

Collaboration Of All Tiers Of Govt Needed For Nigerians To Enjoy Democracy Dividends - Akpabio

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*Promises quality representation

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Wike: APC Chieftain Slams Northern Politicians In Tinubu's Cabinet

■ Says they're gullible, fail to represent region

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

A chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Mallam Sai'du Bobboi has slammed Northern politicians who have formed the cabinet of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, describing them as a bunch of failures in representing the entire region.

He said the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Barrister Nyesome Wike is an intruder and the party's interloper, who came from the opposition party and displaced them in silencing any issues concerning the Northern region.

He accused Wike of attacking some well-

meaning Nigerians, especially those from the Northern extraction at will, without any of the politicians in the current government fighting for the injustice being meted out by the current FCT minister to many sons and Daughters of the party.

Sai'du from Adamawa Central Senatorial District gave the example of Messrs Integrated Facility Management Services Ltd managing the affairs of the International Conference Center (ICC) Abuja abruptly revoked its contract with the federal government by Wike without following due process.

According to him, Wike did that because the

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Delta PPRO at the press briefing with exhibits on display.

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Buratai Lauds Allen Onyema On Air Peace's Inaugural Flight to London, Calls For Support

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A former Chief of Army Staff, His Excellency, Ambassador Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai (Rtd) CFR, lauded Allen Onyema, the Chairman of Air Peace Airlines for the successful inaugural Air Peace flight from Lagos to London. In a statement, Buratai hailed him for the chairman's unwavering commitment and patriotism amidst all obstacles on the Lagos – London flight by his airline on March 30, 2024 which arguably crashed fares on the lucrative route by about fifty per cent for the benefit of Nigerians. According to Buratai, he saluted the courage and resilience of Onyema which has made him a barrier breaker and a line crosser in the aviation industry and whose triumphant launch of the inaugural Air Peace flight from Lagos to London has heralded a new era of competitive and accessible air travel for Nigerians.

He, therefore, implored



Gen Buratai

the federal government and Nigerians in general to support him wholeheartedly and not let his efforts go down the drain like others in times past. According to him, in light of the interview by Allen Onyema on Channels TV Politics Today of 9 April 2024, detailing the challenges faced with both local regulators and British Airways authorities, it is clear that the support of our government is crucial as he is like the moon among the stars that needs

the support and encouragement from all to shield him from all enemies of progress. Buratai admonished the British Airways authorities to show sportsmanship, maturity, and be fair to all airline operators playing the Abuja – London route. Buratai, while pleading with the BA authorities, he nevertheless urged the Nigerian Ministry of Aviation to apply a tit-for-tat approach, should BA or its agents remain recalcitrant in the face of

the current challenges being faced by Air Peace in London Gatwick Airport. Continuing, Buratai also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR led government for providing the platform for Chief Allen Onyema to succeed in his patriotic endeavours Air Peace and its Chairman/CEO should be seen as Ambassadors of Renewed Hope Agenda of the Tinubu administration.

Tourism: Katsina Govt Vows To Revive Cultural Festivals

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Government will revive the state's cultural traditions, specifically the famed "Hawan Durbar" aimed at re-establishing Katsina as a leading tourist destination and cultural hub in the country.

The State Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda disclosed this in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed during the Eid-el-Fitr "Hawan Bariki" ceremony held on Thursday at the Old Katsina Government House.

Governor Dikko Radda at event was joined by the Bulgarian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Yanko Yordanov.

Governor Radda said as part of efforts to revitalize Katsina's cultural legacy the state government had enlist the service of cultural specialists to help revamp and elevate the durbar festivities for national recognition.

He directed that, henceforth, all the district and village heads are to join the Emirs on horseback in Sallah procession, urging them to stop giving excuses and shying away from the practice he describes as a "cornerstone of the state's cultural heritage." Governor Dikko Radda, fondly recalled how Katsina in time past attracted a multitude of foreign visitors, particularly during Sallah festivities. lamenting that, the

decline in such activities in recent years.

He reiterated his unwavering support to the welfare of residents. this he said prompted the recent introduction of foreign scholarships and special pilot schools across the state's three senatorial zones.

The candidates he said must only be admitted after undergoing rigorous examinations to assess their academic potentials.

