by David Diop, in which he wrote: “In those days, When civilization kicked us in the face, When holy water slapped our cringing brows, The vultures built in the shadow of their talons, The blood-stained monument of tutelage.”

The country was saved the implementation of this destructive agreement due to mass protests by the media, professional associations, academics and students. In its desperate attempt to implement this World Bank gambit, the Babangida regime shut down many campuses and shot four students of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife. This slavish project was buried when in the bloody April 22, 1990 aborted coup speech, Major Gideon Orkar gave one of the reasons for the coup as: “The cowing of the university teaching and non-teaching staff by an intended massive purge, using the 150 million dollar loan as the necessitating factor.”

The twin institutions, which exercise power without responsibility, are predatory birds, and as the 1969 title of James Hardley Chase novel asserts: “The Vulture is a Patient Bird.”

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Navigating Challenges: President Tinubu's Path To Renewed Hope

By: MUHAMMAD AWALIBRAHIM

In the face of current hardships Nigerians are enduring, it is crucial to maintain patience and resilience. The challenges posed by the harsh economy are temporary, as the government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is tirelessly working to implement reforms that will benefit all citizens.

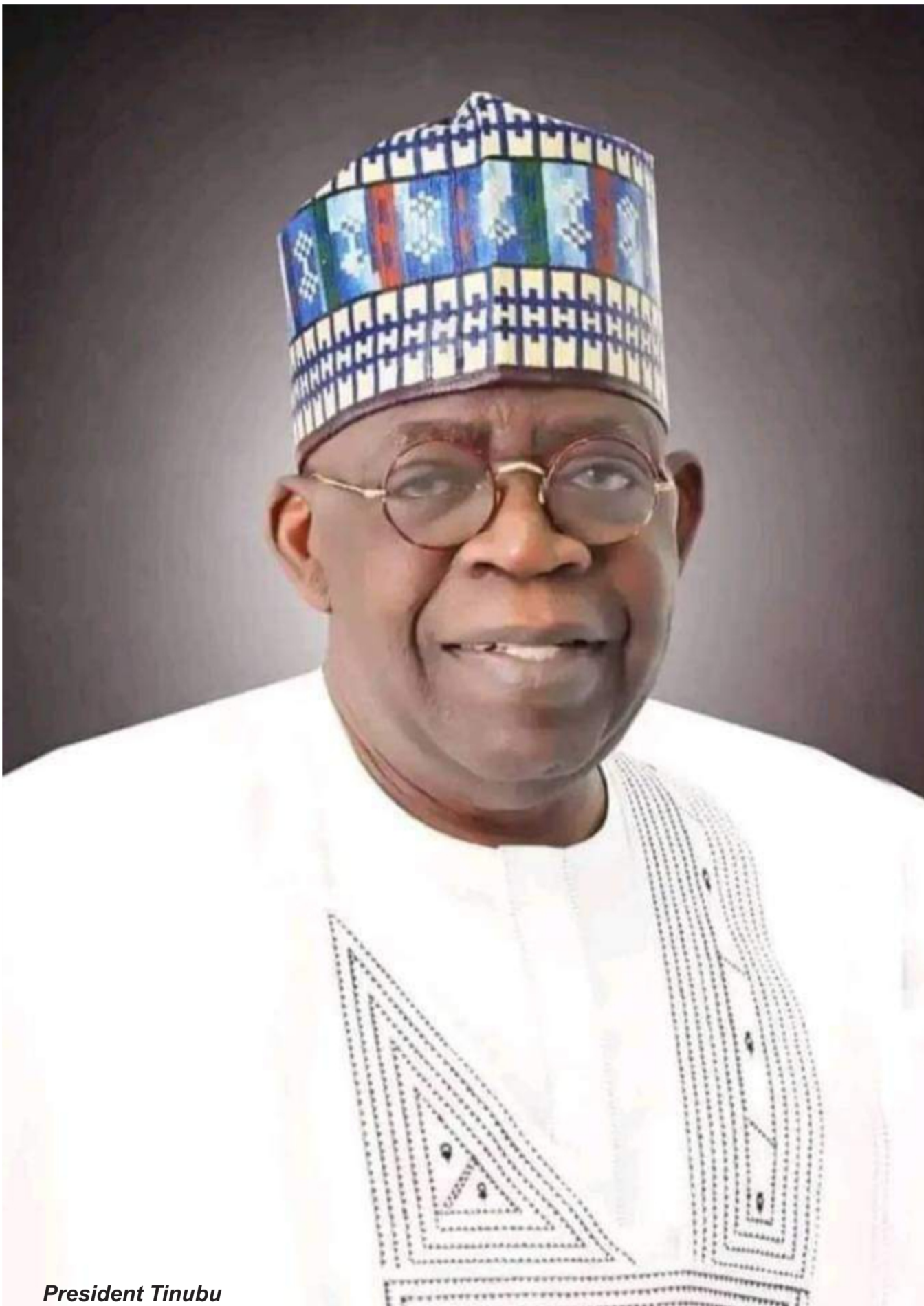
Nigerians should continue to trust President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his team, their efforts are aimed at righting the long-standing wrongs in the nation. They said, "Charity begins at home". We cannot curse the children we give birth to and expect them to be good in society. Instead, we bless our children so they can contribute positively to society.

