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- Warn Northern elite against cruising flashy cars
- Disappointed that terrorists, bandits, kidnappers carrying out criminal activities unchallenged
- Frowns at releasing of bandits captured by vigilante



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke welcoming Director-General NYSC, Brigadier-General Y. D. Ahmed to his office, Abere Osogbo yesterday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

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By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

While lamenting the level of hunger resulting from the daily skyrocketing food prices in the country, as well as increasing spate of insecurity, the Northern Youth Leaders Forum (NYLF), has warned that Nigerians have been pushed to the wall. This was expressed at a press briefing yesterday in Lafia, with the text, read by NYLF President, Comrade Elliot Afayo in Lafia, the

Nasarawa State capital, where the group lamented that security agencies freed bandits arrested by vigilante.

"Consequently, we would like to appeal to the Northern Youths to remain calm until all avenues for negotiation and actions of government are exhausted. "Definitely we have been pushed to the wall but violent reactions can only worsen the situation," NYLF said.

In conclusion, we call upon all wealthy Northerners to assist and initiate palliative

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**Hungry Lion Kills OAU Staff** **P.2**

*\*Lion euthanized as VC orders comprehensive investigations into the immediate and remote causes of incident*

# Hungry Lion Kills OAU Staff

*\*Lion euthanized as VC orders comprehensive investigations into the immediate and remote causes of incident*

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Tragedy struck at the Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU), Ile Ife as one of the lions at the institution zoological garden killed a Veterinary Technologist, in charge of the Zoological garden. Already, the institution's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire has ordered a comprehensive investigation into the immediate and remote causes of the incident.

Also, sources said the aggressive Lion has been euthanized.

According to a statement by the University Public Relations Officer, Abiodun Olarewaju, the Veterinary Technologist identified as Mr Olabode Olawuyi was attacked on Monday afternoon, by a 9-year old male lion when he was feeding them in their den.

The statement stressed that all efforts by other members of staff at the scene of the incident to rescue Mr Olawuyi failed as the lion had already caused severe fatalities.

It was learnt that upon hearing the news about the

lion's attack on Mr Olawuyi, the management team of the University, led by the Vice Chancellor, abruptly ended an ongoing meeting for an on the spot assessment

The institution's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire led the management team to the University Health centre where the Veterinary Technologist was rushed to for medical attention

It was gathered that the Vice Chancellor was informed, on arrival, by the acting Director of the University Health and Medical Centre Dr. Tirimisiyu Olatunji, that all first aid and medical efforts to save the life of the victim proved abortive.

The university management has sent a delegation to the widow and children of the deceased, imploring them to take solace in God who gives life and also has the power to take life.

New Nigerian gathered that the late Mr Olawuyi has been taking care of the lions since they were born on campus about nine years ago.

# Gunmen Abduct Nine Travelers In Kogi

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Gunmen suspected to be kidnapers have abducted nine travellers in Oshokoshoko on Kabba/Obajana/Lokoja Road in Kogi State.

The victims of the incident that happened over the weekend, included the driver of the vehicle, two students and six others.

The incident occurred after about two weeks of a similar one when Abuja-

bound travellers were kidnapped in the state on their way from the Eastern part of the country.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred last Saturday around 5pm when the passengers were travelling from Kabba to Lokoja, the Kogi State capital.

Elupo Eliazer, a physically challenged person whose wife was among the victims, said that the kidnappers had called earlier to demand

N30million ransom but later reduced to it to N2.6 million after negotiations. He said, "My wife and I were traveling to attend our church convention scheduled for Lokoja, but I decided to follow a different vehicle as the Toyota car could not contain all of us which presupposed that I would have been a victim like others in the car with her." He said that the vehicle his wife boarded was ahead of the one he was in but all the

occupants of the vehicle were marched into the bush by the time his own vehicle got to the spot.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP William Aya, said he was not aware of the incident but promised to find out and get back to our Correspondent with the details.

However, the Police spokesman was yet to do so as at the time of filing this report.

# FCTA Pledges Maximum Security For Contractors Handling Projects In Abuja



Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has promised to provide maximum security for the contractors handling various projects in the federal capital.

Director, Development Control, FCTA, Mr Mukhtar Galadima, gave the assurance when he led a security task force to Shehu Shagari Road in Gwarinpa District, Abuja, on Tuesday.

The assurance was sequel to the attack on some workers of CBC Global handling the ongoing construction of N16 Road project in the area on Friday by hoodlums.

Galadima assured the contractors that FCTA would deal with anyone obstructing construction

of any public interest project across the territory. He said that the FCT Minister, Mr Nyesom Wike, had directed that all necessary security provisions be made to protect the contractors.

Alia Sacks Three Local Govt Caretaker C'ttee Bosses Over Alleged Fraud, Gross Misconduct He also said that the cashew trees by the roadside were being removed, as they were housing all manner of shanties and suspected criminal elements, thus constituting security threats to the area.

"Our job on the project site is to make sure that some illegal structures are not preventing the work and we have done the needful by removing illegal

structures and shanties. "If there is any reaction or protest by any other person, there are security agencies that are responsible for taking care of that.

"On the cashew plantation, several times, we found out that these cashew trees provide safe haven for men of the underworld and that is why we are cutting them down," he said.

Nigerians Need Good Governance, Not Watery Propaganda; By Abadom Lawrence Amechi On his part, the Secretary, FCT Command and Control Centre, FCTA, Dr Peter Olumuji, said that the hoodlums who attacked CBC Global officials injured some of

them and destroyed some of the company's equipment.

"It is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order. So, when they reported the incident to the administration, we had to mobilise today to give them adequate cover so that they can continue their work," he said.

Olumuji said that the Commissioner of Police in the FCT would deploy attached a team of policemen to the companies to provide adequate security. Project Manager of CBC Global, Mr Titus Sende, thanked FCTA for the prompt response and called for reinforcement of security personnel to the area.



## Hunger Palaver: Customs Set To Auction Seized Food Items To Ordinary Nigerians

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

As part of efforts to tackle the challenges of hunger and soaring costs of food items, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has resolved to dispose the seized food items forfeited to the Federal Government.

The move is to reaffirm the commitment of the Comptroller General of Customs, Adewale Adeniyi, to advancing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's food security agenda.

The National Public Relations Officer of Customs CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, in a statement yesterday, said that the commitment is deeply rooted in the NCS's core mandate of serving the best interests of the Nigerian people, thereby fostering economic stability and prosperity.

He explained that the items will be certified fit for consumption by relevant agencies and made available to ordinary Nigerians nationwide through equitable distribution in our Areas of Operations.

Maiwada added that the modalities for the disposal will be communicated through NCS formations nationwide, with a firm commitment to transparency, fairness, and public safety.

The Customs spokesperson pledged



Comptroller General of Customs Adewale Adeniyi

that the exercise will be managed diligently to ensure that the benefits reach those most in need.

It reads, "In response to the critical challenges of food security and the soaring costs of essential food items in Nigeria, the Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, reaffirms his commitment to advancing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's food security agenda. This commitment is deeply rooted in the NCS's core mandate of serving the best interests of the Nigerian people, thereby fostering economic stability and prosperity.

"In line with this vision, the service has launched a strategic anti-smuggling operation and public engagement in its

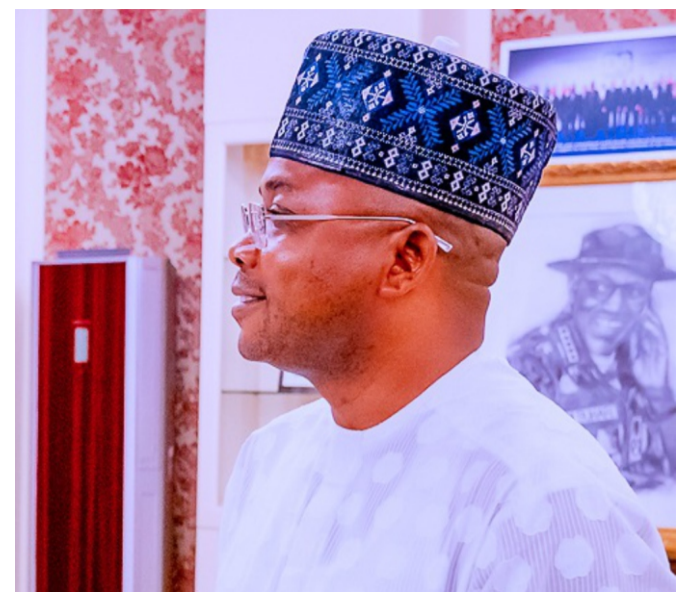
commitment to prevent the unlawful exportation of vital food resources for individual economic gains. This urgent imperative fuels the need for a proactive stance to safeguard food availability within our nation and alleviate the detrimental effects of scarcity on citizens.

"Furthermore, to alleviate the hardships faced by Nigerians and improve access to essential food items, the Nigeria Customs Service will facilitate the direct disposal of food items forfeited to the Federal Government. These items will be certified fit for consumption by relevant agencies and made available to ordinary Nigerians nationwide through equitable

distribution in our Areas of Operations.

"The modalities for the disposal will be communicated through NCS formations nationwide, with a firm commitment to transparency, fairness, and public safety. It is our pledge that this exercise will be managed diligently to ensure that the benefits reach those most in need.

"The NCS remains resolute in its dedication to safeguarding the nation's food security and advancing the economic well-being of all Nigerians. With the unwavering support and cooperation of the public, we will surmount these challenges and pave the way for a more prosperous future for our beloved nation."



Gov Ahmed Ododo

## Court Strikes Out APP'S Petition Challenging Election Of Ododo As Kogi Governor

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, sitting in Abuja has struck out the Petition of the Action Peoples Party (APP), challenging the Election of Alh Ahmed Usman Ododo as the Governor of Kogi State in the November 11, 2023 Governorship Election in the state.

This followed the withdrawal of the petition by Counsel to the Petitioner, Daniel Edeachi, Esq.

The application to withdraw the petition was not opposed by Counsel to

Governor Usman Ododo, Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed, SAN; Counsel to APC, DC Denwigwe, SAN and Counsel to the Independent National Electoral Commission, Kanu Agabi, SAN, respectively.

The Tribunal, upon review of the affidavit of no objection filed by the Respondents' respective counsels to the APP petition, struck out the petition in a ruling delivered on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, by the Chairman of the Tribunal, Hon. Justice Ado Yusuf Birnin-Kudu. Hearing in the remaining three petitions continues.

## FIRS Commiserates With YSU Over Fire Disaster

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has commiserated with the Management, staff, students and the entire community of Yobe State University over the fire incidence that razed down a Female Hostel in the University.

The visit was held yesterday February 20, 2024 at the University Senate Chamber.

Speaking during the visit, the State Monitor, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Alhaji Adamu Maina, said they were at the University

to commiserate with the Management, staff, students and University Community over the disaster that occurred in the institution.

He added that they found it necessary to sympathise with the University as one of the institutions that are paying tax promptly.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mala Mohammed Daura, said the University Management is very grateful for the visit.

He then commended the efforts of the parastatal for the visit and assured them of maintaining mutual relationship between them.



# Economic Hardship, Insecurity: Nigerians Have Been Pushed Too Far - Northern Youth Leaders

- Issue 3-day ultimatum to FG to reverse policies
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Comrade Afiyo

measures in their communities to avert negative reactions.

Comrade Afiyo said that, "it is with great dismay and excruciating pains that I address you today on the security challenges and the severe hardship being faced by Nigerians especially the Northerners.

"It is an evident truth that since the inception of this democratic dispensation in 1999, Nigeria especially the Northern part has been engaged in one form of security challenge or the other. Facts must not be ignored that Boko Haram Terrorists, bandits and kidnappers have escalated their nefarious acts to an unbearable level since the President Buhari

administration."

He said that with the Renewed Hope Agenda, Nigerians especially the Northerners, were looking forward with great expectations that the security challenges will be tackled.

"Alas, we are highly disappointed that all these terrorists, bandits and kidnappers have increased to an unexpected level, their criminal activities unchallenged.

"These criminals are now carrying their nefarious acts at anytime they so wished even to the extent of boasting that their sponsors are now in charge of security in Nigeria.

"We observed with dismay the scenario whereby the bandits were apprehended by the

vigilante and the security officers came to release them," the group said.

They therefore, called on the Federal Government to take decisive actions against the criminals and their collaborators in the security agencies, else they will take up their destinies in their hands and any action is inevitable.