Speaking earlier, Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Abdulmumini Kabir Usman urged affluent Muslims to prioritise philanthropy and support the less privilege and warned against the transient nature of worldly wealth, drawing their attention to the importance of charitable deeds in the hereafter.

Alhaji Kabir Usman thanked the Bulgarian Ambassador, Mr Yanko Yordanov for accepting the invitation at short notice.

Emir Abdulmumini Kabir Usman had earlier led Governor Radda and the visiting Bulgarian Ambassador, Mr Yordanov to witness a special cultural dance and musical performance at the renowned Gidan Ganje Rest House, Katsina.

The Emir also expressed gratitude for Governor Radda's support to the state's traditional institution. stressing the significance of collaboration between the state government and the traditional institution in fostering unity and development within Katsina State.

2024 Eid-el-Fitr ASKOJ Greet Kano Governor

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Journalists under the auspices of Association of Kano Online Journalists (ASKOJ) have congratulated the Governor of Kano State, Abba Kabir Yusuf on successful completion of this year's Ramadan and wishing him happy Eid-el-fitr.

This was contained in a

statement signed by the Chairman of the Group, Yakubu Salisu on the occasion of 2024 Eid-el-fitr Sallah celebration.

The group wished the Governor, Emirs and people of Kano, Nigeria as well as the entire Muslim communities worldwide, a blissful celebration and prayed that the blessings of the holy month continue to radiate in our lives through the remaining months of

the year.

ASKOJ also urged Muslim faithful not to relent at sustaining good lessons learnt during the month of Ramadan, especially propagating love, care for one another, fear of Allah and the spirit of patriotism among many more.

The journalists prayed for peace and progress in the state, Nigeria and the world in general,

expressing optimism that the country shall overcome its challenges while urging citizens to contribute meaningfully towards the realisation of this believe.

They further called on the state government not to be distracted by orchestrated noise from some political quarters, rather, continue to deliver to the good people of the state dividends of democracy.

Rate Of Same Sex Relationship Escaping Prosecution Becoming Worrisome - Investigation

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The increasing rate at which culprits of same sex relationship escape prosecution in the country is becoming alarming and reaching a dangerous crescendo as most of them engrossed in the nefarious acts are absconding and jumping police bail to avoid prosecution in the Courts.

The fear of prosecution and shame of social stigmatisation in the community where they habitate are major factors for their abscondment.

Outcome of investigations by our reporter through discreet investigation into the nefarious acts at some police stations in the country, reveals that the efforts by the law enforcement agents to prosecute cases is becoming elusive.

A 24 years old boy, Gabriel Oluwasegun Ajenifuja who was arrested in September 2017 at a Club in Abeokuta, Ogun State while participating in

amorous affairs with other male friends and granted Police bail before disappearing into thin air after the case was charged to a Magistrate Court confessed to have enjoyed a thriving same sex relationship after he discovered his sexuality among his peer groups.

Another culprit, Abdulazeez Adetunji Itanola, son of a retired police officer arrested in July 2021 at a gay party in Lekki Peninsula area of Lagos State is today being sought for as efforts to make him face prosecution has remained elusive as he has since jumped bail.

In Onitsha, Anambra State, one Okide Ifechukwu Kosisochukwu was nabbed at a Christmas gay party held in December 2022 at a Night Club and was bailed by his father. He has since absconded.

The search for the whereabouts of these culprits by the relevant authorities has not yielded any positive results and does not help prosecution of the cases.

Wike: APC Chieftain Slams Northern Politicians In Tinubu's Cabinet ■ Says they're gullible, fail to represent region

company is owned by a Northerner and revoked the contractual agreement with the sole aim of empowering his political cronies who will be loyal to him in 2027.

The Adamawa State-born politician said the crop of ministers from the Northern region in the current cabinets are Wike stooges who do not have the capability and capacity to stand against injustice and defend anyone in the North.

Worried that if they cannot defend the interest of the North and any politician who has served the party well and wholeheartedly worked for the success of the party they have become failures and all Nigerians should boo them because they are a disgrace.

Sai'du further said that Mallam Ahmad Abubakar Moallayidi, a non-serving Senator who has represented Adamawa Southern Senatorial District in recent times

became a victim of Wike's "rascality" of attacking Northerners.

