

New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

Published since January 1, 1966

Vol. 6 No. 283

Friday 5th April, 2024

Ramadan 26, 1445 AH

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Don't See Nigeria's Economic Downturn As Licence To Go Into Crime, Minister Warns Youth

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Minister of Youth Development, Dr Jamila Bio Ibrahim yesterday, cautioned Nigerian youth to stop using the downturn in the economy as a license to go into crimes.

The minister while speaking in Abuja at a Retreat and Leadership Training Course for principal officers of the Peace Corps of Nigeria, said the economic downturn, "is a global phenomenon and not peculiar to Nigeria alone,

hence, should not be used as justification for any form of criminality.

Represented by the Chief Youth Development Officer of the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Mr Isaac Adeyinka Adeagbo who read her speech, the minister tasked the youth to be more focused in the face of the challenging economy by using the challenge posed by the to prepare themselves to be socially and economically responsible.

Thanking the Peace Corps of Nigeria for organizing

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Zulum Appoints Chairman, Commissioners, Others For State Assembly Commission

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has approved the appointment of the chairman, two permanent commissioners and three non-commissioned members for Borno State House of Assembly Service Commission.

According to a statement issued by the Secretary to the Borno State Government, Hon. Bukar Tijani, on Monday, Zulum approved the appointments as follows:

Chairman, Ali Bulama Yaajiwa

Permanent Commissioners

1. Hon. Rawa Goni Bukar
 2. Hon. Mohammed Saleh Banga
- Non-Commissioned Members
1. Hon. Bukar Mallam Bura
 2. Hon. Alifa Dikwa
 3. Hon. Dala Mutah

The statement added that



Zulum appointed Hon. Rawa Goni Bukar, Hon. Bukar Mallam Bura and Hon. Alifa Dikwa for the second term tenure while Hon. Mohammed Saleh Banga and Hon. Dala Mutah for the first term tenure.

The SSG noted that the appointment is by the powers conferred on Governor Zulum by section 198 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The statement, however, added that all the appointments are subject

to confirmation by the Borno State House of Assembly. Zulum while congratulating the appointees, expects from them the highest commitment and dedication.

Be Hopeful Of Better Days In Nigeria - ArchBishop Abegunrin

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Catholic Archbishop of Ibadan Archdiocese, Gabriel Ojeleke Abegunrin on Sunday, tasked Nigerians to be hopeful of better days despite the present situation in the country. The Catholic Archbishop who gave the task in his Easter message to Nigerians to commemorate this year's Easter celebration, said Easter stands as a unique period that signified hope. According to ArchBishop Abegunrin, "Easter calls us to a renewed understanding of the sanctity of the human life and to promote it with vigor".

He emphasized, "Easter is indeed a season of Hope.

Although our dear country still wobbles, we must still cling to hope, a hope in the resurrected Christ, knowing as St. Paul; said, 'that hope does not disappoint us.

"Finally, Easter is the celebration of life over death, Jesus is not held by the darkness of the tomb, he breaks forth into life and also promises to give life to all who come to him", he said.

ArchBishop Abegunrin added, "Easter calls us to a renewed understanding of the sanctity of the human life and to promote it with vigor. No one should be prevented from enjoying the gift of life from God, both natural and supernatural life.

"We must therefore stand together to shun all anti-life practices, eradicated

the culture of death among us, ranging from the promotion of abortion to contraceptives. It is our earnest prayer that the life, love and peace of Christ will reign supreme in our lives, Amen".

Speaking further on Easter celebration, ArchBishop Abegunrin stated that, "the season reminds us primarily of God's immense love for all his Children, expressed in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ", adding, "Three major things flow from the resurrection of Jesus Christ; three things that matter really.

"In his resurrection, Jesus shows us his redeeming love; Jesus invites us to peace; and Jesus sends us out to others to change the world. Jesus shows us his

redeeming love. It was God's love that made the son undergo the torture of the Cross to redeem the human race."

ArchBishop Abegunrin maintained that "it was for Love that he gave His only Son. It was for love that Christ himself did not hesitate to submit and surrender himself into the hands of his executioners.

"And finally, it was for love that He rose so that he can offer us the gift of eternal life. Therefore, the Easter message challenges to respond to God's Love especially by loving our neighbors. We have something to imitate in the intimate and tender love of the risen Lord. Jesus draws us into his own resurrected life, we must learn to draw others to share in our lives as well. Jesus invites us to peace".

Tinubu Committed To Salvaging Nigeria - Katsina Governor

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has described President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a leader committed to salvaging the fortunes of Nigeria and its citizens.

Governor Dikko Radda made this known while congratulating President Ahmed Tinubu on the occasion of his 72nd birthday anniversary.

Governor Radda said through a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, that President Tinubu's trajectory, all along, has been signposted with remarkable personal achievements, in both his private and public life.

According to Radda, the practical steps taken by President Tinubu, since he assumed office in May last year, have reset Nigeria on the path of socio-economic greatness and accelerated national development.

He said: "I wish to join

Mr. President's teeming admirers and citizens to felicitate him on the auspicious occasion of his 72nd birthday anniversary.

"As a visionary and purposeful leader that he is, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, over the years has not relented in offering genuine service to Lagos State, our dear country and her citizens," Governor Radda emphasized.

He explained that, "other things, President Tinubu's loyalty to his Renewed Hope Agenda, geared towards enhancing the welfare of citizens and more importantly, redirecting Nigeria's developmental trajectory, is unshakeable".

While hoping that President Tinubu would remain focused and determined in achieving his laudable governance agenda for Nigeria, Governor Radda asked "Almighty Allah to sustain in sound health and also endow him with profound intellect for effectively leading Africa's Giant."

Katsina APC CWC Dissolves 34 LGAs Stakeholders

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Central Working Committee of the Cruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Katsina State has announced with an immediate effect the dissolution of all its stakeholders at the state and the 34 local government areas.

Secretary of the Central Working Committee of the party, Suleiman Muhammad Namadi in a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the state Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed conveyed the development in a letter addressed to the affected chairmen across the state's 34 local government areas. The letter according to the statement, disclosed that, the decision was reached during the Central Working Committee

monthly meeting held on March 26, 2024, at the State Secretariat, Katsina in Katsina metropolis.

The Katsina APC Central Working Committee assures party members that a new structure would be established soon, adhering to the provisions of Article 12 (10) and (15) of the All Progressives Congress Constitution of 2022 (amended).

The party leadership expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing stakeholders for their significant contributions and support to the party's success as the ruling party in Katsina State for the past eight years.

"There is no doubt that without their support and steadfastness, the All Progressives Congress would have been a mirage," the letter said.

Police Neutralises Suspected Kidnapper, Recovers Firearm, Ammunition In Nasarawa

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

A suspected kidnapper has been reportedly killed in a cross fire with police operatives in Nasarawa State.

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased was a member of a notorious kidnap gang that blocks Nasarawa - Keffi highway around Kemu village in order to kidnap unsuspecting road users. The police operatives were said to have received a distress call about 9.00pm 03/4/2024 at about 2100hrs, which resulted in swift response by the operatives.

In a gun duel that ensued, one of the hoodlums reportedly sustained serious gunshot injury and was rushed to the hospital where he later died.

One Ak 47 rifle loaded with 11 rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition were recovered from the hoodlums, who were said to have abandoned their mission and scamper for safety due to the superior fire power of the Joint security forces.

The Police Public Relations Officer Nasarawa State Command DSP Ramhan Nansel who confirmed the incident in a statement yesterday.

It reads, "On 03/4/2024 at about 2100hrs, a distress call was received that some hoodlums have blocked Nasarawa - Keffi highway

around Kemu village in order to kidnap unsuspecting road users.

"Reacting to the unpleasant development, police operatives, in collaboration with the military, Swiftly raced to the scene. on Sighting the operatives, the criminals opened fire, and a gun duel ensued.

"One of the hoodlums was fatally wounded where one Ak 47 rifle loaded with eleven (11) rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition were recovered; forcing the hoodlums to abandon their mission and scamper for safety due to the superior fire power of the Joint security forces.

"Findings revealed that the Kidnappers had stopped two Sport Utility Vehicles in order to Kidnap the occupants, but the swift intervention of the Joint Security forces Saved the situation.

"The wounded kidnapper was rushed to General Hospital, Nasarawa, where he died while receiving treatment

"The Commissioner of Police, CP Umar shehu Nadada psc, mni assures members of the public that the police command remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all road users/residents of the state and this achievement marks a significant step towards attaining that goal."

Don't See Nigeria's Economic Downturn As Licence To Go Into Crime, Minister Warns Youth

the retreat, the minister assured that her ministry would always partner with any youth development organization in the country in the task of building an egalitarian nation.

Emphasizing the need for Nigerians to embrace and preach peace, the Minister pointed out that no meaningful development can take place without peace and security, saying,

"as for all well meaning Nigerians, all hands must be on deck to achieve the new hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu so as to take Nigeria back to the right path", the Minister pleaded.

The National Commandant of the Corps, Dr. Dickson Ameh Akoh while speaking, appealed to the federal

government to create opportunity for youth to grow and contribute to the general development of the country.

Dr. Akoh pleaded with the President Tinubu to be prepared to give assent to the Nigeria Peace Corps Establishment Bill when passed by the National Assembly, adding that it would serve as the greatest

presidential gift to youth in Nigeria.

The District Head of Gwarinpa, Alhaji Umaru Bayero in his remarks, advocated speedy passage of the Nigeria Peace Corps Bill by the National Assembly and transmission of same to the President for the endorsement to make PCN a statutory body.

Gov Yusuf Inaugurates Commissions Of Inquiry Into Political Violence, Misappropriation Of Public Assets

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Governor of Kano State, Alh. Abba Kabir Yusuf has inaugurated two judicial commissions of inquiry into cases of misappropriation of public properties, political violence and missing persons between 2015 to 2023.

Inaugurating members of the commissions yesterday, Governor Yusuf vowed to bring anyone found wanting to book.

In a statement issued by Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, the Governor reminded that investigating the misappropriation of the public asset was part of his inaugural pledge to

unravel and prosecute those behind cases of political violence recorded in the state.

He said, "Political violence is a major set back to democracy worldwide. It leads to lost of lives and property as well as mistrust on the part of the people and those in power".

"The disturbing cases of political killings especially in 2023 must not be swept under the carpet, this is to ensure we prevent future occurrences".

The first Commission under Justice Zuwaira Yusuf, will look into cases of Political violence and missing persons from 2015-2023.

We expect them to unravel

the criminal network involved and unmask the sponsors to face justice. Find its root causes and find out where violence is associated with 2015, 2019 and 2013".

Inaugurating the second Commission of inquiry under Justice Faruk Lawan, Gov. Abba Kabir gave the commission the mandate of inquiry into cases of misappropriation of public properties and assets.

He charged Justice Lawan and his entire members not to relent at identifying cases of misappropriation of public properties and assets especially by the last administration within and outside the state.

He however, emphasized that, this move is neither

political nor targeted at any individual but it's a move with the mandate of the people of Kano.

He charged the commissions not to compromise their stands but remain faithful to their oath and the people of Kano at large and ensure justice for the state.

Gov. Abba Kabir added that the selection of the members of the two commissions and its leaders was a careful and thorough and he remains confident that they will deliver as expected.

"We went through your records and we couldn't find any of you wanting. We believe in you and we expect your full reports in 3 months time".



The neutralized bandit

Alleged Poisoning: Tension Over Death Of Cattle In Ologolo, Alafara

Under Control - Oyo Govt

*Urges residents to continue their daily engagements without fear or worry

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government yesterday, doused the tension mounting in Ologolo, Alafara area in Ido Local Government Area of the state over death of cattle and asked residents in the communities to continue with their daily engagements without fear

or worry According to the state Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade in a statement, the tension over the death of some grazing cows, allegedly poisoned is now under control.

The commissioner stressed that the incident was reported to the state government by residents of the area and that

relevant authorities promptly sprung into action to douse the tension in the area to prevent any form of communal clash between herdsmen and residents of the community.