Similarly, we must apply this mentality to our country. Rather than cursing Nigeria, we should strive to bless and uplift our nation, fostering a culture of growth, unity, and progress for a better future."

Mr. President is aware of the untold hardship faced by Nigerians due to the actions of some unpatriotic individuals exploiting government policies to inflict unnecessary suffering and his administration, in collaboration with state governors, has devised a comprehensive strategy to address this issue.

Furthermore, in the quest to mitigate the impact of oil subsidy and alleviate the burden on citizens, President Tinubu is actively working towards enhancing the minimum wage, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) should embrace a spirit of understanding during this transitional period.

It is essential for the NLC to refrain from actions that could exacerbate tensions within the polity and hinder the progress being made.



President Tinubu

By fostering dialogue and cooperation, both the government and the NLC can work together towards achieving a sustainable solution that benefits all Nigerians. It is crucial for all stakeholders to prioritize the well-being of the populace and collaborate constructively in shaping a better future for the nation.

The President is actively engaged in revamping our refineries, improving our educational sector, and enhancing our healthcare system.

Additionally, there are plans in place to construct new roads and bridges, aiming to bolster infrastructure and facilitate smoother connectivity across the nation.

President Tinubu has shown remarkable resilience in combating insecurity in the nation. Under his leadership, kidnappers, bandits, and other criminal elements are facing defeats daily.

Our gallant security personnel are resolutely taking decisive actions to

squarely defeat these threats, ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. President Tinubu's unwavering commitment to addressing security challenges is evident in the ongoing efforts to restore peace and stability across the country.

The government is significantly contributing to the agro-revolution by implementing policies and initiatives to boost food production for the country's self-sufficiency.

This includes providing support to farmers through access to improved farming techniques, modern agricultural equipment, quality seeds, and fertilizers. Additionally, the government is investing in irrigation systems, storage facilities, and market access to help increase agricultural productivity and ensure food security for the nation.

President Tinubu's commitment to the country is unwavering, and Nigerians should continue to believe in his vision.

The trust placed on him by the citizens is not misplaced; he is dedicated to steering the country towards a brighter future. The Renewed Hope mantra of Mr. President is not just a slogan but a strategic plan to reset the nation.

Despite the current challenges, there is a steadfast assurance that with perseverance and faith, Nigeria will emerge stronger. Let us hold onto hope and trust in the

leadership as they work towards a better tomorrow for all.

Together, with unity and determination, we can overcome the obstacles and see the light at the end of the tunnel.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

May PBAT succeed.