On scarcity and high prices of foodstuff, the group expressed worries that inflation is leading to increased level of poverty.

"It is absolutely necessary to draw the attention of the government on the escalating prices of basics necessities of life in the nation. Basic foodstuffs like corn, rice, beans, yams and

millet are no longer affordable by common man. The prices keep on increasing daily.

"The level of poverty keep multiplying to the level that people have resolved to selling their children to cater for their families.

"We observed with astonishment the deliberate decision to secretly increase the pump prices of petroleum products two weeks ago, and the proposed removal of subsidy on electricity.

"We seriously viewed these decisions as barbaric, callous and insensitive. We therefore demand for the reversal of these decisions within three days effective from Tuesday the 20th of February, 2024," they

demand.

They explained that from the intelligence reports being received from state and local government coordinators, "we would like to advice that all Northerners that are using exotic and flashy cars and also those that are using sirens, should discontinue using such cars forthwith until the severe hardship is minimized or curtailed.

"Failure to adhere to this advice may lead to some unforeseen consequences. A word is enough for the wise".

## Killings In Kaduna Communities: Northern Christians Call For Govt Intervention

By: AMOSTAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Chapter of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians (CNNC), has expressed concerns over the continuous killing of innocent citizens by bandits in parts of the state.

A statement issued in Kaduna yesterday by its state chairman, Elder Bulus Dogara, said, "Painfully, the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians (CNNC), expresses great sense of dismay over the recent barbaric killings of people at Kwassam, in Kauru Local Government Area and Gindin Dutse Makyali Village, Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State by suspected bandits where some of the victims were burnt beyond recognition."

He added that houses of the

communities were set ablaze with foodstuff and property completely destroyed by the attackers at the hard times that people are living from hand to mouth.

The congress urged the federal and Kaduna State governments to urgently investigate these and other killings been carried out in communities in the state and other parts of the country and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book no matter who they might be, saying that no one is above the law of the land.

The chairman also called on the Kaduna State and the federal government to urgently direct its emergency management agencies to supply the victims with all the necessary humanitarian interventions especially those who are injured and are receiving treatments in

various health facilities outside the local government areas, are well attended to.

"Those whose houses were brought down by the attackers should be assisted with building materials to enable them have shelter to continue with life. This would help in cushioning the effects of this evil act going on unabatedly against the peace loving people," the statement added.

As people of conscience and law abiding citizens, the congress called on the people to be more security conscious at this time and enjoined them to jealously protect their communities and report to security agencies all sorts of suspicious movements especially of people with questionable characters living within and without their communities for interrogation.

The congress assured of its determination to build bridges of peace and mutual coexistence through intercommunit



Gov Uba Sani

y collaboration, stressing that it is aimed at fostering peace and unity in the state.

The congress appealed to government's relevant agencies and all security organizations

working in Kauru, Kajuru and other local government areas in the state to step up their games to ensure that these incessant attacks going on in Kauru LGA especially at Kumana Chiefdom and some parts of Kauru LGA

# 2027: Enugu Youth Vow To Take NYA Vision To Grassroots



By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

**A**head of the 2027 general elections in Nigeria, youth in Enugu State have vowed to ensure the vision of the National Youth Alliance (NYA) is taken down to the grassroots, ensuring that electorate at every polling unit key in to the need to only vote in credible candidates who will salvage Nigeria. The assurance was given, when the President of NYA, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas as part of his nationwide tour,

visited the Coal City yesterday and interacted with youth from all political divides.

This was contained in a statement signed by the SA Media and Publicity to the NYA President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, dated Tuesday February 20, 2024.

According to the statement, Nigerians have suffered untold hardship resulting from lack of foresight from its leaders, a development that calls for a rethink on the

quality of leaders that the country should produce.

NYA President told the youth that Nigeria belongs to all, as such there is the need to be united, irrespective of party lines to rally round and vote in leaders that will patriotically lift the nation from its economic and security woes, into a strong and united entity that will be an envy of other nations.

He explained to the youth that 2027 might seem far as it is three years away, "We need to wake up now and start planning

ahead, as delaying may not yield the desired result," he added.

Earlier on Monday, Ambassador Aliyu who was in Lokoja to interact with youth, told them that Nigeria is in urgent need of youth who are patriotic and have the zeal to ensure the country works.

He said in view of that, he was on a nationwide tour to relate with youth who are like-minded and discuss the way forward for the country, through the Democratic process.



# Independence Of INEC, A Must For Nigeria's Democracy To Thrive - CUPP

*\*Wants law setting up INEC amended*

*\*Describes 2023 presidential election conducted by INEC as "smash and grab" validated by court*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has emphasized that for Nigeria to be a truly Democratic nation, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), must be independent.

CUPP expressed this in a statement signed by its National Secretary, High Chief Peter Ameh, made available to our correspondent yesterday.

"It is our hope that going forward, the Electoral Management Body (INEC), amongst others, should be able to maintain its independence by being neutral and unbiased in the discharge of its mandate.

"Also, the laws setting up INEC should be looked at, and where necessary amended to insulate it from the interference of the executive branch of government by the removal of the appointment of the Chairman, National Commissioners, and Resident Electoral Commissioners from the hands of the president.

"The Electoral Act should also be amended to make it mandatory that electronic transfer of results be the norm

and in any conflict with manually tallied result, the electronically tallied result in the IREV will take precedence," CUPP said.

CUPP recalled that February 25 makes it one year since the 2023 presidential election that brought President Bola Tinubu to power.

High Chief Ameh said that the 2023 presidential election conducted by INEC was simply an electoral smash and grab that was validated by the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

"Recall that in the run up to the election, all the assurances contained in the 2022 Electoral Act and INEC guidelines, such as the accreditation of voters through the means of BVAS, and real-time uploading of results from the polling units to the IREV through the same BVAS were rather observed in breach by the Commission.



"Recall also that the fiercely disputed results of the presidential election of 2023 came with many fallouts, especially when what was speculated, and believed to be the true results that were warehoused in the electronic server of a foreign entity, were already known to the leading countries, thereby leading to credibility issues that our nation is currently passing through.

"Our government is only trying to be subservient to those countries may only come as a temporary relief, but the fact remains that those other nations are capitalising on this legitimacy and credibility situation to undermine our nation to the extent that a war with Niger Republic was narrowly averted.

"The current economic hardships our country is facing

also stem from the legitimacy crisis that arose from the presidential election.

"Our government has not been able to summon the courage to say no to the biddings of the Bretton Woods institutions, which has led to the removal of whatever little and rare welfare services the poor gets from the government in the name of fuel subsidy," CUPP said.

## NSA, CBN Move To Safeguard Nigeria's Foreign Exchange Market, Combat Speculative Activities

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

In a concerted effort to safeguard Nigeria's foreign exchange market and combat speculative activities, the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) are joining forces to address challenges impacting the nation's economic stability.

A statement signed by the Head, Strategic Communication Office of the National Security Adviser, Zakari U. Mijinyawa, made available yesterday, said that the CBN's proactive measures to stabilize the foreign exchange

market and stimulate economic activities have been commendable.

However, the effectiveness of these initiatives is being undermined by the activities of speculators, both domestic and international, operating through various channels, thereby exacerbating the depreciation of the Nigerian Naira and contributing to inflation and economic instability.

Recall that, to address the exchange rate volatility, the CBN initiated a comprehensive strategy to enhance liquidity in the forex market, including unifying FX market segments,

clearing outstanding FX obligations, introducing new operational mechanisms for Bureau De Change operators, enforcing the Net Open Position limit for commercial banks, and adjusting the remunerable Standing Deposit Facility cap.

To reduce the pressure on the naira, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has raised a 7,000-man special task force across its 14 zonal commands to clamp down on dollar racketeers.

Yet, recent intelligence reports have highlighted continued illicit activities within the Nigerian foreign exchange

market, the ONSA and CBN are therefore embarking on this collaborative approach to tackle these infractions. This partnership will involve a coordinated effort with key law enforcement agencies, including the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigeria Customs Service and the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU).

The primary objective of this alliance is to systematically identify, thoroughly investigate and appropriately penalize individuals and organizations involved in wrongful activities within the FX market. By

leveraging the expertise of these agencies, we aim to deter malicious practices, protect investor interests, and promote sustainable economic growth.

This joint effort underscores the commitment of the Nigerian government to improving its Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework and exiting the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force. In addition, the efforts will make progress in ensuring a stable and transparent foreign exchange market, fostering investor confidence, and advancing the nation's economic well-being.

# Murder Of Ahaoda DPO: How Rivers Police Killed Notorious Iceland Secret Cult Kingpin 2BABA

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The kingpin of the notorious Iceland Secret Cult popularly known as 2BABA, responsible for the assassination of the Division Police Officer (DPO) of Ahaoda in Rivers State, SP Bako Angbashim has been killed in a cross fire with police operatives, New Nigerian Newspapers has learnt.

Our correspondent gathered that the infamous killer was neutralised on February 17, 2024 at about 2.00am in a fierce gun battle after an attack on Okogbe town and Odiokwu community, where several pipelines were destroyed along with his gang members.

The Rivers State Police Command Spokesperson, SP Grace Iringe-Koko, who made the disclosure in a statement, gave bit by bit operational activities that led to his waterloo after several failed attempts.

She disclosed that several assorted firearms and ammunition which include one AK47 rifle, one G3 rifle, a scorpion rifle, a Double Barrel locally made gun, two locally made pistols, one cut-to-size double barrel gun, one bulletproof vest, 13 pieces of Dynamites, five rounds of .9mm live ammunition, Army camouflage, assorted charms, a human skull and one jack knife were recovered from his camp.

The statement reads, "In response to the heinous murder of SP Bako Angbashim, the courageous Divisional Police Officer of Ahaoda Division, on September 8, 2023, in Odiemude Community, Ahaoda-West LGA of Rivers State, the law enforcement agencies, including the Police, Military, and relevant stakeholders, have been unwavering in their commitment to apprehending the culprits and ensuring justice is served.

"Viral videos revealing the brutal murder of SP Bako and the brazen display of weapons identified 2BABA and his gang, affiliated with the Iceland Secret Cult. A manhunt ensued, with the Rivers State Government and Nigeria Police offering a 100 million Naira bounty for any credible information leading to 2BABA's arrest.

"Upon assuming office as the Commissioner of Police for Rivers State on November 15, 2023, CP Olatunji Disu conducted an operational tour to Ahaoda Local Government Area, where the late DPO was murdered. The Commissioner urged officers to intensify efforts in apprehending those responsible for the gruesome killing. He also paid respects to the five innocent individuals—Charles Osu, Ogbobula Eja, Idaowukwa Felix, Paul Victor, and Achinivu Saturday Edi—who were tragically killed by 2BABA and his gang on suspicion of collaboration with the police. May their souls rest in peace.

"The operation adheres to the philosophy of policing by consent, where police authority relies on public consensus rather than force. The Rivers State Police Command appreciates the support from stakeholders, enhancing intelligence-led operations and ensuring no injuries or casualties among law enforcement agencies in the pursuit of justice.

"During the operation, more than 70 suspects tied to SP Bako's murder were arrested and prosecuted. However, 2BABA and his gang managed to escape arrest by withdrawing into the forest, exploiting the difficult terrain and strategically placing informants to monitor security forces' movements.

"Undeterred, the police formed specialized teams, coordinating with the Army, Navy, Air Force, DSS, and NSCDC in joint security meetings. A resolution was reached, declaring that an attack on one agency is an affront to all, reinforcing their united pursuit of justice against the perpetrators.

"Timeline of the Special Operation Targeting 2BABA: On November 28, 2023, at 1600hrs, Commissioner of Police, Ola tunji Disu, formed a special joint operation involving Tactical Units and the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) to apprehend the wanted suspect, David Gift Okpara (alias 2BABA), and his associates. The operation aimed to capture those responsible for the murder of SP Bako Angbashim and recover their weapons and ammunition.

"On November 29, 2023, a female associate of 2BABA was arrested, offering valuable insights into the fugitive's lifestyle.

On December 3, 2023, information revealed that 2BABA frequently visited a nearby community via canoe. Despite a two-week surveillance for an ambush using human intelligence (HUMINT), he abruptly stopped visiting, seemingly aware of the proposed operation to be launched.

"On December 6, 2023, 2BABA executioner, Faithful Babington Joseph, seen wielding an AK47 in a viral gang video, was arrested at his Etche LGA hideout. He died from a gunshot wound sustained during a failed escape attempt.