Prince Oyelade while assuring the people of the state of government's commitment to peaceful coexistence and safety of lives and property of its people, lauded the efforts

of the Amotekun Corps, Operation Burst, and the Nigeria Police Force throughout the period of the incident.

He declared that as at present, the Police have already engaged Fulani leaders and Yoruba community in the area and that the security operatives are on vigilant alert 24 hours of the day to maintain law and order.

Nigerian Emerges IFSW Africa Region President

**Her emergence timely - NASoW*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Nigerian, Ms. Toni Adeleke has been elected President of International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region.

Ms Adeleke, the immediate past National Secretary of Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW) was elected at the election held on Tuesday April 2, 2024 in Panama.

Describing Adeleke's emergence as timely, the National President of NASoW, Alhaji Mashood Mustapha in a statement signed by the National Public Relations Officer of the association, Mr. Musliudeen Adebayo, declared that, "Adeleke's emergence is an indication that social work profession has come to stay in Nigeria.

Alhaji Mustapha tasked the governments at all levels, agencies, development partners and philanthropists to cooperate with the association so as to reduce social problems in the country to the barest minimum.

"On behalf of the entire members of NASoW, I wish to congratulate the new IFSW Africa Region

President, Toni Adeleke. She emerged during a strongly contested election, the result of which was announced on Tuesday", he said. The NASoW National President added, "Toni Adeleke is the immediate past National Secretary of NASoW, the umbrella body of all professional social workers in Nigeria. She had earlier served as Vice President of IFSW Africa Region.

"NASoW has the confidence that she will deliver. The good news is that this is the first time a Nigerian will be in that position since the establishment of IFSW Africa Region. There is no doubt that social work has come to stay in Nigeria and NASoW has been the engine driving the vehicle. Social Work practice in Nigeria has witnessed many tremendous achievements in the last few years since I was inaugurated as President in 2018.

"It is on the record that



Ms. Toni Adeleke

Nigeria Council for Social Work [Establishment) Act was signed during my tenure by former President Muhammadu Buhari in December, 2022. Nigeria hosted IFSW Africa Region conference in November last year and now we are having a Nigerian, a committed member of NASoW as IFSW Africa Region President. This is an indication that the future of social work in Nigeria is

very bright. Now, we have over 60 tertiary institutions offering social work at undergraduate and post graduate levels. This is a unique transformative change".

Alhaji Mustapha however, appealed to governments at all levels to engage trained social workers in all areas where our services are needed". The era of square peg in a round hole is over.

NEN Warns Of Undermining President Tinubu's Strong Northern Alliance

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Northern Emancipation Network (NEN) has advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to consider the Defence Minister, Bello Matawalle as his most reliable political ally from Northern Nigeria today.

The group said the advise for President Tinubu to maintain his alliance with Matawalle is a matter of great significance in the unfolding political scenario that is pregnant with complications and unforeseen consequences in the build-up to 2027.

The statement, signed by the NEN chairman, Suleiman Abbah, shed light on the potential behind-the-scenes machinations aimed at destabilizing this crucial alliance and undermining the strong bond between the

President and Matawalle, his trusted ally in the face of impending political challenges and upheavals.

The NEN chairman clearly outlined the clandestine plots to get Matawalle sidelined through a gang-up of corrupt and unscrupulous elements in the North.

"These elements seek to create disunity and friction between President Tinubu and Matawalle, in order to weaken the President's chances of re-election in 2027," NEN said.

The group pointed out that the ongoing agitations and disturbances in the North are a direct result of political opportunism and corruption, aimed at destabilizing the government and creating an environment ripe for change. The NEN asserted that the targeting of Matawalle is a deliberate attempt to reverse the gains made by the current

administration in advancing its populist tendencies and warns of the dangers of allowing forces of reaction to disrupt the strong relationship between Tinubu and Matawalle, which could ultimately derail the President's re-election bid.

In light of these challenges, the NEN advised President Tinubu to rely on Matawalle as a trusted ally who can navigate the complex political landscape and thwart the plans of the sinister gang-up seeking to undermine the government.

"It is imperative that President Tinubu recognizes the importance of loyalty and steadfastness in his allies, particularly in the face of concerted efforts to destabilize the government and thwart his re-election aspirations.

"As we look towards the upcoming elections in 2027,

it is crucial that President Tinubu heeds the advice to strengthen his bond with Matawalle. By standing united with Matawalle against the forces of reaction and political opportunism, Tinubu can secure a successful re-election bid and continue to advance the interests of the Nigerian people.

"This advice therefore underscores the critical need for President Tinubu to maintain his relationship with Matawalle as a key ally in navigating the complex political terrain of Northern Nigeria. By heeding this advice and remaining united against external threats, President Tinubu can secure a successful re-election bid in 2027 and continue to lead the country towards prosperity and progress," the NEN statement said.

Electricity Tariff Increase A Cruel Blow To Nigerians - PRP

By; SANI ALIYU, Zaria

The Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) has condemned the proposed 300% increase in electricity tariffs as this will result in the power companies raising prices of electricity from N68 to N200 per kilowatt-hour.

In a press statement issued to newsmen the acting National Publicity Secretary Comrade Mohammed Ishaq said this drastic hike, coming on the heels of the removal of fuel subsidies and massive devaluation of the Naira, which have brought increases in costs of living and resultant hardship to the populace, appealed to governments at all levels to engage trained social workers in all areas where our services are needed".

The statement also said that as a party that champions the welfare of the people, it expressed deep concern and shares the shock felt by millions of Nigerians who are grappling with the harsh realities of survival.

"This decision by the government is not only insensitive but also demonstrates a blatant disregard for the plight of the citizens".

According to the statement, the removal of fuel subsidies has already made life unbearable for Nigerians, and the additional burden of a 300% increase in electricity tariffs is a merciless and ruthless policy at a time when the majority of the population is struggling to meet their basic needs like food.

"It is unimaginable that the government would impose such life-frustrating policies on a nation that is already on its knees," it said.

The PRP called on the

government to reconsider this decision and prioritize the well-being of its citizens.

It urged the authorities to explore alternative solutions that will not further exacerbate the suffering of Nigerians.

"Government should urgently consider seriously investing in the exploration and expansion of alternative renewable sources of electricity supply such as solar, bio gas, wind, etc which have the potential of providing cheap and sustainable electric energy to Nigerians for their domestic, economic and industrial needs.

"The current economic situation demands empathy, understanding, and a collective effort to uplift the people, not policies that push them deeper into hardship.

"In addition to the evident detrimental effects that a 300 percent surge in electricity bills would impose on Nigerians, it is crucial to acknowledge the substantial impact it would have on medium and small enterprises, as well as the informal sector.

"This significant hike in energy costs could potentially cripple these vital components of our economy, leading to potential job losses and hindering overall growth and development.

"PRP as a political party stands in solidarity with the millions of Nigerians who are affected by these policies and pledge to continue advocating for their rights and interests.

"The party remains committed to working towards a better future for all Nigerians, where basic necessities like food, electricity and fuel are accessible and affordable," it said.

Easter: GOC 7 Div NA Commends Troops, Appreciates Service Chiefs, Collaborating Security Agents



By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The acting General Officer Commanding (GOC), 7 Division Nigerian Army (NA) Maimalari Cantonment Maiduguri, Brigadier General Abubakar G. I. Haruna has commended troops of Operation Hadin Kai JTF North East Theater Command for their sacrifices and efforts in the counter insurgency fight against the remnants of Boko Haram insurgents hiding in their enclaves in the bush terrorizing innocent village farmers, firewood fellers and fishermen in the northern and central parts of the state and Lake Chad region. He also expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his strategic guidance to the Nigerian armed forces while appreciating the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. C. G. Musa and all the Service Chiefs for their unwavering and

indefatigable support to operations in the JTF (North East) Operation HADIN KAI. The GOC stated this on Monday at the auspicious occasion of the Theatre Commander Easter luncheon with gallant officers and men of JTF (North East) Operation HADIN KAI held at the 7 Division NA Sports Center Maimalari Cantonment Maiduguri. He also said that the event not only espouses the ideals of the season of Easter, it also fosters the esprit de corp amongst our troops which in no small measure boost the fighting spirit on the battlefield while noting that, the current security threats across the length and breadth of our dear nation has necessitated the need for cooperation with other services and security agencies. "During the conduct of its operations, JTF Operation HADIN KAI has received

immense support and resources from sister security agencies to further enhance our operations. "We wish to express our gratitude to the Nigerian Navy for their valiant contributions in the Lake Chad region and the Nigerian Air Force in providing Close Air Support, conducting Air Interdictions and Air lift capabilities in the theatre. "We are equally appreciative of the professional contributions of other security agencies the Nigerian Police, Department of State Services, Nigerian Custom Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Correction Services on our Armed Forces which are all tailored towards the attainment of the end state of Operation HADIN KAT. We remain grateful and appreciative for your presence in this occasion: "Our deepest thanks and appreciation also

goes to our Royal Father, His Royal Highness, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garba El Kanemi for his prayers and support as our host as well as all our invited guests for sparing time out of your busy schedules to felicitate with us. "I equally extend our profound appreciation to our gallant troops on the battlefield for their selfless sacrifices in restoring peace and security in the North East and other parts of the country. "To those present here who bear the deepest wounds and scars of war, we appreciate your sacrifices. You are our heroes and as enshrined in our National Anthem your labour towards defending your fatherland shall not be in vain," Brig. Gen. Haruna said.



Group Lauds Leadership Style Of Rt Hon Abbas Tajuddeen

By; USMAN NASIDI, Kaduna.

A group under the auspices of Mr. Speaker's Achievements Initiative Supportive has commended the good leadership style of the Speaker House of Representatives, Rt. Hon

Abbas Tajuddeen. The group made this commendation in a statement shortly after they met with the two senior legislative aides to the Speaker, Ibrahim Hamidu and Musa A Kirshi at the National Assembly Abuja. The statement which was

issued in Kaduna by the chairman of the group, Dr. A. S. Bello noted that as a result of the good leadership style of Hon Abbas, there is good harmonious working relationship between the executive and the legislative arms. Bello added that the NGO

is willing to support the Speaker in the discharge of his duties, especially for the benefit of the Nigerians in particular and the nation as a whole. In their separate remarks, Ibrahim Hamidu and Musa A Kirshi said they are ready to support the ideals of the NGO.



Borno Fire Service, SEMA Move To Halt Fire Outbreaks

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Borno State Fire Service and SEMA are currently conducting on-the-spot assessment of an inferno at Gamboru Market Maiduguri with a view to determine the root cause(s) of the inferno, steps to avoid future occurrence and government to take all the necessary steps to overcome of fire disasters in the state.

The Borno State Commissioner of Information and Internal Security, Professor Mohammed Usman Tar disclosed this on Thursday in a

statement issued and signed by him and made available to newsmen in Maiduguri.

According to the statement, "on Wednesday April 3, 2024, @ 10:00 hours, a fire outbreak was reported at the Layin Yan Katako and outer sections of the Gamboru Market in Maiduguri.

"The Borno State Fire Service immediately dispatched a team of fire fighters to the fire site, and the fire was effectively extinguished. Adjoining sections on the four cardinal points from point of impact were effectively safeguarded from

the raging fire. No human casualty reported. The security of the market was not at risk of trespass or vandalism.

"Meanwhile, members of the public are advised to maintain law and order, and ensure the safety of the market is not breached.

"On behalf of the Borno State Government, we commiserate with all who are affected by this incident. We also thank the first responders for their speed of action which prevented the fire from spreading across the market space."

AYCF Highlights Threat To Tinubu's Re-Election Bid Through Manipulation of Alliances

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has raised concerns about the clandestine efforts of corrupt political actors to undermine the nation's democracy.

According to the President-General of the AYCF, Yerima Shettima, it is disheartening to witness a group of unscrupulous individuals attempting to sow seed of discord

among leaders for their own selfish political gains. The forum highlighted the continuous attempts of certain northern politicians to drive a wedge in the relationship between President Tinubu and Defence Minister, Bello Matawalle and emphasized that these corrupt politicians are uncomfortable with the support and promotion Matawalle provides to Tinubu's interests in the North.