Engr MUHAMMAD AWAL IBRAHIM sent in this piece from Abuja, can be reached via, iawal27@yahoo.com

Yobe Governor's Football Competition Set to Kick Off, Promoting Youth Talent and Unity

**Aims at talents discovery and promotions of peace, unity, social cohesion as well as economic growth through sports_*

By; AHMED KAGANA AMSHI, Damaturu

The Commissioner of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Social, and Community Development, Hon. Barma Shettima, has announced plans to launch the Governor's Cup Football Competition in Yobe State.

The event aims to unearth young talents while fostering peace, unity, social cohesion, and economic growth through sports.

Addressing journalists after a meeting with Zonal and Local Government Sport Officers, the Commissioner revealed that teams from 17 local government areas have been selected to participate in the tournament.

Matches will be held at five stadia across the state, including the August 27 Stadium in Damaturu, Dabo Aliyu Stadium in Potiskum, Gashua Township Stadium, Kawumi Stadium in Geidam, and Nguru Township Stadium.

Hon. Barma highlighted that the final round of the competition will take place at the August 27 Stadium in Damaturu, with the top teams competing for cash prizes. The first-place winner will receive One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira, the second-place team

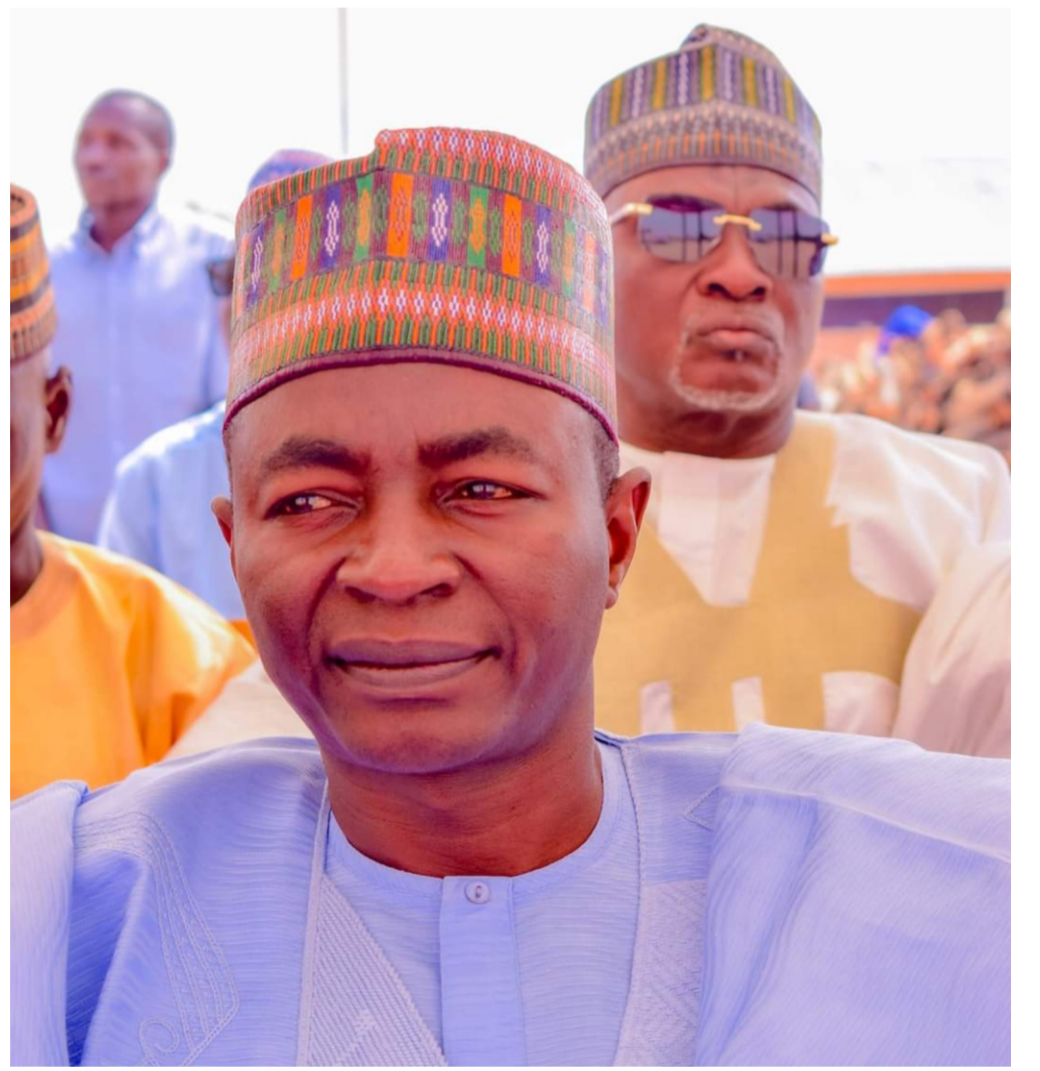
will be awarded One Million Naira, and the third-place team will receive Five Hundred Thousand Naira.