"December 13, 2023: Another female associate of 2BABA was apprehended.

December 15, 2023 (0100hrs): An attack was launched against 2BABA, but he evaded capture due to information



David Okpala Okpolowu popularly known as 2BABA

provided by his network of informants in various communities. His camp was subsequently destroyed, prompting him to relocate.

"December 23, 2023: Operatives arrested a nurse and an informant who provided information to 2BABA leading to the killing of five individuals in his community. The nurse also facilitated logistics support for 2BABA's gang, including food, illicit drugs, water, and gathering information on police activities. Both suspects are currently facing legal proceedings.

"December 31, 2023: A multi-agency attack was launched on 2BABA's camp, resulting in his narrow escape and subsequent relocation.

From January 19, 2024: Operatives successfully deployed advanced technology, revolutionizing their approach to the operation and gathering crucial intelligence.

"On February 1, 2024, it became clear through continuous surveillance that 2BABA strategically selected a campsite with difficult terrain to discourage land-based attacks, necessitating the use of canoes to reach the location.

"On February 10, 2024, the command shared essential information with the Air Force. Around 19:30hrs on the scheduled day, the Air Force executed an aerial assault, causing significant casualties and injuries to 2BABA and his gang.

"On February 17, 2024, at around 12:00hrs, 2BABA and his gang attacked Okogbe town and Odiokwu community, destroying pipelines.

At 04:00hrs, operatives raided 2BABA's new camp. Despite a fierce gun battle, 2BABA and his gang members escaped. However, at around 14:00hrs, intelligence confirmed 2BABA's death after he lost consciousness and resuscitation attempts failed.

"Efforts are in progress to retrieve the body of the infamous killer, while investigations into the Iceland cult's activities in the region continue.

"The Rivers State Police Command remains resolute in its duty to protect the lives and property of the citizens, and it will continue to employ all necessary resources and strategies to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

"This is a list of items recovered from the camp:-

1. One AK47 rifle
2. One G3 rifle
3. One scorpion rifle.
4. One Double Barrel locally made gun.
5. Two locally made pistols.
6. One cut-to-size double barrel gun.
7. One bulletproof vest.
8. Thirteen pieces of Dynamites.
9. Five rounds of .9mm live ammunition.
10. Army camouflage.
11. Assorted charms.
12. One human skull.
13. One jack knife."

# Fire Gulps 60-yr Old Gombe Central Medical Store

\*Destroys millions of vital vaccines, medical supplies worth billions of Naira

\*Governor Inuwa Yahaya Inspects Facility, Vows Immediate Measure To Address Catastrophic Situation



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A fierce early morning inferno has gutted the Gombe Central Medical Store, a critical healthcare facility housing over two million doses of polio vaccine and various essential medical consumables and equipment.

The destruction, valued at over five billion Naira, poses a significant setback for Gombe, as it scheduled to kick off the March-April 2024 Polio Myelitis Campaign.

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has promptly inspected the charred remains of the State Mega Medical Cold Store facility, where he stressed the urgent need to address the catastrophic situation.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya appealed to donor agencies and health sector stakeholders to come to the aid of Gombe, emphasizing the facility's role in supporting healthcare not only in the state but across the entire Northeastern subregion.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available on Monday, the governor said, "This facility was at some point the center for drugs distribution to the entire North East region, not only Gombe State.

"Prompt intervention by the Federal government, development partners such as WHO, UNICEF and other critical

stakeholders will make a significant impact in strengthening our healthcare system."

He directed the Commissioner for Works and Transport to swiftly move his technical team and provide immediate recommendations, stressing the urgency of revitalizing the facility in view of its historical role as a key distribution center for medical supplies in the region.

Commissioner for Health, Dr. Habu Dahiru, while conducting the Governor round, revealed that the inferno obliterated vaccines valued at over five billion naira, including 2 million doses recently received from UNICEF and Rotary International for distribution across the state's local government areas.

The extensive damage also included polio vaccine, routine immunization supplies, cold rooms, ultra-cold chain equipment for Pfizer Covid vaccine, maternal and child health equipment, nutritional items, family planning commodities, and special equipment for primary healthcare centers and maternity.

Refrigerators, cylinders, air conditioners, and motorcycles also were among the numerous items consumed by the fire.

The over 60-year-old cold store, previously used to house COVID-19 vaccines in 2020, played a significant role as a holding place for vaccines destined for onward distribution to other Northeastern states.





# Ndume Unveils Distribution Of FG's 30,436 Bags Of Grains To Constituents In Borno

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Senate Majority Whip who is also the Senator representing Bourbon South Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume, in collaboration with the federal government through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, has unveiled distribution of palliatives of 30,436 assorted bags of 25kg rice and maize grains to nine local government areas of Borno State in order to cushion current economic hardship faced by the people.

The items distributed as palliatives, include, 116,886 bags of rice and 13,550 bags of maize in Briyel town, local government council headquarters of Bayo LGC of Borno yesterday.

Similarly, same distribution exercise of the palliatives took place in Askira-Uba Local Government Area.

It would be recalled recently that Senator Ndume while making necessary measures to ensure judicious and transparent exercise, constituted a Committee for the distribution of the palliatives headed by a reputable statesman, the former Deputy Governor of the state, Alhaji Abubakar Jato who have since swung into action.

Ndume commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his support aimed at cushioning the current economic challenges facing the nation.

He added that apart from the masses or the downtrodden such as heads of households who would receive the items devoid of any political inclination, Executive Members (EXCO) of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, stakeholders, traditional rulers and religious leaders from each units and ward levels.

According to him, even security operatives and members of the vigilante Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and hunters who have been working tirelessly and complementing efforts of the military in the fight against terrorists and other criminal elements would equally benefit from the gesture.

Represented by former Borno Deputy Governor, Alhaji Jato at the flag off ceremony, the Federal Law maker said this was not the first time Senator Ndume is distributing palliatives to his people, as many have benefited from his multi million naira empowerment and poverty alleviation initiatives.

The former Deputy Governor said the gesture was in addition to cash support by Ndume's introduction of 'Trader Monie', focusing on small-scale business owners across the constituency, all in his effort to reduce hardship.

Jato however, expressed deep concerns over the ongoing difficulties confronting constituents, and that these palliatives form part of the federal government's broader efforts to alleviate hardships



caused by escalating prices and inflation in the country hitherto caused by unfavourable foreign exchange policies.

His words, "The items would primarily target the less privileged members of the society, political loyalists and stakeholders across the units, wards and LGAs.

"The gesture is to assist the beneficiaries, considering the skyrocketing prices of food commodities in the country, especially the major items such as rice and maize mostly needed in the zone for survival." Jato

said.

Speaking on the breakdown of the items, the distribution sub-committee Chairman, Alhaji Yakubu explained that the combined food palliatives for each local government shown that Biu LGC got 4,132 bags, Gwoza LGC had 4,700, bags Chibok LGC got 2,33 bags and Damboa LGC had 2,988 bags respectively.

Others include, Shani LGC 2,792, Bayo LGC 2,048, Kwaya Kusar LGC 2,148, Askira/Uba LGC 4,360, while Hawul LGC got 3,536, respectively.

The event witnessed the presence of APC Borno State Deputy Chairman (South), Alhaji Aliyu Yerima, Deputy Woman Leader, Lydiya Gora, Council chairmen of Bayo, Kwaya Kusar, Shani, Hawul, Biu as well as other dignitaries.

Alhaji Yerima in a vote of thanks on behalf of the beneficiaries, expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Babagana Zulum and Senator Ndume for the gesture, which he said would go along way in alleviating the current economic challenges in the Zone.



# Oborevwoiri Tasks Political Appointees On Loyalty

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwoiri, yesterday, charged appointees of government and all public officers to pledge their loyalty to the State and not ethnic backgrounds, narrow political or social interests.

Governor Oborevwoiri gave the charge at the swearing-in ceremony of six new Special Advisers. Those sworn-in are: Mr. Ramson Ikweki, Mr. Dimaro Progress, Chief Barry Gbe, Barr. George Orogun, Mr. Nicholas Ojei, and Chief Jeffery Azagba.

He noted that the appointment of the Special Advisers was a clear demonstration of his administration's sincere drive to energise the machinery of government through the recognition of qualified and worthy persons from the pool of the vast array of skilled manpower which, he said, was readily available in the State.

According to him, the appointments have become necessary as it would enable the state government to infuse more blood in the governance of the State and strengthen the implementation of the policies and programmes of this administration.

Having established the desired administrative structures, Governor Oborevwoiri said, it has become necessary to provide and fortify them with more suitable managerial capacity.

He disclosed that the appointment of more Special Advisers was aimed at beefing up the executive capacity of the government, adding that his administration was sincerely committed to succeed in the task of turning around the lives of Deltans for the better.

"I sincerely appeal to all the new appointees and indeed, all public officers, that their loyalty should be to the State through this administration rather than seeing themselves as representatives of ethnic backgrounds



and narrow political and social interests.

"As Special Advisers, you have a sacred role to play in rendering objective, sound and frank advice to me and your Chief Executives. It is important for you to adhere strictly to your oaths of office including familiarizing yourselves with the Constitution, financial regulations and other extant rules of public office.

"This way, you will be able to perform your duties creditably without causing this administration any embarrassment. We do not want to be distracted from our cardinal objective of leaving Delta State, better than we met it.

"Please note that the M.O.R.E Agenda of this administration is not mere hype. It is a well thought out agenda, which capture the policies and programmes of this administration aimed at

comprehensively confronting the challenges of sustainable development headlong.

"Please, be prepared to inject fresh ideas into the implementation and successful outcomes of the Agenda. We owe our people the duty of meeting their yearnings. Please be part of this move to positively impact the lives of our people," the governor said.

He appealed to them to discharge their duties with honesty and transparency, adding that they should foster good and cordial relationship with the Chief Executives of Ministries and other functionaries of government in the cause of performance of their duties.

While congratulating them on their appointment, Governor Oborevwoiri urged them to carry out their duties with

a great sense of responsibility, decorum and integrity, saying "as Special Advisers, you have a duty to be discreet and see your offices as complementary rather than competitive, with those of the various Chief Executives of the administration."

Responding on behalf of the appointees, Barr. George Orogun thanked the governor for finding them worthy to serve, and pledged to contribute their meaningful quota towards the advancement of the MORE Agenda of the state government.

Orogun noted that the giant strides of the Oborevwoiri's administration in the past eight months were quite commendable and called on Deltans to rally round the present administration for the accelerated transformation of the state.

## Alia Sacks Three Local Govt Caretaker C'ttee Bosses Over Alleged Fraud, Gross Misconduct

Benue State governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, on Tuesday directed the State House of Assembly to sack the caretaker chairmen of three local government councils of the state over alleged gross misconduct, embezzlement of local government revenue funds and indulging in unwholesome activities unbefitting of the office the chairman of a local

government.

The suspended caretaker chairmen include those of Ukum, Rev. Gideon Haanongon, Katsina-Ala, Hon. Francis Zazan, and that of Gboko, Hon. Abraham Agber.

Reading the correspondence from the governor on the floor of the House of Assembly, the speaker, Hon. Aondona Dajoh, put a question before the house, seeking their approval which

they gave expressly that the chairmen should be removed and that they should immediately handover to their deputies.

The lawmakers went ahead to confirm the names of the new caretaker chairmen sent to them by Governor Alia which include Hon. Verlumun Avar for Gboko, Hon. Victor Iorzaa for Ukum, and Hon. Justin Shaku for Katsina-Ala.

National Record could recall that

while the sacked chairman of Ukum was recently kidnapped and later rescued from alleged abductors, his Gboko counterpart who has also been fired was arrested by security operatives in January 2024 over alleged assassination attempt on the Benue Assembly Speaker. The House, during Tuesday's plenary, also received a report on delayed purchase of official

vehicles for members presented by the chairman, house joint committee on Works and Housing as well as House Service, Hon. Manger Manager who represents Tarka state constituency.

The speaker referred the report among others to the House Standing Committee on Rules and Business for necessary action.

# Lawyer Alleges That Revoking Of Reps Member Land By Fintiri Politically Motivated

**\*We are using it for public overriding interest - Govt counsel**

**\*revocation of Babazango plots of land is purely political - plaintiff**

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

Contrary to Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri's reason for revoking two-hectare land belonging to Abubakar Babazango (Abaza), an Adamawa All Progressives Congress (APC) chieftain who is representing Yola South/Yola North/Girei Federal Constituency for public interest to build a model school, his counsel, Barrister Desmond Adewale on Monday, argued in court that the revocation was purely political has no any intention to build a model school.