In his statement, Shettima condemned the actions of this group, stating, "Matawalle is targeted for his resilience against the recent rumors of instigation of the military to undermine democracy. "The AYCF stands firm in its commitment to preserving the democratic values of the nation and ensuring that such manipulative tactics do not hinder the democratic process. "AYCF urges all Nigerians to remain vigilant against

any attempt by corrupt politicians to subvert democracy and calls on law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute those who seek to undermine Nigeria's democratic system."

Shettima further said, the forum remains committed to supporting leaders who prioritize Nigeria's development over personal gain and will continue to advocate for policies that benefit all Nigerians.



Kano Governor

Kano Govt Poised To Revamping Civil Service - Governor Abba Kabir

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Kano State Governor Alhaji Abba Kabir

Yusuf has reaffirmed his commitment to modernizing the civil service in order to facilitate the timely implementation of policies and programmes that directly impact the lives of the state's residents.

This was contained in a statement issued by the governor's spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa, on Tuesday.

During an Iftar gathering with executive from 22 unions representing various sectors, Governor Yusuf emphasized the importance of the civil service as the operational core of any government.

He pledged to continuously support and enhance the civil service through training, re-training, and fostering a conducive work environment to optimize productivity and improve service quality.

Governor Yusuf expressed gratitude for the leadership and camaraderie demonstrated by the union executives, highlighting the harmonious relationship between the State government and the unions.

He urged for continuation of this positive dynamic to progress together.

The governor reiterated the government's dedication to prioritizing education, recognizing it as the foundation of societal development.

He called on all individuals to contribute towards this goal.

In a remark, a university don, Professor Abdallah Uba Adamu, who spoke at the event, praised the governor for his efforts in advancing Kano State.

He urged the state government to establish a framework for implementing research findings to generate policy recommendations that promote good governance.

CSO Asks NAHCON, States To Inform Intending Pilgrims Basic Travel Allowance Embedded In 2024 Hajj fare

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Independent Hajj Reporters, IHR, has asked the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and the states Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards and agencies to inform all Hajj 2024 intending pilgrims how much they will receive as Basic Travel Allowance (BTA).

IHR said it has become necessary to draw the attention of the NAHCON and state Hajj agencies that the 2024 Hajj fare they announced so far, did not indicate the amount that will be given to intending pilgrims as BTA contrary to usual practices over the years.

This was contained in a statement signed by the national coordinator of the group, Ibrahim Muhammed and made available to newsmen.

The BTA, IHR said, is an allowance of foreign currency that a Nigerian citizen, in this case, the pilgrims to Saudi Arabia is allowed to draw from a Nigerian bank when travelling abroad. It's a part of the country's foreign exchange controls

and such money is added to the hajj fare components.

"Traditionally, the announcement of Hajj fare by NAHCON always comes with a provision of Basic Travelling Allowance for each intending pilgrim. This is meant to allow pilgrims to prepare their minds on how much they will receive and make their financial plans accordingly.

"For example, the 2023 Hajj pilgrims paid an average of N2.9m inclusive of \$800 Basic Travel Allowance. Hajj fare computations consist of local and foreign service components with Basic Travelling Allowance for pilgrims.

"However, the previous board of NAHCON later slashed the 2023 Hajj BTA to \$700 owing to what they described as differentials in airfare tickets. This

year's hajj fare was announced without stating how much is the BTA even when additional hajj fare was announced," IHR said.

The group said the BTA is given to pilgrims on the day of their departure to Saudi Arabia as pocket expense funds to enable pilgrims to take care of certain financial needs while in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The CSO added that, "it is

strange that the two-hajj fares announced so far by NAHCON has not announced provisions for BTA for intending pilgrims even after another announcement on the increment of the fare from the N4,899 to N6,617.

"We are calling on NAHCON and States Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Agencies to immediately announce how much is the 2024 hajj BTA to intending pilgrims."



APC Will Participate In Oyo LG Polls - Minister Of Power

*Says party now one in state

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu has disclosed that the All Progressives Congress (APC) will participate in this month local government election in Oyo State.

Chief Adelabu said this on Sunday, after meeting APC leaders, state executive council members, as well as the Chairmanship and councillorship candidates for the election at the State Party Secretariat, Oke Ado in Ibadan

The minister emphasized that with or without the use of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for the local government polls, APC will emerge victorious.

According to the Minister, APC is ready and in high spirit to win the April 27, local government elections in Oyo State, because the party has reunited its fold.

Chief Adelabu pointed out that APC has agreed to participate in the council election either the Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC) deploys the use of BVAS or not because it would be difficult to manipulate the election in this social media age.

"We are here to wish our members complements of the season and also wish then a successful completion of the Ramadan fast. We also seized the opportunity to meet the party executive members and party leaders across the state and our candidates for the Chairmanship and Councillors positions for the coming local government elections in Oyo state", he said.

Chief Adelabu added, "We

discussed generally about progress of the party, now that the party has come together as one again. The party is back and we have what it takes to win any election in Oyo state today"

"We also seized the opportunity to appeal to all other members who are still out to come back to the fold of the party because when we are together, we are stronger as a party and I am so happy with the turnout at the meeting as well as the comment of the party leaders, from the Excos members, candidates and everybody.

The Minister stressed, "They are all elated and in good spirit, and they are poised to win any election in Oyo state today. I am confident that the only party in Oyo state today is APC".

"We also congratulated out Zonal leader in the person of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state who is also with us as our Zonal leader to support us in this next election. And we spoke with our party chairmen at the local government levels to support the candidates for the next election to ensure we mobilise everybody and we do everything possible to ensure that we win the election, this April."

Speaking further, the Minister said "We have agreed to go for the election. We will not abandon or boycott the election. BVAS or not, APC will win local government elections in Oyo state.

"This is the day of social media, no one can do any hankypanky. It must be a transparent and credible elections. People are out there, waiting for APC to come out and we shall win".

Constitute Commission Of Inquiry To Uncover Debts Inherited From el-Rufai, IPAC Tells Gov Uba Sani

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), has advised Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State to constitute a commission of inquiry to uncover the actual amount of the substantial debts inherited from his predecessor, Malam Nasir El-Rufai.

The Chairman of the Inter-Party Advisory Council, Kaduna State, Ahmed Tijani Mustapha, while addressing newsmen in Kaduna on Monday, explained that as custodians of democratic ideals, norms, and good governance, as well as beacons of democracy, IPAC would continue to play a vital role in shaping Kaduna State's political landscape and promoting the collective interests of

the people, government, and its diverse political parties.

He emphasized, "We will continue to promote enabling good governance and accountability in governance."

He observed that it is disturbing and disheartening to hear Governor Uba Sani, speaking at a Town Hall meeting last Saturday, where traditional rulers, elders of the state, religious clerics, politicians, civil society groups, organised labour, and various stakeholders were invited, discussed on how his administration inherited a huge debt burden of \$587 million, N85 billion, and 115 contractual liabilities from the previous administration, making it difficult for the government to even pay

workers' salaries.

He lamented that the selfish and fraudulent arrangement not only denied the state the means of development and growth, but also made the state financially embarrassed, including using the state IGR as collateral for some indigenous banks.

To this end, he said the Kaduna State Inter-Party Advisory Council of Nigeria (IPAC) supports the unique transparent leadership.

The chairman expressed support with the governor's desire to get the state out of the mess despite the humongous debt burden on the state government.

According to him, "We are highly amazed and proud of His Excellency's vision and wisdom with all these huge debt burdens that

were eating deep into the state's monthly federal allocation of funds and with the state finding it difficult to pay monthly salaries, but he remains resolute and focused on trying to build a better renewed Kaduna State without borrowing a single kobo in the last nine months of his administration."

He called on the governor as a matter of urgency, to constitute a commission of inquiry that would unravel the selfish mystery of the huge debt burdens of 587 million dollars/85 billion Naira in systematic executive corruption and the 115 contractual liabilities he inherited, saying that the findings of such a commission of inquiry should be presented to the good people of Kaduna State via the same Town Hall meeting.

Kaduna Deputy Governor Inspects General Hospitals

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

The Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe yesterday, conducted a thorough inspection of General Hospitals of Giwa and Ikara, two of the six secondary health facilities selected for renovation, upgrade and equipping as

model general hospitals by the Uba Sani administration.

Dr Balarabe was joined by the Commissioner of Health, Ummah K Ahmed, Commissioner of Housing and Urban Development, Aminu Abdullahi Shagali, and other government officials to inspect the hospitals in Kaduna.

It would be recalled that, the recent town hall meeting, Governor Uba Sani announced that two general hospitals from each of the three senatorial zones will undergo upgrade, including General Hospital Ikara and Maigama in Soba in Zone One, General Hospital Rigasa in Igabi and General Hospital Giwa in Zone

Two, and General Hospital Kafanchan in Jema'a LGA and General Hospital Gwantu in Sanga LGA in Zone Three.

Governor Uba Sani has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to investing in the health sector in alignment with the SUSTAIN agenda, with the goal of improving healthcare in the state.



Our Curriculum Is Predicated On Entrepreneurship, Sound Moral Values - Topfaith Varsity

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Chairman, Governing Council of Topfaith University, Dr Emmanuel Abraham has said that curriculum of the institution is predicated on skills acquisition, entrepreneurship and sound moral values laced in academics preparing students to compete with their counterparts globally. Speaking at the weekend with newsmen at the university campus, Mkpatak in Essien Udim Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Abraham recalled said the university is an offshoot of Topfaith Schools comprising Nursery/Primary, Secondary and now the university which started over a year ago.

Abraham while conducting journalists round facilities in the university campus, disclosed that the institution was his personal vision to establish a University that will prepare graduates differently to meet with emerging trends in education worldwide.

Facilities in the institution include Standard Library, Serene Environment, Law Faculty, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical mechatronics engineering workshops, Computer Science, Mass Communication studios

and Science Laboratories among others

Other skill development centers include Standard carpentry workshops, bakery, electrical shops where undergraduates are trained on wiring and electrical installations.

Abraham, an Economist and Educationist explained that the entrepreneurial skills impacted on undergraduates of the institution is different from the one obtained in other Universities with emphasis on the mind set and ability to detect business opportunities by students.

"Our university is unique in this aspect. Again, we pay more attention to moral values to avoid educating nuisance to the society"

He observed that moral decadence in the society is attributed to half baked graduates who were busy getting degrees while moral values fall abysmally.

While fielding questions from newsmen, the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Patrick Ebeowo said the institution will remain a centre of attraction in the South South given the infrastructure and academic manpower on ground.

Ebeowo added that Topfaith University has commenced the



Topfaith University, Governing Council chairman, Dr Abraham, VC - Prof Patrick Ebeowo with some journalists during visit to the school

task of ending education tourism abroad as he was deployed from Kenya to Nigeria to serve as Vice Chancellor of the Institution.

"We got our license, approval from the Federal Executive Council in April 2021 and have our course approved by the National Universities

Commission."

According to Ebeowo, Topfaith University started with 177 students from JAMB but now increased to over 500 undergraduates offering different courses in five Faculties and 24 Department of studies.

"We are very hopeful that by the

next two or three years, we will do Medicine and Surgery proper. "It is not just an institution where we give certificates to students after four to five years of course work. We prioritize character very much. We are looking to see what we can do to add to our society. Our first

FCT Residents Raise Alarm Over Alleged 'Life Threatening Blasting Of Rocks'

***Send SOS to Wike, relevant government agencies**

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Occupants and property owners in the Guzape area of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Abuja on Thursday, raised the alarm of alleged 'life threatening blasting of rocks' in the area.

The occupants and property owners raised the alarm in a 'Save our Soul' message to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike and relevant government agencies.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Thursday on behalf of residents of the district, a former Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Simon Achuba, stressed that the blast is being carried out by Gilmor Construction Limited against laid down laws and regulations and a pending court case.

Acknowledging that, "the purpose of the blasting is for the construction of road for the development of Guzape District", he stated that, "it is only the living that can enjoy amenities", adding that Nigeria as a member of the International Treaty and Conventions on explosives and blast technique and that Gilmor alongside its foreign nationals ought to have been accustomed with the law.