Praising the efforts of Governor Mai Mala Buni in revitalizing sports in the state, the Commissioner urged all Sport Officers to ensure fair play and adherence to the rules for a successful tournament.

Executive Director of the Yobe State Sports Council, Dr. Abdulrahman Ago, announced that the tournament's finale will be held on the newly constructed synthetic pitch at the August 27 Stadium. This artificial grass surface, known for its durability and consistency, is set to enhance the players' performance.

Dr. Ago expressed gratitude to Governor Mai Mala Buni for supporting the construction of the new football pitch, confirming the Governor's attendance at the competition's kick-off ceremony. He noted that the last Governor's Cup was held in 2017.

Preparations for the tournament are in full swing, with players' licenses, jerseys, balls, kits, and other necessary equipment already distributed to the participating Local Government Areas.



Yobe Governor's Football Competition Set to Kick Off, Promoting Youth Talent and Unity

*Aims at talents discovery and promotions of peace, unity, social cohesion as well as economic growth through sports_

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Borno Govt, WHO, Introduce HPV Vaccine Into State's Routine Immunization

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Borno State Government with support from the World Health Organisation has inaugurated the State Technical Working Group that will introduce Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine into the State's Routine Immunization in second quarter of 2024

While inaugurating the working group in Maiduguri, the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Professor Baba Mallam Gana explained the negative impact of the HPV infections in the communities should not be considered as mere virus as it leads to cancer.

"The negative impact of HPV infections on our communities is significant. The HPV is not merely a virus, but it is a leading cause of several cancers, including cervical cancer, which tragically claims the lives of hundreds of thousands of women worldwide each year".

"Additionally, HPV infections can lead to other forms of cancer affecting both men and women, underscoring the urgency of our collective response. Today

marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing commitment to public health and disease prevention. With the introduction of HPV vaccines, we are not just combating a virus; we are safeguarding the health and well-being of future generations" he revealed.

The WHO State Coordinator in Borno State, Dr. Ibrahim Salisu in his remarks thanked Governor Babagana Umar Zulum for giving the health sector the utmost priority, as demonstrated by the allocation of about 15% of the total state budget for 2024 to the health sector and pledged that WHO would continue to support the Ministry of Health and its agencies.

"We will continue to support the Ministry of Health, under the leadership of the Honorable Commissioner, Prof. Baba Mala Gana, and all the agencies and departments under the Ministry"

"As you may be aware, vaccination is one of the most important public health interventions and constitute a cost-effective strategy to reduce both the morbidity and mortality associated with infectious diseases".

"Recently, Nigeria, and indeed,

Borno state, has recorded some improvements in the routine immunization coverage, which was accelerated by the introduction of new vaccines (Pentavalent, IPV2, Rotavirus vaccines etc.). This further strengthens the country's efforts to reduce child morbidity and mortality and accelerate our progress towards achieving the SDGs", he said.

Dr Salisu further restated the commitment of WHO to providing the required leadership, technical and financial support, and to strengthen the accountability framework as the state introduces the HPV vaccine into its immunization program.