Barrister Adewale said it was an illegal revocation and recalled how the All Progressives Congress (APC) wanted to use Mahmud Ribadu Square venue for their presidential campaign and the government of Adamawa State under the leadership of Rtm Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri refused them the use of the venue.

He said the magnanimity of Babazango who decided to give them his land for the campaign is the main reason Fintiri is hunting him through the unlawful seizure of the said land strategically situated close to Yola International Airport.

Adewale argued that the former owner acquired the land in 1976 and the current title owner Abaza legally owns it with constant payment of ground rents, a reason it should not be at the moment seized for the public interest.

When addressing news men after

the case was mentioned in the Yola High Court with Justice Ahmed Isah presiding over the matter, Adewale asked why would it be now, knowing the fact that Fintiri has been in office since 2019.

"We've been hearing feelers from the government quarters because my clients gave that land to the then incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, the current President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and the APC Governorship candidate, Hajiya Aisha Ahmed Dahiru Binani they are going to withdraw the certificate of occupancy (C of O) and we got interim injunction restraining them from the use of the land is our reason of coming to court to challenge it," Adewale said.

He alleged that the undiluted reason of the case is that Fintiri revoked the land because Babazango gave Tinubu the piece of land for campaign and it's unlawful to do that under the guise of public interest.

Adewale claimed his client is a victim of political rivalry who incurred the wrath of Fintiri after chasing a PDP HoR member at the court of appeal and considered him an archenemy to fight for giving them the political battles of their lives.

"Whoever that's telling you that the land was revoked for the public interest is telling you a pure lie. The land was revoked because he gave it to Tinubu and Binani to hold their political rally, contested the House of Representatives against the PDP

member, and won at the Court of Appeal." He said.

The counsel to Babazango argued that the government of Adamawa State under the Fintiri administration is basing their argument on the Adamawa limitations of law saying that the has not exhausted the pre-action notice of thirty days before coming to court.

In defense, Adewale countered that whenever there are genuine threats, imminent danger, and infractions of human rights, there's no need to abide by that provision.

According to him, the case is having a semblance of an infringement of human rights and is nothing more than brazen display of lawlessness, and they will vigorously pursue the case up to the Supreme Court.

He further explained that the government is trying by all means to forcefully take over the land according to him, the letter of revocation was served on a dead man, Alhaji Jika Paris, who has no connection to the land on January 10, 2024.

He accused the government of Ahmadu of backdating the letter of revocation to make the court order restraining them from using the land.

In a counter motion however, the counsel to the government of Adamawa State, Barrister Abayomi Akamode said the governor has a right to revoke the land for overriding public interest.

Abayomi while quoting section 28 of the Land Use Act said the



public interest is far above the interest of an individual, Babazango.

He faulted the plaintiff for not giving a pre-action notice of thirty days to the governor as the Land Use Act provides.

He said his appearance in court was to challenge the action of the plaintiff who did not give the pre-action notice of thirty days

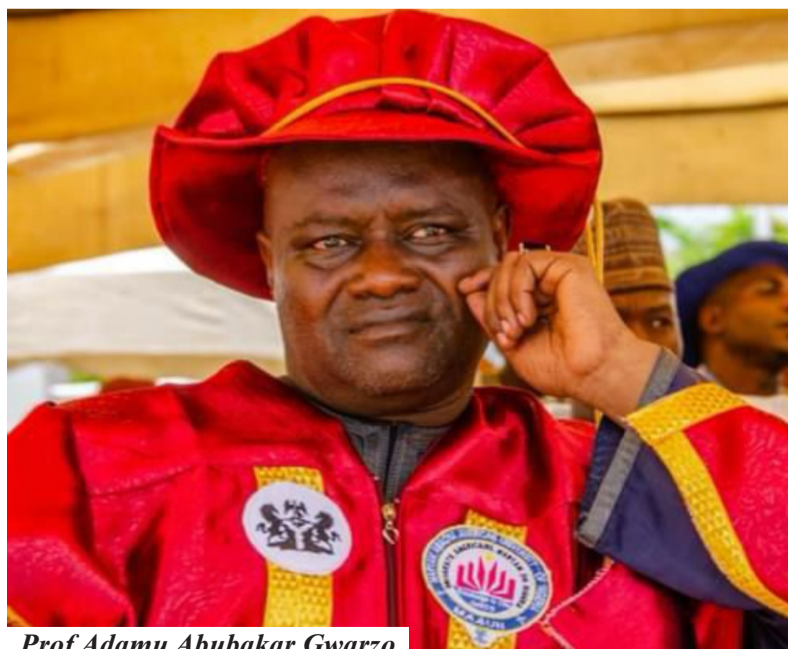
before he could commence any action to the Governor.

"We are challenging the competence of the action itself asking that the Court should strike out this suit because they have not given out the necessary pre-action notice and when you have not done so the court has no jurisdiction to entertain the case." Abayomi

## President MAAUN Universities Congratulates VC FUDMA On Conferment Of Traditional Title

By: IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Founder and President, MAAUN Group of Universities, Prof Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, has congratulated the Vice Chancellor of Federal University, Dutsinma (FUDMA), Katsina State, Prof. Armaya'u Hamisu Bichi on his conferment of the traditional title of Hakimi by the Emir of Bichi, Alhaji (Dr) Nasiru Ado Bayero. Similarly, Prof. Gwarzo felicitated Prof. Bichi on the occasion of his 55th birthday. The congratulatory message was contained in a statement by Prof.



Prof Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo

Gwarzo and issued to newsmen in Kano yesterday,

He said the conferment of the traditional title on Prof. Bichi by the Bichi Emirate Council, is well deserved in view of his contributions to the development of the Emirate, Kano State and Nigeria at large especially in the areas of education.

"Prof. Bichi deserves the honour as an honest and trustworthy person, who is committed to promoting education and human development.

"On behalf of Maryam Abacha American Universities, I wish to felicitate you on the conferment of the title of Hakimi.

"May the Almighty Allah give you the wisdom and strength to continue to lead by example", Prof. Gwarzo said.

Prof. Bichi is a scholar par excellence, who worked for many years in Bayero University, Kano, before being appointed as the Vice Chancellor of FUDMA.

The conferment of the title by the Emir followed a recommendation by the Emirate Council.

The turbaning ceremony is expected to be held on Saturday, 2nd March 2024 at the Emir's Palace in Bichi town.

# Borno Set To Resuscitate Artifacts, Cultural Centers Destroyed By Insurgents



By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State has reiterated his determination and commitment to promote and sustain cultural and traditional values and norms of the state across all the 27 LGAs, disclosing that funds have been set aside to reactivate and resuscitate all the cultural artifacts and centers in the 27 LGAs destroyed during the insurgency in the past 15 years of the crisis.

The governor who was represented by the Borno State Commissioner of Information and Internal Security, Professor Mohammed Usman Tar stated this on Monday at the 3rd international conference with a theme, 'Cultural Sustainability, Resettlement and Post Insurgency' held on Monday at the Mohammed Idimi International Conference Hall University of Maiduguri that was organized by the center for the study and promotion of cultural sustainability of the University of Maiduguri. He also assured that his

government is willing to partner with all the collaborators, humanitarian and development partners for the restoration of peace and security in the state in the state government 10 years transformation strategic development Nolan.

He also commended the organizers of the conference and resources persons doing a good job and putting more efforts to preserve and sustain the cultural values and heritage of the state and region at large that was manifested by the activities that took place few days ago during the Kanuri Global summit.

He assured that the outcome of the international conference will surely add value and make impact on the cultural heritage of the state and even attract other avenues towards sustaining the rich culture and values of our tradition in diversity cut across the state where every ethnic group has its own cultures and traditions.

The chairman of the occasion, Ambassador Zanna Hassan Boguma, who is also the Zanna Boguma of Borno, urged

academic, leaders and other stakeholders to , protect , preserve and promote our cultures, traditions and bones as foundation of human life.

He however, lamented the manner over the years insecurity has ravaged the state and North East region as well as country at large, as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency which has grossly destroyed and affected the lives and property of the people and government massively and regrettably.

Boguma said that it is gratifying that the challenges are over and peace has gradually returned and permanent peace is emerging with the support and cooperation as well as efforts of the security agencies and vigilante groups

The chairman tasked the participants to come out with ways and manners to sustain the existing cultures and traditions of the people including the artefacts as heritage for history and appreciation of their cultural values despite diversity in the society as destiny from God who created them to live together and cherish their cultures and traditions as well as cultural

norms and values in the society.

Professor Haruna Dantaro Dlakwa, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Services, Borno State University in his keynote address delivered, titled, "Cultural Sustainability, Assessment, Resettlement and Post Insurgency: A General Reflection on the Borno Model of Counter Insurgency and Post Conflict Stabilization, elaborated on the Borno Model concept of deradicalization, resettlement, reintegration rehabilitation and objectives of the Borno model in stages of categorisation of the victims based on degree of individual offence or crime.

He also spoke on the kinetic approach of the military and the non kinetic aspect of the model to the government and its civil and political approach, alongside some implications as factors that he identified as critical areas that require review and action while suggesting that cultural sustainability and ability should be maintained as core values despite various changes by way keeping the new and old IDPs from their ancestral homes or resettlement by ensuring it is

done respectfully and with security protection and seek their consent

Professor Dlakwa added that the ability of using the Borno Model concept in a new initiative by ensuring they do not resort to violence, stressing that, there is to give attention to the u resettled environment in any post insurgency or crisis as a traditional process and procedures of doing things .

He also observed that seven dormant factors as prolong insurgency, displacement of large number of population, contentment of the large number of IDPs within and outside the state both official and unofficial camps , social cives in camps like rape, prostitution, misinformation and crashes between the state government and INGOs and Amnesty international about Kampala Convention, spontaneous, large scale of returnees or volunteers, the kinetic approach to the fight and finally, the new and recent non kinetic approach to the insurgency.



## Oasis Magazine Retracts Story, Apologises To Efe Kigho

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Oasis Magazine has retracted a story on Comrade Efe Kigho published by the medium headlined 'OYC: Call Efe Kigho To Order, Umukoro Tells Oruarivie-Abraka Kingdom Monarch.'

In the said report, Comrade Efemena Umukoro claimed that youth activities were suspended in Abraka due

to the gross misconduct of the President of the youths, Efe Kigho, saying he extorted certain individuals and brutalised youths in the town.

In a statement on Saturday, signed by the publisher, Daniel Umukoro, the media outfit said: "We apologize to Comrade Efe Kigho over the said publication.

"It's a fact that youths activities were generally suspended in Ethiopie East

and not because of any acts of gross misconduct by Efe Kigho as our source said.

"The statements by the said source is not in tandem with the facts at our disposal at the moment because Kigho was not at any time suspended and we use this medium to tender an unreserved apology to Kigho.

"Truth is, Kigho is a celebrated youth in Abraka with his many records of

impact. He is an exemplary leader and an uncommon youth.

"We wish to use this medium to retract and state that the picture painted by the source about Efe Kigho is false and biased based on facts before us at the moment."

Adding: "We apologize to the youth leader for any consequences the said report would have caused."

## Tinubu Appoints New Director/CEO Of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President Bola Tinubu has approved the appointment of Ms. Hafsat Abubakar Bakari to serve as the Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), pending her confirmation by the Senate.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Special Adviser to the President (Media & Publicity), Chief Ajuri Ngelale, dated February 20, 2024

Ms. Bakari is a lawyer and financial intelligence expert with years of experience in anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, and counter-proliferation financing (AML/CFT/CPF).

Before her appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of the NFIU, she served as Deputy Director at the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, and was at different times the Head of the General Services Unit; Head of the Strategy and Reorientation Unit, and Head of the Board Secretariat of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The President anticipates that Ms. Bakari will bring her wealth of experience and expertise to full discharge in this critical role, especially in view of his administration's war against illicit financial flows and other sharp practices currently prevalent in segments of the nation's foreign exchange markets.



## Continued Hunger: 'Soon, Nigerians Will Start Blocking Convoy Of Political Leaders, Ready To Die, Pastor Warns

By: KELVIN OKPARA Enugu.