"For about three months, we noticed with tremor incessant blasting of rocks very close to our residential accommodations contrary to statutory regulations governing blasting of rocks either for construction or

mining exercise", he said.

Achuba added, "At any point, the blasting is done, the whole residential houses within the vicinity of the blasting site shake thereby injuring the integrity of these properties and the life of our wives and children staying within these premises,"

The residents stressed that the construction company failed to heed caution from the police that it observe regulatory guidelines for blasting, adding that when some of them approached the court for a restraining order to stop "further damage and innocuous blasting, at the verge of the court granting this order, we discovered various extraneous interest building up thereby introducing legal technicalities delaying the course of justice".

Maintaining that "The suit within this period has witnessed three adjournments after days of delay before being assigned to a judge. The case has been adjourned till April 16, 2024", the residents noted that while it is their prayers for development to come to Guzape district, such development should not be at the expense of their lives.

Citing Section 17(1)(b) of the 1999 Constitution which provided for the dignity of the human person, the residents asked: "Of what importance is road construction when the human beings that supposed to stay therein are dead or living in fear of

heart failure sequel to incessant earth tremor blasting?", the residents claimed that by going ahead with the blasting, Gilmor Construction Ltd is infringing on their fundamental human right to life under Section 33 of the Constitution.

"It should be noted that, what Gilmor is doing within the site falls within the meaning of "act of blasting" under Section 43 relating to interpretation of words. It is very unfortunate that Gilmor as required by these Regulations had failed to use environment friendly technology which provide a minimum harm to the environment and human health in all the blasting that Guzape district had witnessed.

"Consequently, the act and negligence of Gilmor offends the provisions of Section 12 which controls permissible noise, where there is an emission of excessive noise by the activities of a person, such conduct is punishable under the provisions of National Environmental (Noise Standard and Control Regulations 2009).

"Finally, as a construction company Gilmor is bound by the provisions of National Environmental (Construction Sector) Regulations 2011 which provides for guidelines to be obeyed in relations to the health, welfare and safety of life and property during construction exercise.

"Section 16 of the Regulations provides that

"Any operator whose activities involve blasting shall do so in accordance with Schedule ix to these Regulations, hence Gilmor has failed to observe the rules in paragraphs (1)(2)(3)(5), Gilmor has failed to ensure use of appropriate blasting design and procedure.

"In view of all these infractions and flagrant disrespect to the rule of law and statutory regulations, we are calling on NESREA, Ministry of Mines and Solid Minerals Development, Federal Ministry of Environment and FCDA to forthwith stop these incessant hazardous blasting which is injurious to our lives and properties.

"It is only the living that can enjoy amenities. Nigeria is a member of International Treaty and Conventions on explosives and blasting technique, during the last World Conference on explosives and blasting in 2022 in Netherlands, emphasis was laid on international best practice, which Gilmor with her Foreign Nationals should be accustomed with," the residents added.

When newsmen visited Gilmor's head office in Abuja for reaction to the issue, one of the top officials of the company simply said that they don't talk to the media, threatening to invite the police to arrest the journalists if they persist in the mission.

Police Board Selects 20 Centres For Medical Screening Exercise Of Constable Recruitment

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE,**
Lagos

Following the successful completion of the just concluded computer based tests conducted by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) for applicants in the ongoing recruitment of Nigerians into the Nigeria Police Force, the Police Recruitment Board has disclosed that 20 centres have been selected for the Medical screening for successful candidates.

The Police Recruitment Board, set up by the Police Service Commission (PSC) to midwife the recruitment process, said the centres are scattered across the 20 zones of the Nigeria Police Force for successful and shortlisted applicants from the just concluded computer based tests.

In a statement on Thursday, Head Press and Public Relations of Police Service Commission,

Ikechukwu Ani stated that the medical screening is one of the several processes put in place by the board to evaluate the applicants for suitability for the job.

It explained that the medical screening is one of the several processes put in place by the Board to evaluate the applicants for suitability for the job.

According to him, the applicants had earlier been subjected to physical and credentials screening and later the Computer based test and will on April 16th, 2024 undergo the last of the screenings with the medical examination. The medical screening will last for two weeks.

He listed the 20 centres selected for the exercise as follows, "Zone 1 Kano; Police Cottage Hospital Bompai, Kano; Zone 2 Lagos; Police College Ikeja; Zone 3 Yola, Police Clinic Yola; Zone 4, Makurdi, Police Clinic Makurdi; Zone 5 , Benin, Police Cottage Hospital, Benin and Zone 6, Calabar, Police Hospital Calabar. Other centres are, Zone 7, Abuja, MD Abubakar Police Hospital Dei Dei Abuja; Zone 8 Lokoja, Police Clinic, Lokoja; Zone 9, Umuahia, Police Hospital Umuahia, Zone 10, Sokoto, PTS Clinic Sokoto; Zone 11 Osogbo, Police Hospital Osogbo; Zone 12 Bauchi, PTS Clinic Bauchi; Zone 13 Ukpo, Police Hospital Awka; Zone 14, Katsina, Ibrahim Coomassie Cottage Hospital Katsina; Zone 15 Maiduguri, Police College, Maiduguri and Zone 16, Yenagoa, Zone 16 Headquarters Yenagoa.

"The other four centres are; Zone 17, Akure, Police Hospital Akure; Zone 18, Yobe, Utral Modern Police Hospital, Gashua Road, Damaturu; Zone 19, Kaduna, Police College Clinic Kaduna and Zone 20, Gusau, Police Secondary School clinic Zaria Road Gusau."

Ani disclosed that candidates for the medical screening have already been contacted on the dates and time for their screening.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police has prayed for a successful conclusion of the recruitment exercise.

He advised the applicants to ensure that they keep to the dates and time allocated



to them, adding that medical professionals have been selected to examine their medical status which is one of the requirements for the recruitment.

Dr. Arase said successful applicants will report at designated Police Colleges for the mandatory training.

The Police Recruitment Board has Chief Onyemuche Nnamani Commissioner of the Police Service Commission as Chairman and assisted

by DIG Frank Mbah, DIG Training. Deputy Commissioner of Police Bode Akinbamilowo is Secretary of the Board and Assisted by Sanusi Yusuf, an Assistant Director with the Police Service Commission.

Membership of the Board are drawn from the Police Service Commission, Nigeria Police Force, Ministry of Police Affairs, Federal Character Commission, Police Trust Fund and Police Colleges.

Katsina Govt Refutes DMO Report



Governor Dikko Umaru Radda

By; **SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU,**
Katsina

Katsina State Government has refuted the claim by the Debt Management Office (DMO) that the Governor Dikko Umaru Radda-led administration has ballooned the state's debt profile.

The state government in a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed

faulted the report verdict.

A report recently published by DMO indicated that Katsina State under Governor Dikko Umaru Radda with some other state Governments in the Country collected fresh loans to worsen their prevailing debt crises.

Mohammed Kaula said the Governor Radda-led administration's has preoccupied itself with repaying subsisting loans secured by previous

administrations, since it came on board.

He emphasized that, not a single new loan has been collected by the present All Progressives Congress, APC, government in Katsina, under Governor Radda.

"This is not to say that the state government will not borrow whenever the need arises. It could borrow to improve the lot of its people and the state in general," Kaula said.

According to him, "At the moment, however,

there is no new loan. While we appreciate the efforts of the media in keeping the public informed about government activities, we regret any inconvenience the publication might have caused."

Mohammed Kaula called on the media and public to continue to support the present administration in its effort to provide meaningful projects to uplift the living standard of its citizenry.

HVCF Offers Blood Chemistry For Over 100 Children With Rickets In Kaduna

By; NONYE JULIET EKWENUGO, Kaduna

A non-governmental organisation, Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HVCF) has offered blood chemistry to over 100 children with rickets in Kaduna as part of its activities in saving lives of children with such deformities.

The Deputy Director of HVCF, Rev. Sr. Juliana Ekwoanya, during the medical test on Tuesday at the HVCF centre in Kaduna, said, the blood chemistry is to form a baseline data before commencement of the calcium supplements.

She advocated for the provision of calcium supplements for pregnant women in order to reduce the rate of rickets in children in Kaduna State.

Ekwoanya urged parents and pregnant women to cook food rich in calcium in order to prevent skeletal deformities of their children such as bowed legs,

thickened wrists and ankles and other deformities.

She said, "We give calcium supplements to children with rickets for corrective measures, and for those who have not commence or who just come for the first time we keep them until when we have done blood chemistry test. We give them calcium for every three months and then they will come back for assessment".

The deputy director said, the agent used for the blood chemistry is very expensive, adding that they run the test twice in a year.

She lamented that much attention is not given to the children with rickets, saying there is need for more awareness.

Rev. Sr. Ekwoanya who is also head of the health section of the foundation explained that rickets is caused by lack of vitamin D that is found in foods like vegetables, adding that Vitamin D is essential for the formation of strong and healthy bones in children.

"We appeal to the government to look into these cases of calcium, make provision of calcium for pregnant women because we believe that when a woman is giving calcium during pregnancy it helps to boost her calcium level and that of the baby.

"And also the government should use our institutions to carry out investigations on other causes of these rickets in children, because you find out that these rickets are more rampant in some areas than in some areas. When you go to Southern Kaduna like Hamland, Kagarko area, Kagoma chiefdom, Kachia you see a lot of children with rickets".

She further said that the foundation also offers medical surgery for severe cases of rickets.

A medical laboratory technician with HVCF, Friday Dauda Gyet said that people see rickets abnormalities as the way God created but it's something that can be treated, he added.

The foundation also gives free calcium

supplements to the children with rickets and pregnant women.

A 16-year old Benjamin Markus who was a beneficiary of the calcium supplements applauded HVCF, saying that he has been receiving the free calcium supplements for the past one year and his legs are getting better.

Another beneficiary, Lami Tanko who also gave testimony of how HVCF saved her from being crippled said "I was diagnosed of rickets when I was a child, my parents didn't know what to do at that time because it was very severe that they couldn't enroll me in school. When HVCF came to my village during one of their outreach years ago, they picked me.

"I was given calcium supplements and other medications and it really helped. I have undergone four surgeries courtesy of HVCF. Am happy now that I can walk and stand on my feet unlike before".



Ramadan: Global Peace Foundation, Krishna Feed 500 Muslims in Kaduna

By: **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Following the need to promote love amongst people of different faith in Kaduna State, Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, (GPFN) in collaboration with International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Jos, Church and Society, has fed at least 500 Muslim in Kaduna state.

The Non governmental organizations, (NGOs) had earlier fed not fewer than 600 Muslim Faithfuls in Jos, plateau state, a gesture they said aim to demonstrate sincere love for one another to enhancing growth and development in the human society.

The IFTAR meals in Jos were given to 600 Muslims in the Jos Central Mosque (400plates), and

Jos Fibre Mosque (200plates), by a Catholic Priest, Baptist Reverend and ISKCON Hindu Priest.

Speaking at the Atiku Auwal Mosque in Ungwan Rimi, on Tuesday, the Country Director, GPFN Rev. Dr. John Joseph Hayab said the gesture came with a simple message that every human being regardless of their religion are One Family Under God, stressing that they had come in the spirit of oneness to felicitates with their fellow Muslim brothers and sisters in the season of Ramadan.

"This is a season of Ramadan. And Ramadan usually end every evening with a breaking of fast. So we have come here to celebrate with our Muslim brothers and sisters as they observe the Ramadan and the break of fast.

"We came with one single message, that we are One Family Under God. We are brothers and we are sisters, we are neighbors, we are people of the same Nation and like the Bible teaches us to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. So whatever your brother is doing, the best way to demonstrate sincere and genuine love is to identify with him.

"Fortunately, this thing is happening at a time when there is hunger and there is a lot of challenges so we provide food here in Kaduna for five hundred people. We have earlier provided food for 600 people in Jos, Plateau state. Our aim is to simply say that we are together and when we continue to move together as a team and as fellow citizens we will change this country but the further our

division then we will not make any progress.