Earlier in his welcome address, Executive Secretary, Borno State Primary Health Care Development Board, Professor Mohammed Arab Alhaji, said he is confident that inauguration of the TWG is a pivotal milestone to address a formidable challenges posed by the HPV infection.

"The Inauguration of this TWG represents a pivotal milestone in our collective efforts to address the formidable challenge posed by HPV infections. With your expertise, dedication, and



Governor Zulum

commitment, I am confident that we will chart a course towards comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

The formation of this Technical WG underscores our recognition of the multifaceted nature of the HPV challenge. We bring together experts from diverse fields, including public health,

epidemiology, immunology, oncology, and health policy, to harness our collective knowledge and experience in pursuit of our shared objectives.

It is believed the HPV vaccine would be prioritized so as to reach adolescents and young adults, the age group most vulnerable to HPV infection.

Stop Fanning Ethnic War Over Economic Situation In Nigeria, Fadojoe Appeals To Igbo Youth

By: MIKE ODEH JAMES, Kaduna

The leader of Rescue Movement For New Nigeria aka Rescue The Vulnerable Initiative, Comrade Faduri Oluwadare Joseph, popularly called Fadojoe, has called on youth from South East Nigeria to desist from turning the present economic downturn in Nigeria to an opportunity to take on the entire Yoruba people, thereby fanning embers of ethnic war.

In a video broadcast through his official YouTube channel, the former presidential aspirant under Labour Party, Fadojoe said, that at "this jet age, it's so sad that we still have generation of some young Nigerians that will still continue to fan embers of tribal war in reaction to the devastating state of our country, turning it to Yoruba vs Igbo media battle.

"No doubt the economy is so harsh, no doubt the country is crashing more and more and no doubt, we are all talking about it. But the fact still remains that we've not been having the best of governance since many years back and

the economy of the country keeps nosediving deeper and deeper".

Stressing further that precisely this 2024, "the hardship in our country affects the West, South, North as well as the East. Skyrocketing cost of food and everything is nationwide, and it knows no ethnic group.

"So if our country fails woefully, we all fail as a nation: it's not just the Yoruba people or the Hausa people that fail. And if our government succeeds, we all succeed as a nation and we will all have a country that we can be proud of and that in future our children can be bold to call their nation.

"Therefore, what we should all focus on should be how to rescue our country from the 'sit-tight old generation syndrome' that will use ethnicity, religion, money etc as divide and rule strategy among the youth, to keep holding the nation in salary while destroying the future of the same youth they are using 'divide-and-rule' scheme to keep ruling over

them.

"In the light of this, it's very important to correct some of our brothers from the South East that come online to blame the present state of Nigeria only on the Yoruba people. I live in the United States of America, it will be very wrong of me to blame the problems in America on just the white people. Because if I do that, it's called racism. I will be seen as a racist.

"On this note, I want to appeal to our leaders of South East extraction to please caution our Igbo brothers that come online to rubbish Yoruba people about the state of our nation. Let us make our criticism constructive and not based on ethnicity.

"I am a Yoruba man and I have criticized this administration more than many people and even more than all the opposition political parties put together. But I ensure my criticism is constructive, with the focus on how to make our dear nation better.

"And the fact remains that there are many of us

as Yoruba people that worked assiduously for Peter Obi and millions of Yorubas voted for him (Obi). Also there are many Igbos too that worked for and voted Tinubu. Hence, when you now rubbish an entire race because of the failure of one Yoruba man, then you are also rubbishing those of us who worked for and voted Peter Obi. When many of us lost friends and even some business partners, because of our support for Peter Obi and we didn't care about that as far as we justify our conscience through our support for Obi".

The activist thus noted that there is no where in the world where only one tribe can win any presidential election without the help of another tribe, likewise there is no way an Igbo man can win a presidential election without support from other tribes. "Therefore, those instigating our brothers from South East to turn the failure of Nigeria to ethnic war, are setting them up against winning future presidential election.