As Nigerians continued to face severe hunger occasioned by high cost of living, a cleric and General Overseer, Christian Victory Prayer Ministry (CVPM), Enugu, Pastor Dan Obinegbo, has warned that if not urgently addressed, citizens will soon start lining up the roads, block convoy of political leaders, and be ready to be killed by security men attached to them.

Obinegbo, a journalist turned pastor, who gave the warning on Sunday, during the 29th Anniversary celebration of the church, posited that the current economic hardship in the country which is getting worse almost on daily basis, would soon spell doom on the entire nation if not sincerely and adequately tackled, as Nigerians are fast running out of patience.

He said the present ugly situation if continues, may make people to volunteer to be killed by security operatives accompanying political leaders who may want to protect their principals from being harmed by hungry and angry Nigerians that would block their convoys.

"Mine is caution I have seen a vision of terror, there is no where to hide up to, it will soon get to a point that people will line up the roads and say let the convoy kill them, let the soldiers shoot us and kill us than to stay and die of hunger". He warned.

Pastor Obinegbo, it would be recalled, had worked in several newspaper organizations, both in Enugu and Lagos, including the defunct Outlook newspapers, and rose to the position of Editor, before being called to the lord's vineyard.

He further cautioned that the nation Nigeria is fast drawing near to a state of anarchy and what could be described as "Climax of Hollywood" advising those in corridors of power at all levels, to rise up and do the needful so as to avert the looming danger ahead.

Delivering a sermon during the church service, the Clergy man, went down memory lane on how he was called by God and the numerous persecutions he experienced as a servant of the most High during his early days in the Ministry,

including how he was framed up by some agents of the devil who took him to court, and made such he was incarcerated.

He however, expressed appreciation to God for finding him worthy to be used as an instrument to win souls for Jesus Christ, adding that he lacks words to say how he feels.

On his message to Christendom, Pastor Obinegbo, urged Christians to always be steadfast and put their trust in God no matter the challenges of life, saying "there are many souls to be saved and rescued, hence the need for light to shine among men.

He avvered that there was no need to preach church or denominations at the moment, stressing that what is more important in the present day world is for the Christendom to preach repentance to people.

Obinegbo, noted that when righteousness builds a nation, it will stand solidly, but when a nation is built on falsehood, "it must collapse.

The Cleric said it has been a thing of joy for him, since 29 years of his journey in

the vineyard of God, despite the persecution by men for things he knew nothing about.

"Am really grateful to God, and will continue to give thanks to him alone for all he has used me to accomplish in this 29 years of service in his vineyard, including healing of people with different ailments among them, madness.

"I'm giving him thanks for all that he passed me through, if you go to the internet, you will see my imprisonment, but there is no record of my achievements because I don't need to advertise what God is using me to do". he stated.

He said he would not want people to praise him or advertise him, but would rather want the works that God has used him to do to be a legacy that will tell the story.

"The blind has seen, the lame has worked, mad people were set free, poor people were made rich. These are things that happened for life, not magic not black magic, not white magic but through prayers".

# Oborevori Pledges Potable Water Supply For Rural Dwellers

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevori, on Monday, pledged to ensure provision of potable water supply to rural dwellers in the state.

Governor Oborevori made the pledge when he received on a courtesy call, the Steering Committee of the Nigeria - Sustainable Urban Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (SURWASH) led by Dr Dumebi Madu, in Government House, Asaba.

He said his administration was committed to ensuring adequate potable water supply

to improve sanitation and hygiene, especially in the rural areas of the state.

He said; "We are very happy to receive you here in Government House, Asaba; I received a message that you are having a one-day retreat here in Asaba.

"We know that this one-day retreat is going to be very impactful and also create more awareness and we are also happy that we are hosting this retreat.

"We are glad hosting you because different people come here for different activities. Delta State is very very peaceful and, under my leadership, we are doing very well and we welcome you and

your team to this retreat.

"We want to assure you that we have special interest in this programme; last week, I spoke with the Commissioner and I told him that we must take the lead as a state.

"I know many states here will be jealous but among the seven states, we must take the lead and I gave him the marching order because Delta State 'cannot carry last'.

"The objective of the SURWASH is a very good one aimed at improving water supply to our people in the rural areas. It's something we have great interest in and we will continue to participate in the

programme."

Earlier, the Director, Water Supply and Support Services (Secretary Federal Steering Committee of the Nigeria - Sustainable Urban Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (SURWASH), Dr Dumebi Madu, said they were in the state for a one-day retreat on how to improve water supply and sanitation in the country.

He said SURWASH is a World Bank programme supported by participating states to increase access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene in Nigeria.



# Zamfara Govt To Spend Over N6bn In Construction Of Roads In Maradun LGA

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

In its effort of transforming rural areas, Zamfara State Government is to spend over six billion Naira for the construction of roads in Maradun Local Government Area of the state.

Director General (DG) Media and Communication to the Governor, Alhaji Nuhu Salihu Anka in a Statement made available to the New Nigerian named the roads to be constructed in order to ease transportation in the area as :- Maradun - Magami- Faru and

Maradun - Makera roads

Other Projects to be executed by Governor Dauda Lawal in the 2024 budget in Maradun local government, Alhaji Salihu Anka said includes:- the rehabilitation of government secondary school Gora Namaye, the upgrading of Maradun General Hospital, the construction of offices for mobile squadron, a magistrate court and residential buildings among others.

Alhaji Anka explained that, the State Governor, Dauda Lawal disclosed the development when he visited the local government recently, where he

launched the distribution of fertiliser and other agricultural facilities to farmers of the area under the Fadama III Programme.

DG Nuhu Anka said during the launch, Governor Dauda who assured the farmers of the area of his Government's commitment to supporting the agricultural sector for its growth and development, requested the beneficiaries to take advantage of the opportunity to increase their yields and contribute to the growth of agricultural sector across the state.

Speaking earlier, he said the Sole Administrator of the area,

Alhaji Yahaya Giwa Maradun showed his appreciation and that of the people of the area to the Governor for solving the perennial water problem they have been facing for decades, within six months of his tenure as the state governor.

However, in his remarks, he said Emir of Maradun, Sarkin Kaya, Alhaji Garba Muhammad Tambari, who described Governor Dauda Lawal as an embodiment of unity, Peace and Development, thanked him for what he has been doing to not only Maradun but the state at large.

Alhaji Nuhu Salihu Anka

disclosed that, Maradun which is the headquarters of Maradun local government and Country home to former Governor Bello Matawalle has been without good roads network, Potable drinking water and other social amenities for decades.

DG, Anka said in the Governor's entourage were the State Deputy Governor, Honourable Mani Malam Mummuni, Secretary to the state government, Abubakar Nakwada, Chief of staff, Alhaji Mukhtar Luggage, Honourable Commissioners, Special Advisers and host of other dignitaries.

# Hunger: FG Vows To Use Innovation, Science, Technology To Tackle Situation In Nigeria .

\*With 70 per cent processed cassava we can't look for Dollar - Minister



Protesters on the street in Ibadan recently

By: **KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu**

As the present economic hardship being faced by Nigerians continues unabated, the Federal government has said that it's committed in leveraging on mass production of cassava, innovation, science, and Technology to combat the hunger and poverty in the land. The Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Chief Uche Nnaji who stated this in Enugu yesterday, said, "if Nigeria can process 70 per cent of the cassava we cultivate, we cannot look for dollar in the country again."

He spoke during the official commissioning ceremony of the Southeast office complex of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research (FIRO), in Enugu.

The minister however, listed the various derivatives of cassava to include starch, animal feed, among others, adding that if the country can process 70 per cent of the cassava it produces, it will affect the value of naira.

According to him, "If Nigeria can process 70 per cent of the cassava we cultivate, we cannot look for dollar again in this country and it will affect the value of Naira."

He added that, "Nigeria is the highest producer of Cassava in the world. We produce about 64

metric tonnes of Cassava yearly. "First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for guiding us in achieving this milestone. Under the exemplary leadership of Dr. (Mrs.) Jummai T. Adamu, FIRO's Director-General/CEO, FIRO has made remarkable progress in infrastructural development," he said.

He stated that, "Our nation is blessed with diverse skills and natural resources across all six geopolitical zones, motivating us to extend development beyond urban centres to rural communities."

The minister noted that "since innovation is the cornerstone of global economic growth, neglecting it jeopardizes our socio-economic progress.

"Therefore, we must prioritize the development of innovative technologies to propel Nigeria's economic diversification away from oil and gas dependency.

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda is committed to leveraging innovation, science, and technology to combat hunger and poverty in Nigeria.

"This stance rhymes with the global economic landscape, emphasizing innovation as the key to development and compelling us not to lag behind.

To this end, the Ministry has recently revised the National Science, Technology, and

Innovation Policy (2022) and developed additional policies to accelerate technological advancement.

"As you know, our vision to industrialize Nigeria through Innovation, Science, and Technology has led to the establishment of Technology and Innovation Centers across the six geopolitical zones and Technology Incubation Centers in all states.

"These facilities serve as hubs for stakeholders in the IST ecosystem to foster global competitiveness by harnessing mineral and human resources.

"Furthermore, our commitment to indigenous technology is evident in our support for establishing Centers of Excellence for Welding Engineering and Technology, aimed at enhancing collaboration between the government and the private sector to drive development in the industry.

"The Southeast region holds significant importance as Nigeria's industrial hub, motivating the provision of this office facility to support capacity building and enhance productivity through innovative activities."

In her address of welcome earlier, Director General/ CEO of FIRRO, Dr. (Mrs.) Jummai T. Adamu, stated that it was

appropriate to disclose that they were vigorously pursuing their broad mandate, which is to "accelerating industrialization in Nigeria".

She explained that the Agency had over the years developed technologies that have promoted the ideals of entrepreneurship development.

The DG, added that it prompted them to take development to all the nooks and crannies of the country that necessitated the establishment of the zonal offices in the country to harness both mineral and human resources for the advancement of our dear nation innovatively.

She said, "I am glad to state that the South East zone with its vast entrepreneurial base would be properly harnessed for its industrialization and the country at large through our programmes and activities that would be carried out in this edifice.

"The development of Nigeria driven by innovation is a most and this region is very critical to it. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as one of the leading Research Institutes in Nigeria, we are resolute to be at the forefront of the fight against the trio evils of poverty, insecurity and unemployment.

"As such it is imperative to provide and also put in place the necessary infrastructures to carry out these huge tasks

successfully. We are doing this to support the current administration's resolve to provide fifty Million (50 M) jobs in the next few years through the accelerated impartation of technological, scientific and innovative skills.

"This will create jobs as well generate wealth geared towards poverty reduction, as we are extending and providing up-to-date infrastructure for accessibility of our services to improve the capacities of our people for economic diversification and self-reliance."

In a goodwill message, the Director General /CEO of Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Dr. Peter Ogbobe applauded the Minister over the steps he has taken to revolutionize research in the country since assumption of office.

The PRODA boss, noted that the step the Minister has taken will go a long way to Fast Track the renewed hope agenda of the present administration of president Ahmed Bola Tinubu. Dr. Ogbobe noted that Southeast is known for entrepreneurship, stressing that they have a lot of research on the shelf, pointing out that that Zonal FIRRO office will boost the economy of the geopolitical zone.

# Kwara League Of Women Voter's Inaugurates New Executives

## \*Seeks support from Traditional rulers

By; **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

The members of the Kwara State Chapter of the League of Women Voters in Nigeria (NILOWV) has been charged to continue to seek relevant support from all the traditional rulers across the state.

The Olojoku of Ojoku Land in Oyun Local Government Area of Kwara State, Oba Abdulrazak Adegboyega gave the charge yesterday at the inauguration

ceremony of the new leadership of NILOWV at the Kwara State Secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Ilorin.

Oba Olojoku of Ojoku Land who commended Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq for his support for the women and for appointing women into his cabinet, said is a good development.

The guest lecturer at the event, Mr Femi Oyedeji said the role of women in the nation building cannot be over

emphasized.

Mr Oyedeji mentioned that the female child should be given right to quality education and protection and also congratulated the new leadership of association.

He called for support for the women in politics from the major stakeholders at the grassroots, saying that the support of the stakeholders are very relevant for the progress of the women in politics.

In her acceptance remarks, the new State

Chairperson of the association, Hajia Bilqees Modupe Oladimeji promised to take the association to the greater heights and improve awareness of the importance of women participation in politics.

Hajiya Bilqees Oladimeji also mentioned that one of her top priorities will be to expand advocacy to the grassroots and engage with women at the 16 local government areas of the state.