"So the message is saying, let us unite to build Nigeria, let us unite to show love to those who are less privilege. When we continue to wait for government to do what we want them to do, they may not do it the way we want them to do it. So we are demonstrating that beyond rhetoric we are demonstrating our love for fellow Muslim brothers and sisters." He said.

In his remarks, the Northern Coordinator, GPFN Sheikh Abdullahi Haliru Maraya encourage members of the human society to put the teachings of their religion to practice, adding that by so doing Nigeria will overcome present challenges and reach her potentials.

Sheikh Abdullahi who lamented

the level of poverty in northern Nigeria said GPFN is doing everything possible to eradicate poverty and alleviating the suffering of the members of the extinct human family.

Speaking with newsmen shortly after the event, the Temple President International Society for Krishna Consciousness, (ISKCON) Jos, His Grace Salica Dasa reiterated that "religion is not just about talking but demonstrating through different activities.

Salica said, "we have come today to show that religion means brotherhood where we have to bring everybody together and give to each other and make sure that we address the challenges that we have in our society.

"One of the major challenges in Nigeria today is the issue of hunger and everybody is



Ramadan: Global Peace Foundation, Krishna Feed 500 Muslims in Kaduna

complaining but if few people whom God has given the ability can come out to showcase this kind of gesture, Nigeria will become a better place. We have given 500 people food and these 500 people will no longer go to bed in hunger if others can replicate this act, come out with whatever

we have, we will have reduction of the crime and violence we have in our society." Salisca noted. In his response, the Vice Chairman, Atiku Auwal Mosque, Muhammed Ibrahim thanked the NGOs for their kind gesture. He asserted that they learned a lot from the

meeting and prayed God to guide and bless them in their endeavor. "We are most grateful and want to extend our appreciation for choosing this place to interface with us here. We have learned a lot. Some of us have seen and interacted with you but I think the message you

brought here is well received and we pray to the Almighty Allah to guide and protect you in whatever you are doing for humanity. The iftar you have given may God reward you abundantly. With that, we say thank you very much."



Uba Sani Makes Fresh Appointments

By; FUNMI ADERINTO,
Kaduna

In line with his administration's efforts to reinvigorate the machinery of government and quicken the pace of governance, Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has made fresh appointments:

This was contained in a statement signed by Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on April 4, 2024.

According to the statement, those appointed, include, Rt Hon Nuhu Goroh-Shadalafiya-Chairman Kaduna State Legislative Service Commission (Subject to confirmation by the Kaduna State House of Assembly).

Ahmed Abdullahi Maiyaki - Managing Director, Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC). Ibrahim Abdulkarim Adamu - Managing Director, Kaduna Market Development and Management Company.

Engr Idris Aminu-Managing Director, Kaduna State Power Supply Company. Mr Bamai Abu Nehemiah - Senior Special Assistant on Security.

said Rt. Hon. Nuhu Goroh-Shadalafiya, the new Chairman, Kaduna State Legislative Service Commission (subject to confirmation by the Kaduna State House of Assembly) hails from Kagarko Local Government Area. He holds a Masters in Public Policy Analysis from Nasarawa State University. He was a Member of the Kaduna State House of

Assembly from 2015 – 2019 and from 2020 to date. He was also the Deputy Speaker Kaduna State House of Assembly from 2018 – 2019. Other key positions he has held in recent years are Member, Presidential Campaign Council, Northwest Grassroots Engagement and Orientation 2022- 2023, Member Kaduna State Campaign Council, and Assistant Director, Contact and Mobilization 2022- 2023, amongst others.

Ahmed Maiyaki, the new MD, KSMC, holds a Masters and Bachelors of Science Degrees in Mass Communication from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. Prior to his latest appointment, Maiyaki held several positions where he demonstrated excellent leadership skills such as : Acting Chairman, Data, Research & Verification Committee, Independent Presidential Campaign Council (ICC) 2022 – 2023, Deputy Director, Strategic Communication, Kaduna State Campaign Council 2022 – 2023, Deputy Director General/Campaign Secretary, Kaduna Central Senatorial District Campaign Council 2022- 2023, Senior Special Assistant to Kaduna State Governor, Community Relations and Engagement 2019 – 2022, Director General/ Special Adviser to Kaduna State Governor, Media and Publicity 2013 – 2015, amongst others.

Ibrahim AbdulKarim Adamu, the new MD Kaduna Market Development and Management Company, is a seasoned accountant with decades of



Gov Uba Sani

experience as a public servant. Born in 1966 in Saminaka, he holds a B.Sc. in Accounting, Masters Degree in Business Administration and another Masters Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He is a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN).

Engineer Idris Aminu was born in 1986, he holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from Igbinedion University and Masters Degrees in Disaster Risk Management and Information Management from Ahmadu Bello University. Prior to his appointment as MD

KAPSCO, Engineer Aminu worked with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) as the Team Lead HSE – Engineering and Performance Monitoring Division.

Bamai Abu Nehemiah, the Senior Special Assistant on Security to the Kaduna State Governor, holds a B.Sc. in Criminology and Security Studies. He has served in several positions in the Presidential Villa, State House, Abuja, and Department of State Services (DSS), National Headquarters, Abuja.

The appointments are based on

the proven track records of the appointees, and their commitment to the service of Kaduna State. These strategic appointments reflect the administration's commitment to harnessing the brightest and innovative minds to move Kaduna State forward.

While congratulating the new appointees, Governor Uba Sani urged them to be diligent and fashion effective strategies and operational plans to move the state forward. He wished them God's guidance in the discharge of their duties.

All the appointments take immediate effect.

Kwara Gov Commiserates Offa Traders On Owode Market Fire



Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq

By; BILIQIS
ONALAPO
OLAJUMOKE,
Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has extended heartfelt condolences to the people of Offa, especially the business community, over the unfortunate fire incident at the popular Owode market.

The governor said the development is one tragedy too many, adding that a team from the state emergency management agency has since visited the market to take stock of the situation as well as deliver the government's commiserations to the traders.

He said the fire incident again highlights the need for all stakeholders

to be more proactive in preventing such outbreaks at home or in the marketplace.

While commending the fire service for their prompt response, he directs the Service to work more closely with marketers on modern fire prevention mechanisms and preparedness.

The Governor prayed to God to recompense the traders for their losses.

Navy Uncovers Illegal Fuel Depot With 65,000 Ltrs, Apprehends 5 Suspects In Lagos, Hands Over To NSCDC

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS), Beecroft has bust an illegal fuel depot in Lagos, where 65,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) also known as diesel were recovered. Five suspects were also arrested at the Depot located at No 3, Silverbird Road, Ilasan Lekki during the operation.

The suspects and the exhibit, which include a tanker laden with about 7,000 litres, bus with 30 Jerry cans laden with about 1,500 litres were on Wednesday handed over to the Commandant Lagos State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Mr. Adetotun Keshinro.

The Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS), Beecroft, on Wednesday April 3, 2024, handed over five (5) suspects led by one Mr Ahmed Ariyo, 'm,' illegal storage facility and estimated sixty five thousand (65,000) litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) also known as diesel to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Lagos State Command upon completion of preliminary investigation by the Navy.

The Commander, NNS Beecroft, Commodore Rafiu Taye Oladejo handed the suspects and exhibits over to the NSCDC, Lagos State Commandant, Mr Adetotun Sunday Keshinro at noon time at the crime scene at Lekki axis.

The Commander told newsmen that the NSCDC is an appropriate government agency saddled with the responsibility to



The recovered bus, tankers and Jerry cans at the illegal fuel depot

prosecute oil pipeline vandalism and arrests of this manner and as such it was imperative to also allow them to commence further investigation into the matter and bring culprits and other collaborators to book.

The State Commandant, NSCDC, Lagos State Command, while taking over the suspects and exhibits from the Nigerian Navy, yesterday, told newsmen that the command has renewed its unflinching commitment to hunt all saboteurs of our critical national assets and infrastructure in the state.

In a release by the Public

Relations Officer DSC Oluwaseun Abolurin, the Commandant however noted that despite the viral campaign against this dastardly act some unrepentant members of the public still wouldn't stop this ugly business but we will continue to do our best to sanitize this sector.

Keshinro seized the opportunity to appreciate the Nigerian Navy Ship Beecroft, particularly for, the seamless collaborative relationship between both agency in the state.

The Lagos State Commandant also mentioned that further

illegal activities.

The Commander NNS BEECROFT, Commodore Rafiu Taye Oladejo while briefing newsmen disclosed that the discovery of the illegal fuel depot was sequel to credible intelligence received by NNS BEECROFT on suspicious activities taking place at Elegushi beach.

"This necessitated the deployment of NNS BEECROFT Quick Response Team to the location which resulted in the discovery and arrest of the suspects."

investigation into this matter will commence immediately and the public can be rest assured that prosecution procedures will be carried out in court to bring perpetrators to book.

Earlier, the Base Information Officer, NNS Beecroft Lieutenant Hussaini in a statement on Wednesday stated that the leader of the syndicate, Mr Ahmed Ariyo alongside 4 other persons were arrested in a private apartment where they carry out their

Commodore RT Oladejo added that the illegal fuel depot contains 8 storage tanks of 50,000 litres capacity each, laden with about 57,000 litres of AGO; a Tanker laden with about 7,000 litres; a Bus with 30 jerry cans laden with about 1,500 litres.

Continuing, he said the total products discovered is about 65,000 litres of AGO which is estimated to be about 89 million Naira based on the current price of AGO (₦1,350).

While estimating the total capacity of the storage facility found in the apartment, the Commander said the eight storage tanks if filled to capacity with AGO will be about 400,000 litres which is approximately 500 million Naira.

He further explained that preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects possibly got the products through pipeline vandalism, illegal vendors at sea as well as other illegal means along the coastline.

Commodore Oladejo reiterated that NNS BEECROFT will not relent in its efforts to pursuing oil thieves and other criminal elements as directed by the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu, Admiralty Medal.

He assured law abiding citizens of NNS BEECROFT's commitment to stamping out Lagos maritime environment of all forms of maritime crimes for socioeconomic activities to thrive.

Ododo Launches Metropolitan Quick Response To Tackle Security Challenges In Kogi

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo has launched a security outfit aimed at taming the spiral menace of criminal activities rocking Lokoja, the state capital and its environs.

The Special Adviser on Media to the Governor, Ismaila Isah said that the operation code named, "Metropolitan Quick Response" is in partnership with the Rapid Response Squad of the Nigeria Police and the joint task force of security agencies in the state.

Speaking at the flag off ceremony of the initiative at Government House in Lokoja, Governor Ododo restated the commitment of his administration to reverse the spate of galloping crimes in

recent time.

The governor noted that the safety and security of lives and property of the people of the state remains a top priority for the administration, stressing that he will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the people of the state sleep with their two eyes closed.

"Today, we are flagging off the Metropolitan Quick Response (MQR) to advance our efforts in the safety and security of lives and property in Lokoja Metropolis and beyond.

"The flag off of the Metropolitan Quick Response operation is part of the evolving security measures to ensure we have a safe environment and to build on the solid foundation of our security architecture in the state.

"As a government, we are

resolute in our determination to flush out criminal elements in every nook and cranny of Kogi State.

"Nothing will be spared to guarantee safety and security in every inch of the state and Kogi state will remain unsafe for criminal elements where ever they may be," Governor Ododo assured.

He commended the gallantry and dedication of all security agencies in the state for their sacrifices in the line of duty, adding that the state government will continue to appreciate their efforts for keeping faith with mandate.

Governor Ododo called on citizens of the state to be proactive and remain vigilant to provide credible and timely



Gov Ododo

information to security agencies in the state.

The governor promised to continue to prioritize technological enablers to

enhance capabilities in intelligence gathering to combat the disturbing security threats in the state.

Suleiman: Tambarin Mubi Bags Anti-corruption Crusader Award

By; TOM GARBA,
Yola

For his fierce fight against corruption and prudent in carrying out his duties as a senior civil servant working with Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) as Finance Director, Alhaji Suleiman Abubakar Tella has bagged the honourable award of a corruption fighter from the Zero Tolerance for Corruption Association (ZTCA) as an anti-corruption crusader.

The organization found Abubakar Tella a man worthy and capable of taming the spread of corruption.

The Merit Award of Excellence to Abubakar who is Tambarin Mubi Emirate Council and Talban Belel District is a testament to his

forthrightness in all he does.

The awardees have considered him a man who is after humanity and believes in the emancipation of women, youth, and the less privileged in society.

According to the organization, Tambarin Mubi is being recognized for his support and contributions towards youth and women's development and accountability in Adamawa State.

It would be recalled that Suleiman is the recipient of many awards from various fields of endeavour. Recently, the Voice Magazine, Arewa Youths, and Adamawa State Radio Listeners Union honoured him because of his track records on humanity.



Suleiman

CEO Caleb Danladi Foundation Losses Sister, Dorcas

By ; ACHADU
GABRIEL, Kaduna

In a tragic turn of events, Caleb Danladi, the Founder and CEO of the Caleb Danladi Foundation, is grieving the loss of his sister, Dorcas Danladi.

The news of her passing away has sent shockwaves through the community, as Dorcas was not only a beloved member of the Danladi family, but also an active advocate for various humanitarian causes alongside her brother.

Details surrounding Dorcas Danladi's passing remain undisclosed at this time, but sources close to the family indicated that her sudden demise has left Caleb Danladi and his family in profound sorrow and mourning, according to a statement from the family in Kaduna yesterday.

As the CEO of the Caleb Danladi Foundation, Caleb has been at the forefront of numerous philanthropic initiatives, aiming to uplift and empower marginalized communities across the

globe, with the sister's hearty commitment.

The foundation's efforts span from education and healthcare to environmental conservation and social welfare.

Dorcas Danladi, known for her compassionate spirit and dedication to social causes, was an integral part of her brother's philanthropic endeavors.

"Together, they worked tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals, embodying the values of empathy and altruism", it stated.

In the wake of this heartbreaking loss, tributes and condolences have poured in from colleagues, friends, and supporters of the Danladi family. Many have expressed their deepest sympathies and shared fond memories of Dorcas, highlighting her kindness,



Late Dorcas

generosity, and unwavering commitment to serving others.

As Caleb Danladi navigates this period of profound grief, the foundation continues its mission to effect positive change in the world. While mourning the loss of his beloved sister, Caleb's resolve to honor her memory by continuing

their shared legacy of compassion and philanthropy remains steadfast.

The community stands in solidarity with Caleb Danladi and his family during this difficult time, offering support and comfort as they come to terms with the untimely passing of Sister Dorcas Danladi.

Kogi Guber Tribunal: SDP Witness Loses Memory In Court

Hearing continued at the Kogi State Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in Abuja on Wednesday with four witnesses testifying for the petitioners, the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The witnesses' accounts, like in previous sittings, followed virtually the same patterns even when they voted in different polling units.

Visible contradictions were also discovered during cross-examination, which, in most cases, could not be explained by the witnesses concerned.

While one of the four witnesses, Danlamin Abaji Yakubu, from Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, claimed that he was an agent of the SDP during the election, others said they were not agents.

Yakubu, who said he was a member of the SDP, a voter and the party's agent during the election, however, noted, under cross-examination, that he had lost everything that could prove that he was an agent.

When asked if he stated in his deposition that he was an agent in the election, he told the Tribunal that he forgot to say so. He also admitted that he did not write his deposition but explained to his lawyer, who he said wrote it for him.

When his attention was also brought to the fact that in Paragraph 4 of his deposition, he did not indicate the total number of accredited voters, he said it was a mistake by the typist.

The Respondents' counsel asked him to

state the number he meant to write if it was a mistake. But he said, "I don't know the number."

In his deposition, he indicated that the number of registered voters in his polling unit was 771, but when he was asked to confirm the number, he said, "I did not indicate that I voted in my deposition."

This was amusing because his answer did not tally with the question he was asked.

Another witness, Abdulkareem Muhammed Ogeja, also from Ajaokuta, created room for a mild drama under cross-examination.

He said though he was a member of the SDP, he did not state in his deposition that he was a member of the party.

But he confirmed that he was not the party's agent during the election and that the SDP had an agent at his polling unit.

The Respondent's counsel asked, "Are you surprised that the SDP agent did not complain and you were the only one that complained?" He said, "I'm not surprised."

The interesting part of his appearance was when he was asked if he wrote the deposition by himself and he said his lawyer did after he explained what happened to him.

When he was told to mention the name of his lawyer, the witness said, "His name is my lawyer."

The Respondents' lawyer then asked him, "Which language did you use to communicate with your lawyer?" Ogeja

said he communicated with his lawyer "in vernacular".

Investigations, however, revealed that there was no illiterate jurat in his deposition as required.

He also noted that he did not know the number of registered voters in his polling unit and that he did not also receive any paper indicating the number on the day of election, whereas he was said to have quoted the figures in his deposition.

On his part, Emmanuel Ohiare, from Okehi Local Government Area, said he was not a member of the SDP neither was he an agent but noted that the party had an agent at his polling unit.

It was therefore, an issue of concern that the SDP agent did not complain of irregularities but a random voter.

He also admitted, under cross-examination, that the election went on smoothly and proper procedures were followed, noting that voters were validly accredited. But he maintained that there was over-voting even though it was observed that he could not substantiate this during cross-examination.

He told the Tribunal that his lawyer prepared the deposition for him but did not know the name of his lawyer.

The judge observed that the witness, Ohiare, was being evasive during cross-examination.

Abdullahi Musa, from Ajaokuta Local Government Area, said he was not at his polling unit as the agent and did not know whether the SDP had an agent.

Adara Development Association Decries Attacks On Kinsmen In Kaduna, Niger

***Says 35 attacks on 29 villages recorded in 2024**
***Alleges 41 killed, 222 abducted**
***N88m ransom paid**

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Adara Development Association (ADA), says in the first quarter of 2024, 35 security breaches have been reported across Adara land in Kaduna and Niger states with over 29 villages attacked, 41 persons killed, 24 persons injured and 222 persons kidnapped with many yet to regain their freedom.

A statement issued by the National President of the association, Sebastian Barde, said, "Over 35 houses were destroyed during the period and the ransom so far confirmed to have been paid is N88 million in the first quarter."

He added, "A breakdown of the impact indicates that Kachia and Kajuru LGAs had 20 and 21 fatalities respectively.

"On abductions, 98, 112 and 12 were kidnapped in Kachia,

Kajuru and Niger State Adara communities respectively. On ransom so far paid, N23 million, N58 million and N7 million were paid by Adara communities of Kachia, Kajuru and Niger State respectively." He disclosed.

The National President explained that latest reports just received of more attacks, one at Ungwan Machu, Chibiya, Maro Ward on March 31, saying that a woman was killed, while some parts of her body were removed and the bandits refused to allow the body to be taken for burial.

On March 31, he lamented that at Ungwan Maigari, Ankwa Ward, Kachia was attacked and six persons kidnapped, adding that Gadnaji in Agunu Ward was also invaded and six persons abducted early in the morning of April 3, 2024.

He lamented, "We are particularly concerned about the

continuing trend of massacres, mass abductions and outrageous ransoms being extorted from our hapless people. Specific examples include the 11 killed in Ungwan Sako, 13 killed at Gindin Dutse, 29 abducted at Ungwan Sako, 33 abducted at Kwakware, 61 abducted at Buda, 87 abducted at Tantatu, N11 million extorted from Kwakware and N42 million from Ungwan Sako."

Adara community, he said, is actually suffering and enduring a lot from the intentional and unintentional actions and inactions of government that has the responsibility of protection of life and property, saying that while suffering so much, it amounts to double jeopardy for it to be left overexposed again to the excesses of merciless non-state actors like the rampaging terrorists.

He called on the government to live up to the expectations of the people and prayed that the emerging trends do not continue, so that government takes appropriate initiatives, strategies, and deliberate efforts to address the challenges and grievances of the Adara community as well as others in the state.

He called on all sons and daughters of Adara nation to distant themselves from the activities of evil elements, but ensure vigilance, unity and synergy in the face of our life threatening situation, stressing that in no time for frivolities until their survival and future are secured.

He noted that during the tenure of the immediate past government of Kaduna State, the Adara community was always in the news following the

continued (unabated) devastation of the people and the land, saying that the destructions ranged from recurrent massacres in the Adara villages, farms, markets, the sacking and ransacking of rural communities. Sebastian Barde explained that the abduction and murder of the people heightened to their First-Class Paramount Ruler, Agom Adara, Dr. Raphael Maiwada Galadima of blessed memory and culminated to the scraping of the First Class Adara Chiefdom against their desire and the arrest and detention of Adara elders.

He stated that the cumulative effect of the situation is that the community has been brought under severe multidimensional distress that led the displacement and desertion of over 112 villages in both Kachia and Kajuru LGAs of Kaduna State.

Don't Desecrate Olubadan Stool, Group Warns Politicians

***Alleges plans to hijack process of ascendancy to throne**

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A cultural and non political organization, The IBILE G-7, on Wednesday, warned politicians not to desecrate the Olubadan stool with partisan politics.

The group handed down the warning in a statement jointly signed by the group leader, Lanre Ogundipe, and a staunch member of the group, Mr. Olajide Laniyonu made available to journalists in Ibadan. Rising from its emergency meeting the group maintained that the High Chiefs at the centre of the on-going controversy, should realise that their actions, may disrupt the kingship process as presently constituted, and may affect, how Kingmakers are selected and constituted, in accordance to the tradition of Ibadanland.

The IBILE G-7 cautioned that "the hurriedly constituted *afobajes* should not allow themselves to be used by politicians who would like to denigrate their persons, with no lofty ideas to impact others, than promotion of selfish interests, which would not augur well for the development and unity of the people of Ibadanland."

"The process of ascendancy to the stool of Olubadan, which has become the envy of other towns in Yorubaland and which is now a case study in countries across the world about monarchies in Africa, may degenerate into absurdity and unnecessary controversy, which could generate disrepute for Ibadanland and its people, home and abroad", it said.

It added, "The *IBILE G-7* has posited that High Chiefs behind

this unwarranted tension being created and which has never happened before in the history of Ibadan land, could be regarded as treachery and a coup against the constituted authority and the smooth arrangement in the enthronement of the new Olubadan of Ibadan'.

Reacting to what it called peddling of falsehood, the group said it considered "it as inimical to the strong bond among the administrative pillars of the ancient historical town of Ibadan and that the new-age Ibadan indigenes frowns at any situation that would allow some people to create opportunities for themselves to massage personal egos detrimental to the development of Ibadanland"

"The *IBILE G-7* has resolved to defend the integrity of the institution of Olubadan as

enshrined in Ibadan declaration. In this regard, no individual or group of persons has rights to tamper with or invalidate the provision therein. Henceforth, indigenes would not tolerate further insults on the office of the Olubadan by anyone, no matter how high placed.

'We call on Chief Hamidu Ajibade to retract his statement and tender unreserved apology to the Olubadan - designate, Balogun of Ibadanland, Oba Owolabi Olakunlehin and High Chief Rasidi Adewolu Ladoja." The group alleged 'Ajibade's insult on these Ibadan title holders stand condemned in all ramifications. Consequently, all well-meaning Ibadan indigenes should caution and warn him against further speaking or representing the Olubadan - in - Council in any of its activities. He should also be warned to

desist from further ridiculing or use of uncouth language, ailen to the royal homes in Ibadanland and deploying such against the high ranking cabinet chiefs".

The IBILE G-7 said, "Can a highly placed man, throw decency to the wind and pour inventives on our fathers and yet walk shoulder higher on Ibadan streets? Ajibade's inordinate ambition and that of his cohorts is repulsive, and he needs to atone for his sins. They cannot be trusted with Ibadan honours with this kind of behavior.