She also pledged to uphold values and work tirelessly to achieve the mission.





# New NDDC Board, Management Imbibes The Eight Presidential Priorities

By: PATRICK TITUS

**N**iger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is a federal government agency established by Act 2000 by then President Olusegun Obasanjo-led government. The core mission behind its establishment, roots from facilitating the rapid and sustainable development of the region, into an area that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful region in Nigeria.

The Niger Delta is the delta of the Niger River sitting directly on the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean in Nigeria. It is located within nine coastal southern states of the country which include, all six states to wit: Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Edo) from the South South geographical zone, Ondo from South West zone, Abia and Imo from South East geographical zone.

Recall the management of the oil and gas industry have over decades in Niger Delta, caused huge amount of land, water and air pollution, leaving the communities of over 30 million population of people living in the region frustrated and suffering the worse impacts of the activities in the region.

This sad development where the inhabitants lack access to basic services such as electricity, sanitation, primary healthcare services, good roads network and education, while unemployment rate was high, ensued before the establishment of NDDC in 2000.

Since 2000, the commission has evolved through six governing boards, with Mr. Onyema Oguchukwu as the pioneer Chairman of the the governing board. Available statistics indicate that these leaderships have made frantic efforts to improve the living conditions of the people and touching lives through projects embarked upon. These strides no doubt, have changed the narrative of the suffering Niger Delta states. Evidences abound in reduction of agitations and militancy which hitherto characterized the struggles.

Record shows that NDDC has initiated a total of 10,972 projects across the nine mandated states since 2001. These projects cut across roads/bridges, rural electrification, buildings and water projects among others identified projects and programmes such as the post-graduate foreign scholarship programme meant to produce top-level manpower to meet the current realities and needs.

Breakdown shows 7,653 projects already completed and put to use by the benefiting communities while 3,319 are ongoing. Rivers State topping highest on the chat has 1,618 projects completed - 666 ongoing; Delta 1,509 completed - 625 ongoing; Akwa Ibom 936 completed - 395 ongoing; Ondo 763 completed - 235 ongoing; Imo 738 completed - 327 ongoing; Edo state 668 completed - 303 ongoing; Bayelsa 659 completed - 409 ongoing; Abia 455 completed - 157 ongoing while Cross River got 307 completed - 202 ongoing.

Currently, NDDC under the Renewed



Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu, has a new governing board which was inaugurated on November 16, 2023 by the President, represented by the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh. The new Board being the 7th, has Mr. Chiedu Ebie as Chairman, Chief Samuel Ogbuku - Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer and other members on the board. On the occasion, the Honourable Minister handed down the charge when he said, "The inauguration of the Board means that we have accepted to be part of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and to that extent, we need to be conversant with Eight (8) Presidential Priorities, ranging from Food Security, Ending of Poverty in inclusivity, Job Creation, Anti-Corruption Stance, Rule of Law and others. To that extent, you are expected to work towards delivering on those areas."

The Minister however added, "We are also aware that there has been a lot of complaints about NDDC and I want to use this opportunity to appeal and also direct that this time around, we need to change the narrative. We cannot continue to do the same and expect that we are going to achieve a different results. Collectively, therefore, we must be committed on how the region can be transformed."

Taking this charge into heart in the discharge of the given mandate, the new board swung into action of setting the goal to Making a Difference in the Niger Delta region, tagged: 'The Rewind To Rebirth' Initiative, and in line with the Eight Presidential Priorities, a strategic vision designed to help recalibrate her vision engagement with Niger Delta region as well as the NDDC's overall Intervention implementation plan.

Given the set goal, the new Board and Management identified 10 key elements. These include Lighting Up the Niger Delta. It believes that lighting up the Niger Delta communities will boost economic activities, encourage investments in small-scale businesses, tourism and the hospitality sector. This is also expected to help reduce insecurity in the communities and the costly need to use privately generated power by businesses, which negatively impact the environment and contribute to earth warming.

Another identified element is improving youth capacity & skills base. Developing the Niger Delta graduates through the post-graduates scholarship programme, which offers specializations in key areas of the economy, offer greater incentives for personal growth. Idea is to trigger overall regional growth by providing skilled labour in the predominant oil and gas. It will also aid agriculture, information technology, project management and health. Skills acquisition programmes in sub-sectors of the economy such as deep sea welding and fabrications will also unleash the potential of Niger Deltans to the world.

Deep into the vision also, informed the just concluded 2-day Board and Management Retreat tagged: Renewed Hope: A New Era for Vitality, Peace and Development, held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in the Rafia City of Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.

Setting the tone of the Retreat, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Chiedu Ebie said that the gathering, which for the first-time, had former Chairmen and Managing Directors of the Commission being invited to be part of the Commission's Board & Management retreat, equally brought together key

stakeholders as participants and the array of best minds the region and indeed the country can offer as resources persons.

Among them on list were, Former MD/CEO NDDC, Mr. Timi Alaibe; COE of TBT Solutions and Pioneer DG of Bureau for Public Procurement, Engr. Emeka Ezech; Former Minister and DG, Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), Mr. Frank Nweke, Jr.; Mr. Tolu Odukola, Partner, KPMG Nigeria and Dr. Joe Abah, Country Director, Development Alternatives Incorporated and former DG of Bureau of Public Sector Reforms as well as the Minister, Ministry of Niger Delta Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh who presented a keynote address, who also signed a Performance Bond between the Ministry of Niger Delta Development and the NDDC.

According to Mr Ebie, the event was considered necessary as it was tailored to provide the management and the board, with some tools that would put them on path to sustainable development and the delivery of renewed hope for the people of the region, as well as the restoration of Niger Delta to its position as the most blessed region in Africa.

He said that the 10 key elements that the new board and management has developed in line with the Renewed Hope Vision is designed to help the Commission strengthen its structures and institutions, sharpen its processes and operational protocol, build a workforce that is efficient, effective and professional in its service and project delivery.

The Minister, Ministry of Niger Delta Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh presented a keynote address, urged the new board to enthrone an era of transparency while also called for constant monitoring and evaluation of compliant by contractors and to ensure that projects stand the test of time. He signed a Performance Bond between the Ministry of Niger Delta Development and the NDDC.

Chairman, Senate Committee on NDDC, Senator Asuquo Ekpenyong made reflections on the long-suffering people of the region, identifying that pollution has caused respiratory issues, same as Oil exploration which he noted, has led to displacement of some communities. Sen Ekpenyong raised the need to create a new blueprint for energy generation that is sustainable and environmentally friendly. Urged NDDC to find a way to monitor oil spillages, improvement of agriculture through the use of drones and other technology.

The resolutions reached at the end of the retreat identified among points stating; A reviewed and updated Niger Delta Regional Developmental Masterplan remains a crucial framework for guiding and implementing development initiatives in the Niger Delta, as there can be no sustainable development without developmental plans.

That the frequent changes in the

*To be continued*

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

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<b>6 COLUMNS</b>			
Depth	38.1 (CM)	Depth -	15 (Inches)
Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

### POLITICAL RATE

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

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2	Per 1000 Copies (1 Page)	28,000.00	2,100.00	30,100.00
3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

# TY Buratai Encounter's TY Danjuma

By; IBRAHIM  
D A H I R U  
DANFULANI

Both have TY as initials. Both surnames have seven letters. The Danjuma I know for more than four decades, a household name he was. A hero's hero to the growing patriotic minds. High esteem we all hold the tall, a personality to behold. In actions and in words, an inspiring war commander and a sound administrator.

A civil war veteran with a difference

A hero's hero amidst daunting challenges.

An accomplished general loved and admired by all.

A business mogul, philanthropist per excellence.

A n a s t u t e administrator and a military strategist. A political mover and shaker.

Such stands the elder statesman and a patriot with high international standing. A profound wisdom abound in statesmen. It seems not all statesmen act in wisdom all the time. But for him, an exception.

In TY Danjuma, an excellent mentor

In M Buhari, a loyal and trustworthy mentee

A bond cultivated in esprit-de-corps, service years never forgotten

An example in loyalty I find worth of emulation

A lesson for officers and men in uniform today and for tomorrow.

It was in my third year in office. The position he once held. TY Danjuma, with his carriage, courage, and charisma, made that office of the Chief of Army Staff well known. His leadership style was inspiring. In his footsteps follows TY Buratai.

Enters Buratai into the Asokoro residence of TY Danjuma. An



evening to behold. At the height of the counterinsurgency operations, a quiet, dark evening as the moon's trimester reached.

Firm but warm hand shake extended with a strong aura that could move mountains. It's the first time ever so close. I had to summon the needed courage and strength to meet the towering personality.

Keen, he was interested in the progress of the war against the insurgents. A truly patriotic concern in supporting his mentee, President Buhari. Insurgency and terrorism in NE Nigeria were the key issues of our discourse. Concerned on the various

attacks by the insurgents.

The Counter-Terrorism operation steadily progressing but many challenges abound.

Assurance given, just like the outcomes of the Nigerian Civil War. A war fought within our territorial jurisdiction and amongst countrymen. Complex and devastating it were on all sides.

No nation should ever wish to experience something similar again. Lucky our nation declared, no victor, nor vanquished.

Now, insurgency is subdued, but metamorphoses into terrorism.

Long-term strategy against terrorism,

a must at the political, strategic, and operational levels.

Terrorism remains the insurgent's last resort after defeat. War without end - terrorism is called in some quarters. Behold the resilience of the troops and the eagled eyes of the state intelligence agencies. Combined efforts further degraded the insurgents.

Finally, the march to lasting peace and security beckons, but much more work needed to be done to keep the peace. It is much more difficult and expensive to keep the peace than warfighting. We all must know this, or else, terrorism and banditry will remain in Africa for a very long time.

# The Dangers Of Introducing State Police Today

By Jibrin Ibrahim

THE FEDERAL government alongside the governments of the 36 states are considering the creation of state police. This followed an emergency meeting between President Bola Tinubu and state governors at the Aso Rock Villa yesterday [Wednesday, February 15, 2024].

According to reports, Thursday's meeting follows the recent hike in food prices, economic hardship, and rising insecurity all over the country. In other words, there is fear of widespread insurrection. Addressing State House correspondents after the meeting, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, explained that the process is still in its infancy and would only take shape after more deliberations between stakeholders.

Over the years, many critics, including journalists and civil society activists, have been placed in arbitrary detention for daring to speak the truth about their governors. The governors cajole law enforcement offices to "deal" with their perceived enemies, without having a police force totally under their control. I am convinced that most (not all) governors would jail all their "enemies" if they have police forces they can control totally.

As a student of and believer in federalism, I fully support the principle that federal political systems should have police forces controlled by the federating units – states, and in the past, I have strongly campaigned for state police. Today, I am very frightened of the idea because the evidence that it would be abused is massive. Nonetheless, widespread insecurity in the country has pushed many Nigerians into supporting the idea of a state police based on the justification that states are closer to local dynamics of insecurity and might be more effective in combatting it.

The reasoning is that members of the police, being local and therefore knowledgeable about the community, would be more effective in fighting crime, terrorism, civil unrest and insurgency. The key idea, therefore, is that they would know or be able to easily find out the bad boys and girls and deal with them. In my view, that is where the trouble begins; who will define the bad boys and girls.

State police would be established by State Houses of Assembly and that means the enabling laws defining their mandates, structure and control would be determined by state governors because as we all know, state houses of assembly are essentially puppets of their governors and they do as they are instructed.

For state governors, the bad boys are clear and fall into two categories. The first category comprises politicians who want to contest state power with the governors or their chosen successors, for those in their second term. The second category consists of all persons who dare to criticise the governors or question their misdeeds.