"It has never been this bad, in the history of Obaship in Ibadan and it is high time those who want to expose the ancient town of Ibadan Land, which has remained the political and industrial hub of the South West, to ridicule, to desist from such"

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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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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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3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
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3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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HALF WRAP AROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PAGE 2 OR 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PAGE 4 OR 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PAGE 6 OR 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
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
BACK PAGE STRIP	420,889.54	31,566.72	452,456.26
CENTRES PR EA D (COLOUR)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
DOUBLE PR EA D (COLOUR)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
CENTRES PR EA D (BLACK & WHITE)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
DOUBLE PR EA D (BLACK & WHITE)	450,000.00	33,750.00	483,750.00
FRONT PAGE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
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ROPS TRIP (BLACK & WHITE)	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

Zulum Mourns Ex NLC President, Ali Chiroma

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum has expressed grief over the death of the ex-President of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Ali Chiroma.

Comrade Ali Chiroma died on Tuesday night at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital after a brief illness at the age of 91.

Zulum's message was released in a statement by his SSA on New Media, Abdurrahman Ahmed Bundi, on Wednesday.

"I sympathise with the family and relatives of late Comrade Ali Chiroma; no doubt the death of a loved one is painful, but as Muslims, we all believe every soul shall taste death. I, therefore, urge you to take solace in Almighty Allah," Zulum said.

The governor added, "Ali

Chiroma was a true champion of the working class, a fearless leader who dedicated his life to the welfare of Nigerian workers across the nation. He shall be remembered for his doggedness and dedication to the cause of Nigerian workers."

The late Ali Chiroma served as the President of the Nigerian Labour Congress between 1984 and 1988.

He was the President of the defunct Rural Health Workers of Nigeria, now known as the Medical and Health Workers Association, in 1960.

Governor Zulum prayed for the repose of the soul of the former unionist and an elder statesman. Also, he prayed that Allah gives the family of the deceased the strength to bear the irreparable loss.

Zulum also commiserated with the Borno Elders Forum over the loss of one of their dedicated members.



Gov Zulum

Enugu APC Crisis: Call Agballah To Order Before He Ruins Future Of Our Party, Ex-Chairman Urges South East Vice Chair

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

ImmEDIATE past chairman of the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC), Enugu State chapter and former federal Commissioner, Dr. Ben Nwoye has urged the National Vice Chairman, of the party in South East, Dr. Ijeomah Arodiogbu, to call the Enugu State chairman of the party, Chief Ugochukwu Agballah to order before he plunges the party into more crisis and ruin its future in the state.

He stated this while speaking to newsmen in Enugu Tuesday on burning issues in the party in the state, which has been characterized by crisis since Agballah assumed office as the state chairman.

Nwoye, again, condemned in its entirety the reckless and unconstitutional manner with which Agballah, who defected to APC from the PDP less than two years ago, has been pronouncing the unconstitutional suspension of prominent party stakeholders in the state, adding that he has turned the party into a laughing stock.

It would be recalled that Agballah,

had last year, announced the suspension of former Senate President, Ken Nnamani; ex governor, Sullivan Chime; former Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Barr. Eugene Odo, himself, Dr. Nwoye, immediately past Director General of Voice of Nigeria, VON, Mr Osita Okechukwu, former Minister of foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, amongst others.

Nwoye, said the urgent intervention of the South East National office of the party became necessary to save APC in Enugu State from the hands of the current leadership under Agballah's watch, which is seriously determined to destroy the party which he Nwoye, and other founding members laboured so much to build.

According to him, there is need for the national vice chairman to use his good office to galvanise the APC in Enugu State for future elections, stressing that Agballah's excesses have to be investigated with a view to clipping his soaring wings.

The former party state chairman,

further noted that although, the emergence of Agballah as the party chairman was questionable, but for the interest of the growth of the party, members and stakeholders overlooked what played out.

Nwoye however, posited that it's unfortunate that rather than bringing party members together as well as canvassing for new members, the chairman has been chasing away genuine members and creating disaffection in the party.

Some party members loyal to Agballah had during their meeting last weekend at the South East zone of the APC in Enugu, said via a resolution, that the state exco is reconsidering the lifting of expulsion and suspension of some members of the party, including Nnamani, Chime, amongst others.

But reacting to the resolution of the meeting, Nwoye asked Arodiogbu to caution Agballah over the way he has been abusing key state stakeholders of the party and incessant announcement of suspensions, stressing that the chairman's style of leadership has

done more harm than good to the state APC.

He therefore, called on the South East National Vice Chairman, to see himself as a father to everybody and reconcile everybody to enable the party perform better in future elections. Nwoye further expressed sadness over some weighty allegations made against the Federal Commissioner representing Enugu State in the Federal Character Commission, Chief Mrs Ginika Tor, by Agballah, stating that it is becoming embarrassing to the party.

He said, "I am appealing to the South East Zonal Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr. Ijeomah Arodiogbu to set up a committee and investigate Ugo Agballah for abusing Senator Ken Nnamani and former Governor Sullivan Chime.

"They don't deserve the abuses that Agballah is giving to them. We need to rebuild APC in Enugu State. We need to come together so that we will do better in future elections," he stated.

Nwoye noted that although there

was no congress that led to the emergence of Ugo Agballah as chairman, there is need for him to unite the party since the party has accepted him as chairman.

"It is the duty of Arodiogbu to call Agballah to order in order to move the party forward. Arodiogbu should advise Agballah," he said.

"We can rebuild the party to get APC to win in 2027," the former chairman posited.

He equally frowned at the manner Agballah is trying to launder his image by using the entrance of Senator Chukwuka Utazi and former Minister of Aviation, Fidelia Njeze and others into the party as if it was his personal efforts.

"He cannot use Utazi and Njeze to launder his battered image," he said, pointing out that the new entrants should have been registered in their wards instead of parading them at state level.

Nwoye, said the party belongs to all of them and that no amount of blackmail or campaign of calumny by Agballah will make them the founding members to quit or abandon the party.

Video: Political Bandits Are Enemies Of Zamfara, Gov Dauda Can't Be A Friend Of Armed Bandits

By; TOM GARBA

Governor Dauda Lawal is indeed working and his leadership is attracting much envy by the day because he is refining Zamfara and defining the state as a future of certainty, coming out of the woods of underdevelopment.

I watched a video of armed bandits reigning praises of support to Governor Dauda and wishing him more than the expected tenure of eight years as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution. This is a clear work of what I call political bandits using armed bandits to identify with the governor who is working hard against any form of insecurity. May I submit that the video I watched a few days ago is a calculated attempt and effort made by Dauda's political foes to smear him. Looking at how the bandits in the video sang out praises "Sai Dauda", Allah shi bar mana shi. Allah Sa yayi shekara goma Sha biyu." This was the same pattern they used on another video praising the former governor of the state, Bello Mutawalle. It means business as usual.

The recent video is an indication of how armed bandits are politically motivated and the people behind the scenes are the real bandits. They are the ones telling them how to go about any operation and teleguide the business environment of kidnapping, cattle rustling, and killing innocent citizens to settle political differences in Zamfara State.

Knowing who Lawal is, a good Nigerian and sound politician who believes in humanity and serving the people with uttermost commitment he can't never be seen as a friend of the bandits or identify himself with them in any way.

I suspect foul play and a reprisal attack of the former video of the armed bandits who had sung praising the former Governor, Muhammed Bello Mutawalle, the current Minister of Defense.



Gov Dauda Lawal

If you ever suspect a fishy relationship between Dauda Lawal and bandits in the North West or Zamfara in particular in the trending video then you are brainwashed by the tactics and the antics of political bandits. This is just an organized way to paint the working Governor black because banditry in Zamfara has become a business and is controlled by a cartel.

Before the coming of Dauda on board as a Governor, the state was under bandit siege,

controlling many areas and kidnapping, killing, and attack at will to their victims. Winning the election at both the polls and the Supreme Court was a deadly blow to his political opponent. They resorted to this great Adventure of using their cronies to make the state ungovernable as the only thing they have handy to fight him.

May I stress that Dauda Lawal is a patriotic Nigerian, a good leader who is sound inside out, loyal to the voices of the

electorates to give them hope of a great Zamfara.

The zealous Governor cannot be part of a group that is anti-people and anti-People's government. May those sponsoring bandits releasing videos identifying with Dauda know that they have come late with their ills of hated. It's just their usual calculated attempt of the political bandits to smear the good image of Lawal

He is pious in all he does, he maintains a steady growth of

integrity that is unquestionable to be linked with bad character or a group of deviant and castrated individuals who are trading with the souls of innocent citizens of the state.

Tom Garba, FIMC, FBDFM, SPSP is a journalist, political analyst, and an opinion writer. He writes from Yola-Adamawa State. He can be reached through this means; tomgarba5@gmail.com or 08172570959,08030525759

Gombe Press Affairs DG Storms National Secretariat, Meets SWAN President, Seeks Robust Media Partnership



By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Director-General, Press Affairs of the Gombe State Government, Alhaji Ismaila Uba Misilli, has assured of the state's readiness to ensure continuous robust media partnership in line with Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's developmental drive.

Alhaji Misilli who spoke when he visited the National Secretariat of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) located within package A of the Moshood Abiola stadium Abuja said Gombe state under the leadership of Governor Yahaya remains committed to the development and upliftment of Sports as a sure way of engaging youths.

The soft-spoken and articulate DG who had a long partnership discussions with SWAN President, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, inside his office said already Gombe State Governor has officially kicked off 2024 football season with unprecedented financial support to nearly 20 grassroots clubs that will take part in the upcoming Nationwide League One (NLO) Football competition.

According to a statement signed by the Secretary-General, SWAN, Ikenna Okonkwo dated Wednesday April 3, 2024, while reeling out other sports development initiatives of Governor Yahaya, Alhaji Misilli, a veteran Media Practitioner said, "Sports have been prioritised by the present Gombe state administration as a tool to

empower youths, and divert their attention from vices that could create security challenges.

"Gombe state has been peaceful and will remain so because his Excellency the governor since inception in office has prioritised huge investments in human infrastructure development, just as he has made visible impact in other areas.

"So, the current government is dedicated to working tirelessly in harnessing the potentials in sports to the benefits of the citizens. Today, Gombe is known for its vast talents in sports.

"As you know, Gombe state is the only northern state with two professional clubs in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL). And that is because the governor has created enabling environment for anyone

irrespective of tribe or religion to thrive.

"Whoever is in Gombe (resident or visiting) will attest to the fact that the government has been doing so much in all facets of development."

He then assured that the government will collaborate with SWAN at both the state and national levels as partners in progress as well as in improving the welfare of the sporting media professionals.

Alhaji Misilli also harped on the need for Journalists, irrespective of divergent interests to work as a united force.

Responding, the SWAN President, Mr. Benjamin, said the Association is always receptive of government and non-governmental bodies who will join hands in advancing the

course of sports writing in Nigeria.

"I want specially appreciate the government of Gombe state government for its developmental foresight. Of particular note is the Director-General Press Affairs to Governor Inuwa Yahaya, gentleman of repute who has maintained cordial media relationship with his colleagues.

"Please, continue to support SWAN in Gombe state because we at the National are always happy when the state governments collaborate with our various chapters in carrying out their duties.

"On our part as a professional body, we will continue to partner Gombe state government in publicising its good works," he said.

Okumagba Aspires To Lead Unified Supporters' Club Body

By; **AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos**

As the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is making frantic efforts to harmonise the factionalised football supporters clubs in Nigeria and return them back to one strong body, the founder and President of Super Eagles Supporters Club (SESC) Prince Vincent Okumagba seems to be preparing to lead the new body.

Recent reports monitored from the Glass House shows that plans are in top gear by the Nigerian football apex body to announce the name for the united body for the supporters club as all the big shots in all the various supporters clubs are showing favourable disposition to the peace move.

A source close to the Prince of the Okumagba dynasty of Delta State has confirmed to the sporting press that the



CEO of Pical Petroleum Ltd which is an independent marketer of petroleum products and one time Vice Chairman of IPMAN Lagos Satellite Depot is considering vying for the top position of the new supporters' club body.