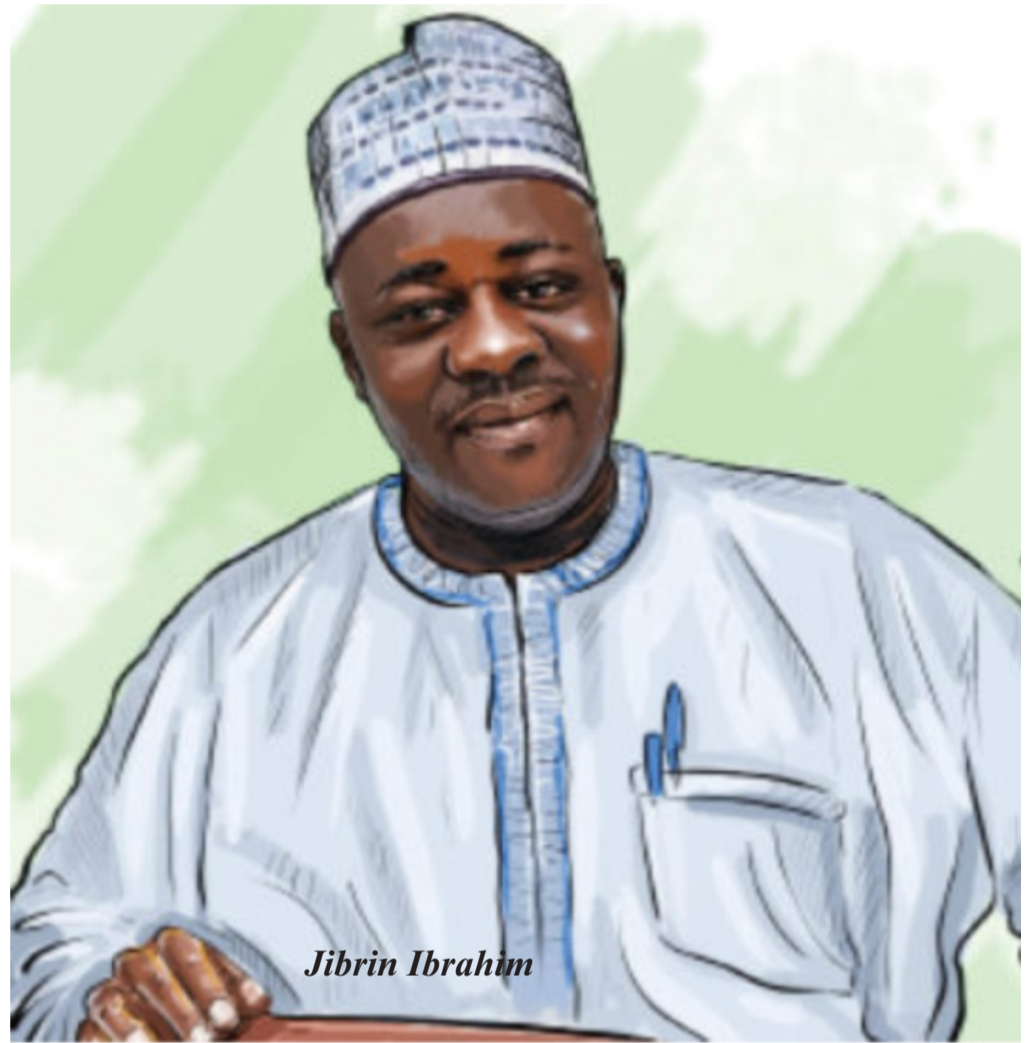
I have heard people argue that currently, the Nigerian Police Force are direct puppets of the president and they do exactly what they are told to do in dealing with the president's enemies, so state police could be a counter-weight to presidential control of the Nigeria Police Force. I think it's uncharitable to argue that the personnel of the Nigeria Police Force are completely partisan in their actions. Federal institutions are, in general, much more capable of handling issues in an even-handed manner, relative to state-level institutions.

Over the years, many critics, including journalists and civil society activists, have been placed in arbitrary detention for daring to speak the truth about their governors. The governors cajole law enforcement offices to "deal" with their perceived enemies, without having a police force totally under their control. I am convinced that most (not all) governors would jail all their "enemies" if they have police forces they can control totally.

When in 2018, there was a summit to consider establishment of state police, there was a counter-argument by the late Abubakar Tsav, retired police commissioner that the "establishment of state police will signal the beginning of the disintegration of the country", as governors use the institution "against their perceived political opponents." State and federal police commands are also likely to work at cross-purposes, he added.

My additional reasons of concern are that we have very serious ethnic and religious divides in the country at this time and many governors believe that if they have their own police, they can deal with the other. For example, the pastoralists and farmers conflicts have been intensifying in many states and some governors have clear proclivities of seeking to expel or protect pastoralists in their states opening the doors to a new dimension of identity conflicts that would deepen the crisis facing the Nigerian State today. As Commissioner Tsav argued in 2018: "Our politicians are not civilised enough and tolerant of opposing views and cannot preside over a competent and impartial police force."

I have heard people argue that currently, the Nigerian Police Force are direct puppets of the president and they do



Jibrin Ibrahim

exactly what they are told to do in dealing with the president's enemies, so state police could be a counter-weight to presidential control of the Nigeria Police Force. I think it's uncharitable to argue that the personnel of the Nigeria Police Force are completely partisan in their actions. Federal institutions are, in general, much more capable of handling issues in an even-handed manner, relative to state-level institutions.

The more effective separation of powers between the executive, legislature and judiciary at the federal level, in relation to the state level means that there are more effective control measures. The National Assembly, for example, can call the Inspector General of Police to order in a way that no state house of assembly can't do with any institution obeying the state governor.

Similarly, successive presidential directives that police personnel attached to unauthorised persons and VIPs in the country be withdrawn and deployed to confront the security challenges in the nation have been disregarded. The police are ineffective because too many of them are not available to do core police work, they spend their time in the service of a few privileged Nigerians.

I know that the structure of the police is defective, as a significant slice of the police budget is consumed at the headquarters and very limited resources go to state commands where most police operations actually take place. State

police commands then become dependent on state governors, who give them some money and in return get the command to do their bidding. It is however easier to address this problem compared to a full state police force.

The problem we have is that the police are not as effective as they should be and the way forward is to improve their efficacy. One of the core problems is that about 150,000 of the 350,000 of the Nation's police force are engaged in VIP protection rather than routine policing. Every Inspector-General of Police has promised to stop renting out police officers to those who can pay for their services but failed to do so.

Similarly, successive presidential directives that police personnel attached to unauthorised persons and VIPs in the country be withdrawn and deployed to confront the security challenges in the nation have been disregarded. The police are ineffective because too many of them are not available to do core police work, they spend their time in the service of a few privileged Nigerians.

President Tinubu should start by addressing this challenge!

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

# We'll Unlock Trillions In Public Wealth to Boost Economy - Tinubu:

*\* Decries mismanagement, underutilization of Nigeria's public assets*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has hinted at plans by his administration to create millions of jobs by unlocking the value of Nigeria's vast public assets with a view to optimizing and doubling the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to him, with economic revitalisation as its top priority, the federal government has a target of raising at least \$10 billion in order to increase foreign exchange liquidity that will, in turn, stabilise the Naira. The President disclosed this yesterday in Abuja, during the inaugural Public Wealth Management Conference organized by the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) with the theme, "Championing Nigeria's Economic Prosperity". According to a statement signed by Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media & Communications (Office of the Vice President), Stanley Nkwocha, dated February 20, 2024, President Tinubu who was represented at the event by Vice President Kashim Shettima, highlighted a low-hanging fruit of identifying, consolidating and maximizing returns on government-owned assets worth

trillions of naira.

Reading, the President's Keynote address, VP Shettima stated: "The Federal Government set a goal to raise at least \$10 Billion (Ten Billion Dollars) in order to increase foreign exchange liquidity, a key ingredient to stabilise the Naira and grow the economy.

"At the core of this is ensuring optimal management of the assets and investments of the Federal Government towards unlocking their revenue potential. This includes our bold and achievable plan to double the GDP growth rate and significantly increase the GDP base over the next 8 years."

President Tinubu however noted that decades of mismanagement and underutilization have plagued the country's assets spread across Nigeria and outside the borders, leading to revenue losses that have hindered economic growth.

He assured however that the newly restructured Ministry of Finance Incorporated, which is to act as custodian and active manager of these assets, will now take the centre stage.

The President further emphasised transparency and accountability as key principles, believing that improved corporate governance,

innovative partnerships, and attracting alternative investment capital will significantly increase returns.

He noted that these improved returns will then be directed towards "crucial funding for education, healthcare, housing, power, roads and other areas vital to lifting millions out of poverty" and stimulating sustainable economic development and job creation for the youths.

Stressing that this initiative is not just about revenue generation, but about creating inclusive and sustainable growth, President Tinubu said by efficiently managing public resources, the government aims to build a more equitable society and unlock the full potential of its citizens.

He called on all stakeholders, including Ministries, Development Financial Institutions, and both public and private sector players, to partner with MOFI in optimising these strategic assets, expressing hope that the collaborative effort will unlock Nigeria's full potential and create a brighter future for all citizens.

Earlier, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, said President Tinubu is mindful of the pains of his administration's

reform programmes and is deploying appropriate mechanisms to address the challenges.

He assured that while 42,000 metric tons of assorted grains is being released with 60,000 metric tons to follow shortly, as part of measures to arrest food inflation, food prices would drop in the coming months as a result of government actions and policies.

The Minister urged the management and board of the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) to, among other things, develop a specific line of revenue for the national budget as part of its renewed mandate of supporting the Federal Government's fiscal stability.

On his part, Chairman of the MOFI Board, Dr Shamsudeen Usman, assured that MOFI will, going forward, play a more active role in the management of assets under its purview, even as he urged operators of the assets to see MOFI as partners rather than competitors or regulators.

Noting that the new management is committed to high level corporate governance, Usman disclosed that the company has integrated a non-conflict of interest policy to guide against practices that undermine

professionalism among members of staff.

In the same vein, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MOFI, Dr Armstrong Takang, gave an overview of the MOFI renewed mandate, particularly highlighting expectations from the public and the private sector.

Mr Armstrong also announced the launch of a N100 billion Project Preparation Fund by MOFI as part of its renewed mandate of ensuring professionalism in the management of public assets.

He said the overall objective is to deliver commercial value for the common good of the people, assuring that the company will transform the fortunes of public assets under its purview and restore investor confidence in both the operations and management of the assets.

Also present at the meeting were the Governor of Cross River State, Sen. Bassey Otu; Senate Committee Chairman on Finance, Sen. Sani Musa; Ministers of Agriculture, Sen. Abubakar Kyari; Budget and Economic Planning, Sen. Abubakar Bagudu; Industry, Trade and Investment, Mrs Doris Uzoka-Anite, and the CEO of Heirs Holding, Mr Tony Elumelu, among others.

## Ibadan Protesters Accuses Tinubu Administration Of Anti People Policies

*\*Demand end to hunger insecurity, economic hardship in Nigeria*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Protesters from across Ibadan on Monday, took to the streets in the town to stage peaceful rally over the increasing cost of foodstuffs and insecurity in Nigeria.

The protesters mostly youth, ignored warning from the Oyo State Police Command against any unauthorized rally in and across the state saying some faceless agents are planning to cause chaos in the state

As early as 7.30am, hundreds of the protesters mainly youths arrived on the Mokola roundabout meeting point in Ibadan for the peaceful demonstration with placards condemning the President Bola Tinubu led administration and its style of governance.

The protesters were kicking against the policies of President Tinubu

administration which they claimed are against the people and should be discontinued with placards having inscriptions like "Tinubu Must Address Insecurity" and "Hunger is Killing Us."

Specifically, the protesters were specifically asking President Tinubu to immediately address the issues of insecurity and economic hardship as well as hunger in the land as the high cost of living in the country is presently making living difficult for Nigerians. The protesters moved from Mokola to Sango, Bodija, Agodi Secretariat, Total Garden and returned to Mokola chanting anti government songs.

Men of the Oyo state Police command and other security agencies in the state monitored the protesters to prevent hoodlums from hijacking the peaceful protest

## Vice President Shettima Says Saboteurs Attempting To Undermine FG's Efforts

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

There are individuals who lack integrity and are actively trying to sabotage President Bola Tinubu's administration's initiatives to improve the Nigerian economy.

Blaming smugglers and politicians for trying to hinder progress, the Vice President revealed that 45

trucks carrying maize were intercepted while heading to neighboring countries in the dead of night on Sunday.

"So, there are forces that are hell-bent on undermining our nation, but this is the time for us to coalesce into a singular entity.

"We have to make this country work. We have to

move beyond politics. We are now in the face of governance.

"Sadly, some of our countrymen are still in the political mode. They are the practitioners of violence, advocating that Nigeria should go the Lebanon way. But, Nigeria is greater than anyone of us here. Nigeria will weather the storm.

# Governor Sule Rewards Nasarawa Amazons FC With \$11,000 For Consistency In Women's Football League.

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

It was a Tuesday to remember by players and officials of Nasarawa State-owned women's football club, Nasarawa Amazons, as Governor Abdullahi Sule rewarded their determination and consistency in the Nigerian Women's Premier Football League with eleven thousand dollars cash.