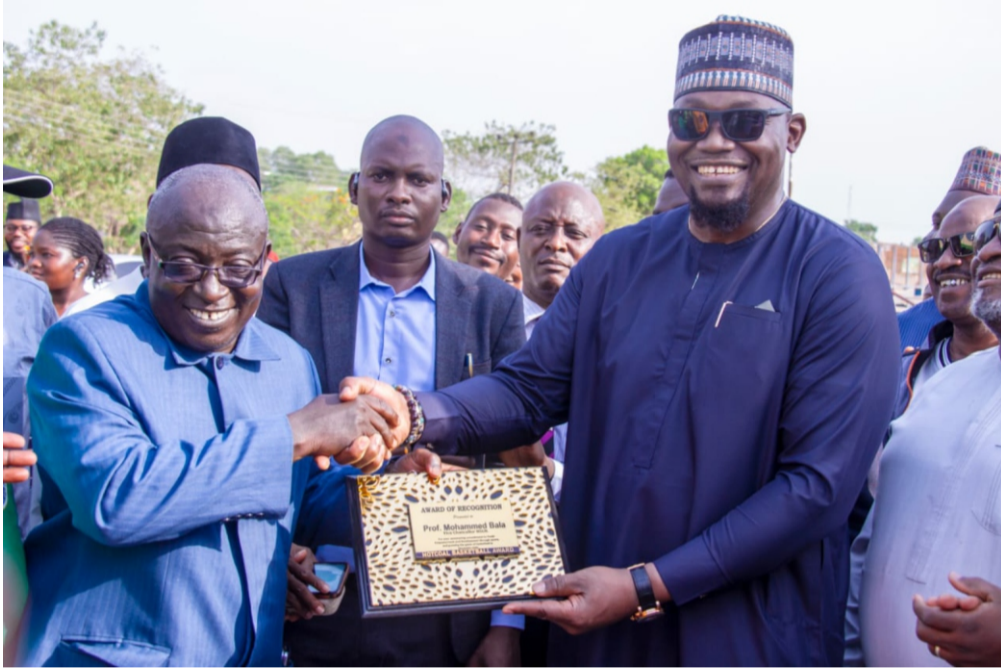
Okumagba, who has just returned from a working visit to Kwara State where he was warmly received by the executive of SESC, has Diploma in marketing from University of Lagos, and a BA English degree from Lagos State University. The astute sports

administrator, who was onetime acting chairman of Nigeria Football Supporters Club (NFSC) under the able leadership of Dr. Rafiu Ladipo and chairman between 2013 to 2015 before he left to establish Super Eagles Supporters Club of Nigeria and currently the President of the association as well as the Vice President of African Supporters Association.

A widely travelled Prince Okumagba who is also a FIFA fan leader for Nigeria, has been to many FIFA World Cups which includes, France '98, Germany 2006, South Africa 2010, Brazil 2014, Russia 2018, Olympic Games in Australia 2000 and London 2012, age grade World Cups in Netherlands in 2005, Canada 2007, and most AFCON tournaments and much more.

His aspiration has however, been receiving wide acceptance and support from the stakeholders and most sports fans within and outside the country.

Nasarawa Governor Commmissions Newly Refurbished NSUK Court Gifted By President Of Hotcoal Basketball Club



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Nasarawa State Governor, His Excellency Engineer Abdullahi Sule, has officially commissioned the newly renovated Nasarawa State University Keffi (NSUK) Basketball Court, now named the NSUK Wolves Basketball Court.

Represented by the Vice Chancellor of the university,

Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed, the governor expressed gratitude to Dr. Ubon Udoh for fulfilling all commitments made to the school, particularly in the renovation of the basketball court.

"In light of the commitments made and subsequently fulfilled, with the renovation of the basketball court being the final step, today, we witness the court restored to international

standards. On behalf of the Governor of Nasarawa State and the university, we extend our appreciation for fulfilling all commitments made to the school on that day.

"I am honored to officially commission this court for the use of our students, to the glory of the Almighty God, and to pray that those who practice on it become medalists in their competitions," he said.

Earlier, Dr. Ubon Udoh,

President of the Hotcoal Basketball Club, shared the objective behind renovating the basketball court, reflecting on his personal connection to the university as his mother was one of its founding members of staff. "Every visit to Nasarawa State University evokes nostalgia for me, as my mother was one of its founding members, serving as the school's first librarian and Dean of Student Affairs. I pledged to provide support to the

school's basketball team and renovate the basketball court.

"This court is more than just a space for physical activity; it's a safe haven for children to pursue their dreams emotionally, physically, and psychologically. Nasarawa State University, known for its academic excellence, deserves a facility where students can learn, play, and build character to become outstanding citizens," he said.

NDLEA To Partner SWAN On Awareness Of Drug Abuse

**Youth now glamorize illicit drug use says NDLEA Commander*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Mohammed Bashir Ibrahim, Commander, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

(NDLEA), Kwara State Command, has promised to make the agency more visible in sports events as a way of drug trafficking control.

Ibrahim stated this on Tuesday, when a group of journalists

under the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, (SWAN), Kwara State chapter paid him a courtesy call at the state head office in Ilorin.

According to him, the decision is borne out of recent challenges

faced in policing drug traffickers in Kwara State.

Speaking on the danger it poses to sports, the NDLEA Commander added that youths are especially vulnerable to drug abuse because, according to him, "youths tend to glamorize drug use."

"Matters are not helped when adults, handlers of athletes tend to sell them the drugs.

"We recently secured conviction of a coach who was selling drugs to young athletes in his care," he said.

The NDLEA Commander also revealed grim scenario in drug law enforcement in state, saying that use and supply of synthetic cannabis, modified form of Indian Hemp, is now prevalent among drug abusers. He added that more women appear to be involved in the supply chain of the banned substances like the synthetic cannabis.

Speaking on behalf of journalists at the NDLEA office, Ayodeji Ismail, Chairman Kwara SWAN, said that Sports Writers are very much aware of the dangers drug abuse pose to sports and youth development.

"We like to retool our members to properly report these in our bits," he said.

He also pleaded that NDLEA should always make their presence felt at sports events.

"Your presence will help keep drug traffickers away from our athletes," he said.

SWAN is seeking collaboration in capacity building in the area of drugs and sports to further enhance their reportorial skills. Kwara State according to data from United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has drug trafficking prevalence of 13 percent, highest in the whole of north central Nigeria.



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Vol. 6 No. 283

Friday 5th April, 2024

Ramadan 26 1445 AH

Police arrest 23-yr Old Man For Alleged Rape, Sodomy In Bauchi

By; **ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi**

Sanusi Umar aged 23 years, has been apprehended by the operatives of Bauchi State Police Command over alleged rape of 10 year-old mentally unstable boy (name withheld) in the state.

The suspect, police said, is a garden egg seller, who lured the innocent minor with thirty Naira (N30) worth of sweet and asked the victim to accompany him to an isolated area behind the AIB Filling Station along Kofar Ran to defecate.

According to a crime bulletin made available to newsmen by the command's Public Relations Officer, SP Mohammed Wakil in Bauchi yesterday, the suspect was arrested by operatives attached to Operation Restore Peace (ORP) Bauchi State Police Command on the 28th March 2024 at about 2100hrs.

The crime bulletin explained that, after the defection, the suspect asked the victim to undress his trouser to enable him see whether he cleaned his anus or not.

According to Police, upon removing his (the minor) trousers, the suspect also removed his trousers, grabbed the victim from the back and had canal knowledge of him.

The crime bulletin further explained that the victim rushed to the manager of the filling station and informed him that the said suspect had canal knowledge of him.

SP Wakil said preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect hails from Jingino Village, Gwaram Local Government Area of Jigawa State.

The findings by police also uncovered that the suspect who came to Bauchi State about two years ago, has been hawking garden eggs at AIB Filling Station along Kofar Ran, Bauchi. SP Wakil added, "it is also revealed that the suspect leveraged the unsound mental condition of the victim to perpetrate such a crime on him.

He said that the victim was rushed to the ATBU Teaching Hospital, Bauchi alongside the the suspect, where different tests were conducted on him to determine his health status.

Police stated that



The suspect

investigation is still in progress, after which the suspect will be charged to court upon completion of the investigation.

SP Wakil noted that the Commissioner of Police, Auwal Musa Mohammed enjoined parents, Guardians, and leaders wielding various degrees

of influence to prevail on their wards and proteges to shy away from crime.

The CP also assured the good people of Bauchi State of his unrelenting commitment towards maintaining an aggressive stance against all forms of crime and criminality in the state.

Alleged defamation: Sunday Igboho Drags Gani Adams to Court, Seeks N500m Compensation

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Yoruba Nation activist, Chief Sunday Adeyemo, Igboho has instituted a N500 million defamatory suit against the Aare Onakakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams

The suit was filed on behalf of the Yoruba Nation agitator before an Oyo State High Court

sitting in Ibadan, in which his counsel, Barrister J. A. Sanusi, is seeking N500 million as compensation for defamatory statements allegedly made against him by Iba Gani Adams.

Chief Adeyemo in the suit, alleged Iba Gani Adams of accusing him of being a serial killer and assassin for prominent politicians, including President Bola Tinubu, in an audio conversation in 2021.

The Yoruba Nation activist in the suit, is also praying the court to order the payment of exemplary and aggravated damages in the amount of N500 million in his favour.

In the suit, Iba Gani Adams was quoted as allegedly saying, "I was not against Igboho until he became close to Tinubu. You know I get my information from different angles as Aare

Onakakanfo of Yorubaland."

It alleged further, "he was with Lagos State Governor's Chief of Staff, Tayo Ayinde, yesternight from the information at my disposal. He left Tayo Ayinde around 2.45 am, and you know Tinubu uses him (Tayo Ayinde) to coordinate criminal activities. He was compensated with the position of Chief of Staff."

NDLEA To Partner SWAN On Awareness Of Drug Abuse

*Youth now glamorize illicit drug use says NDLEA Commander

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Save Ilodo People From Traditional Ruler's Attacks, Threats, Group Appeals To Makinde

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

A Human Rights group, Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) on Thursday, called on Governor Seyi Makinde to save the people of Ilodo in Oriire Local Government Area from alleged attacks and threats of the Alamura of Amura Oba Samuel Olakunle also in the same area.

SPANCI in a statement by its President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello said Oba Olakunle allegedly led some thugs to Ilodo land on Wednesday April 3, 2024 with dangerous weapons and allegedly beat some people in the community in a bid to grab their land.

Comrade Bello in the statement appealed to Gov Makinde, the Chairman Oyo state government taskforce on real property protection and anti-land grabbing law and other stakeholders in the by state to save the people of Ilodo from the traditional ruler's attacks and threats.

"An Urgent appeal to Governor Seyi Makinde to Save the soul of Ilodo people from assassination, killing and threat to their lives allegedly by Oba Samuel Olakunle the Alamura of Amura land and his suspected thugs", he said.

The SPANCI President added "We were reliably informed of how Oba Samuel Olakunle the Alamura of Amura land who the state government has prosecuted on about four counts charges bothering on land grabbing, conspiracy, self help and other on ilodo land before, allegedly led some thugs to ilodo land on Wednesday April 3, 2024 with dangerous weapons and invaded

ilodo's land and instructed his thugs to beat the Ilodo's and their workers".

"We were informed that the Oyo state government taskforce on real property protection and anti-land grabbing law has invited both Ilodo's and Alamura to appear on Wednesday April 3, 2024 but the Ilodo's on their way coming saw Alamura leading his thugs with tractor and dangerous weapons to unlawfully invade Ilodo's land, (the same land upon which he was prosecuted and the matter which is still before the court) and grab it for cultivation".

"To prove them right, their members and their workers on the land called them that Alamura and his thugs have invaded the land and started beating them at Alamura's instruction. Alamura and his people deliberately shunned the state government taskforce on real property protection and anti-land grabbing law to be able to perpetrate the criminal act.

SPANCI President stressed, "We hereby appeal to His Excellency, Engineer Abiodun Oluseyi Makinde, the Chairman Oyo state government taskforce on real property protection and anti-land grabbing law, the honorable Commissioner for local government and chieftaincy matters, the honorable Commissioner for justice and attorney general Oyo State, the Speaker Oyo state house of assembly and the CJ Oyo State judiciary to investigate the matter and take necessary actions in line with the law to save the souls of Ilodo royal family members and their workers from the threatened killing of Alamura of Amura Oba Olakunle Samuel".