At a special reception held in honour of the team at the Government House, Lafia, Governor Sule gave two thousand, six hundred dollars to the six players of the Club currently at the National U-20(Falconets) camp, with four of the players, namely, Goalkeeper Unachukwu Udoka Rachael, defender Alani Jumoke, midfielder Yina Adoo, and midfielder Shobowale Olushola, who were released from camp to help the Amazons prosecute their match-day nine tie against visiting Naija Ratels on Wednesday(tomorrow) each getting five hundred dollars, while the duo of midfielder Kalu Chinyere and defender Oluchi Ohaegbulam, still in camp, each getting three hundred dollars from the Governor's largesse.

Each of the thirty players who attended the ceremony at the Government House got two hundred dollars while the four coaches of the Lafia-based side got three hundred dollars each,

with the exception of National Team Goalkeeper Trainer, Yahaya Audu, who got five hundred dollars.

The Governor's magnanimity and generosity also extended to the Chairperson of Nasarawa Amazons, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo, as she got one thousand dollars in what the Governor described as "for her charismatic and result-oriented leadership".

In his address, the Governor thanked the Club for doing the State proud by bringing glory to it and her people.

"I may not have the opportunity to come and watch your games, but I have been following up on all your activities in the league secretly, especially the highlights, through your WhatsApp platform, even though we don't have another Eche Amos in your Group who keeps updating us via the Nasarawa United platform and others with all the happenings, and wherever I am in the world, he keeps me informed, and I must say we are so proud of what you are doing.

"So, I wanted an opportunity to thank you for making Nasarawa State proud. Many of my Governor colleagues would wish that they had the Amazons in their own States because I talk to my colleagues a lot and I follow up on everything they say about you.

"Indeed, you are doing a

fantastic job and performing wonders despite the meagre resources available to you compared to what other States have and spend on their teams.

"I am always proud of the commitment and dedication of the Management of the Club headed by Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman, no wonder every member of the club is proud of her and the coaches.

"Since I don't have so much to offer to you for all you are doing for our State, I am personally donating the sum of five hundred dollars to each of the four players who came from the National Camp, three hundred dollars to each of the two players who could not make it from the National Camp because the handlers could only release four players, two hundred dollars to each of the home players, three hundred dollars to each of the coaches and one thousand dollars to the Chairperson of the Club, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo because she has been exemplary.

"This is not a pledge, but I am giving you the cash right here."

Earlier, Chairperson of Nasarawa Amazons, Hajiya Hussaina Suleiman Nagogo, told the Governor that they were at the Government House to congratulate him and his Deputy following the Supreme Court's Judgement that affirmed his election as duly elected Governor of Nasarawa State and

to appreciate him for all his supports to the Club.

"Your Excellency, we are here to congratulate you and your worthy Deputy on your affirmation by the Supreme Court as Governor of Nasarawa State.

"Our joy knew no bounds when you said we should come to visit you and make our presentation.

"Since Your Excellency assumed Office in 2019, we do not lack anything, unless we don't request for it.

"It may interest Your Excellency to note that we have six of our players and our Head Coach at the National U-20( Falconets) camp, and four of the players were released to us, upon request, to help us prosecute our game tomorrow(Wednesday). We have so many players at the various National Women's Teams, including the Super Falcons, Falconets and Flamingos, so also are our coaches,

"All these are possible because you are always there for us and giving us the needed support.

"We are eternally grateful for all you do for us and the team.

"We will continue to do our best to reward the gesture of Your Excellency and the good people of the State."

Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe, Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Hon.

Jafaru Ango, Permanent Secretary, Nasarawa State Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Chief Barr. Isaac Danladi, Chairman, Nasarawa State Football Association, Salisu Galadima(a.k.a Basira) and the Supporters' Club of Nasarawa Amazons FC attended the event.

Highpoint of the visit was the presentation of customised jerseys of the Club to the Governor by the Chairperson.

In a related development, Nasarawa Amazons, still basking in the euphoria of their 4-0 whitewashing of hapless Royal Queens of Sapele in their match-day eight clash a week ago, will return to action on Wednesday, 21st February, 2024, when they slug it out against visiting Naija Ratels of Abuja, at the Lafia City Stadium, with a mandate to consolidate on their premium form and return to the summit of the Abridged 2023/24 NWFL Group 'A' table. The Amazons are joint-top in Group 'A' with 14 points with Heartland Queens having superior goal advantage of plus one.

Eight teams make up each of the Groups, with three teams qualifying from each Group to participate in the Super six competition to determine the eventual winners of the new League Season.



# No Election Yet, CTC Remains In Place For SWAN Rivers State - NEC

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has affirmed that the Caretaker Committee (CTC) set-up to harmonise and spearhead conduct of election for the substantive leadership of Rivers State chapter is still actively in place.

In a statement, the President of SWAN, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, through the association's Secretary-General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, categorically said that the purported election in the chapter was merely a shallow claim by few disgruntled elements who are bent on entrenching distractions.

While recalling what led to the emergence of the caretaker committee, President Benjamin said the terms of reference given to the three-man committee led by Mr. Cyril Wite, with Mr. Austin Isaac and Francis Edoakor as Secretary and Member respectively, is firmly in line with Article 15 of SWAN

statute.

"Please disregard claims by certain individual imposters that SWAN Rivers State chapter held elective Congress. Relevant security agencies have been properly briefed and are taking necessary actions.

"The CTC is still very much in place and the process for an Elective Congress is on.

"Already, membership annual registration/renewal is currently ongoing nationwide, and Sports Writers in Rivers State are doing same. Good enough, the CTC has been up and doing well.

"Initially, the CTC encountered challenges which they are presently facing. In few days, the CTC will roll out both the electoral committee and processes that will ensure their job is done conclusively," the SWAN President clarified.

The Number One Sports Writer then enjoined SWAN members in Rivers State to remain focused in their day-to-day professional duties.



# AFCON 2023: Supporters Club Deserve Presidential Handshake - Ladipo

*\*Says NFF to determine Peseiro's fate*

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President General of Nigeria Football Supporters Club, Dr. Rafiu Ladipo has expressed regrets that the efforts of the club are not being fully appreciated by the government, just as he appealed for a change of heart.

Ladipo who led the club to Cote d'Ivoire where they supported the Super Eagles, noted that while it's commendable that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu conferred a national award to the silver winning national team, however, regrettable that no mention was made of the members of the Supporters Club who spent their hard earned money to be at the tournament.

"I must have to commend Mr. President for not only hosting the Super Eagles but conferring national awards on them but I need to put it on record that this country is yet to appreciate the efforts of the Supporters Club.

"These are men and women who spent three to four days on the road before getting to Cote d'Ivoire and as I speak to you now, many of them have not come back to the country, a week after the tournament.

"When we got to Cote d'Ivoire, we discovered that Supporters Club from other countries such



*Ladipo*

as; the host nation, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Cameroon, South Africa and others were sponsored by their various governments who apart from paying their flight tickets, took care of their accommodation, feeding, transportation within the host nation and even paid them allowances.

"So, what am saying is that in as

much as we commend Mr. President for hosting the Super Eagles, he should also host the Supporters Club", he stressed. He explained that apart from few corporate organisations like Nigerian Breweries, Sifax Group and Goldberg, there was no government support to the club which he described as regrettable.

Speaking on his experience in Cote d'Ivoire, Ladipo stated that he was happy Nigeria was not disgraced in the finals and that the Supporters Club were at their best throughout the duration of the championship.

"It's true that we did not win the trophy but we were not disgraced and I must have to commend our players for their gallant display

not minding the hostile atmosphere in which they played.

"I must have to commend our players because they played that final game under a very hostile atmosphere. All the stadium was packed with Ivorians who took advantage of their government throwing the gate open to troop out in their thousands to watch the match.

"Getting tickets for the final was also a herculean task to Nigerians and at a stage we have to park our vehicles many kilometers to the stadium and resorted to trekking but in all these, members of the Supporters Club were not deterred but kept on supporting the team to the end", he said.

On whether the NFF should retain Super Eagles gaffer, Jose Peseiro, he explained that the decision lies with the football house who are his employers.

"You're aware that the NFF gave the Portuguese tactician a semi-final mandate but he surpassed it and took the country to the finals. However, as his employers, they're in a better position to decide whether to retain him or not", concluded Ladipo who also doubles as President of Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C.).

## Cancer: All Set For Unveiling, Launch Of Hassy's Haven Foundation

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

A foundation dedicated to supporting cancer patients, the less privileged, orphans and widows, Hassy's Haven Foundation is due for unveiling and launching in Kaduna.

A statement signed by Husseina Mohammed Yakubu, made available yesterday, said that the foundation is in blessed memory of late Hassana Mohammed Yakubu who until her demise, was a staff of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Kaduna office.

According to the statement, Hassy's Haven Foundation will be launched on Saturday, February 24, 2024 by 10:00am prompt at the Butterfly Hotel Kaduna, located by Correctional Service Centre, independence Way.

It informed that several special guests have been invited to grace the event, including, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hakeem Baba Ahmed, Special Adviser to the Vice

President on Political Affairs and Malam Isiaku Abdullahi, MD PPMC Lagos

Also invited, are; Ali Muhammad Ali, Managing Director, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Brig. Gen. Sani Kukasheka Usman (Rtd), former Spokesman, Nigerian Army, Mr. Samuel Aruwan, Administrator of Kaduna Capital Territory Authority and Commissioner overseeing Kaduna Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Hajiya Rabi Salisu, Kaduna State Commissioner for Human Services and Social Development, Musa Abdullahi Krishi, SA Media to the Speaker National Assembly and Mrs. Mariya Abiodun Lagbaja, President, Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association (NAOWA),

"Your presence in this charitable journey will play an integral role in our mission to make a positive impact in the lives of those in need.

"Together we can create a haven of hope and support," it said.



Husseina Mohammed Yakubu

## 10 Suspected Illegal Miners Arrested - Oyo NSCDC Commandant

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), CC Augustine Padonu yesterday, said 10 suspected illegal miners are now in the command net.

CC Padonu who expressed this in Ibadan while parading the suspects at the command headquarters declared that the 10 suspects were arrested on offences bordering on illegal mining operation and criminal conspiracy in different locations in the state.

The state NSCDC commandant

gave the name of the suspects as Adeoti Kolawole 'M' 61, oyedijo Idowu 'M' 19, Muritala Ismailia 'M' 39, Mohammed Muritala 'M' 40, Ayuba ismaila 'M' 33, Sunday Ayoola, 'M' 49, Adeleke Sunday 'M' 42, Olamide Ajibola, 'M' 34, Adeyemo Abbas's 'M' 39 and Numideen Aliu 'M' 35 years.

He pointed out that Adeoti Kolawole 'M' 61, the alleged leader of a group of suspects carrying out illegal exploration and mining of Tourmaline minerals; Oyedijo Idowu 'M' 19, a generator repairer; Muritala 'M' 40, a labourer and Ayuba Ismailia 'M' 33 (also a labourer),

were arrested on 17th February 2024 at about 0800hrs

According to him, the suspects were arrested for illegally exploring and mining solid minerals suspected to be Tourmaline without licence at Else Erin village, Ona Ara local Government, Oyo State.

He stressed further that other suspects namely Sunday Ayoola 'M' 49 (Owner of the product), Adeleke Sunday 'M' 42 (Drivers) Olamide Ajibola 'M' 34 (Driver), Adeyemo Abbas 'M' (Driver) and Numideen Abbas 'M' 35 (Driver) were arrested for allegedly dealing in illegal

possession and purchase of Lithium minerals at Ipapo town, Itesiwaju local government Area of the state without license to purchase and to possess the products

The NSCDC commandant noted that exhibit recovered from the suspects included Toyota Haice with registration number MNV 811 YN, Toyota Haice with registration number LSD 136 XG, others are Mazda E2200 with registration number KR D 495 XF and Mazda E2200 with registration number LSD 321 XN.

CC Padonu said also recovered are two big generators used for illegal mining, Tiger GC3800 CXS and Yahma Generator 7000 DXE. The mineral resources found in the buses are Lithium mineral and Tourmaline.

He urged the people of the state to always furnish the corps or the sister agencies with good information whenever they notice any illegal activities in their vicinity as all the suspects paraded will be arraigned in the court of law after the conclusion of the investigation.