Sai'du who was the former National Chairman of the KOWA Party said Moallayidi was one of the few individuals who sacrificed a lot in delivering President Tinubu and all he could get in return was Wike's sheer wickedness in attacking Northerners.

He called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to as a matter of urgency replace Wike with a more decent politician from Rivers State who is a true member of APC otherwise, the excesses of his leadership are becoming more unbecoming and will consume everyone in the party, including the president.

"Wike from PDP is getting on the nerves of everyone in APC, the Man is having his field day and his atrocities are going unhindered being aided by the so-called Ministers

who are afraid to call him to order.

"All I'm saying is he should stand up for Justice and stop fighting those who worked for the party that's today a beneficiary of their hard work and labor through all sorts of pains to bring Tinubu on board," Sai'du said

Sai'du a one-time Vice Presidential Candidate of the KOWA PARTY in the 2015 Presidential Election With Professor Oluremi Sonayya as the only woman Presidential candidate continued to say that the APC party is becoming evil with the glaring tendencies of killing her own bonafide Sons and Daughters.

"Many people sacrificed a lot, who against all odds served the party and spent their time, energy and resources in bringing into power the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu are today crying for marginalization because the likes of Wike

are the Alpha and Omega of all that's happening in the party." He said

He said Northern politicians in Tinubu's regime are dosing off, they should wake up and fight for the collective interest of the entire region.

"Your silence is too much for our liking, you are becoming stooges to a Man that ought to be under your tutelage. He has silenced you and is making you irrelevant in this administration for his personal interest. Under your nose is fighting one of our own for no just course, under your watch is meting out injustice to some northern politicians and none of you can address him. You are failing us, you are not representing us well and you all will regret it later.

Remember the consequences of your actions or inactions will bore down to the electorates to decide." Sai'du further stated

Masterminds Of Mass Murder In Kogi Community Arrested

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

Kogi State governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo on Wednesday has confirmed the arrest of some of the masterminds of the attack on Agojeju Odo village in Omala Local Government Area of the state.

Governor Ododo disclosed this to pressmen on Wednesday in Okene shortly after observing his Eid-el-fetri two-raka prayers at the Okene Eid praying ground.

It could be recalled that about a week ago scores of persons were killed and several houses set ablaze in Agojeju- Odo in Omala local government area of the the State when marauding beasts in fun battle wrecked havoc on the community.

The governor who was fielding questions from Journalists on the attack told journalists that the suspected attackers had been arrested, adding that further investigations were

still underway.

Reacting to criticism of his fledging administration, Ododo said he was not perturbed by the recent attacks on his administration from pessimists for alleged lacklustre and inaction, arguing that he would not dignify the ill promoters with a response.

Gov Ododo said, "reacting to noise makers and those who do not have a stake as far as governance is concerned is not part of the mandate given to me by the good people of Kogi State and Mr President".

"As I speak to you today, the suspected sponsors have been arrested, investigations are ongoing. They are giving us useful information that will lead to the arrest of other suspects", he said.

He assured the people of the state that "as soon as we are done with that investigation, the report will be made known to the public."

Insecurity Posing Serious Danger To Lives, Properties In Nigeria - Afenifere

*Tasks govts, security agencies to take proactive measures

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A Yoruba socio-cultural and socio-political organization, Afenifere yesterday, declared that the issue of insecurity is now posing "serious danger to lives and properties in the country." Afenifere made this known in a statement by its Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi after its Caucus meeting held at the residence of its Leader, Chief Reuben Famuyide Fasoranti, OFR, in Akure, Ondo State.

The Pan Yoruba organization tasked the Governments and security agencies in Nigeria to take the issue of insecurity more seriously.

According to the statement, the Caucus at the meeting deliberated on various issues pertaining to Yorubaland and Nigeria, saying, "the meeting took note of a 'safe-our-soul' visit that some farmers paid to Afenifere Leader, Pa Reuben Fasoranti, beckoning on him to prevail on the authorities to let them have access to facilities that will enhance their productivity".

"Even if resources are available, farmers must have a sense of security to be able to do thier works in the farms. This was what made participants at the meeting to call on the government and security agencies to up their ante so as to put a permanent end

to insecurity in the land", it said.

Afenifere added, "Availability of security would enable farmers to practise unfettered. It would enable traders and travellers to move around freely without any fear of being molested or kidnapped."

"These facilities are in form of loans and grants. Those who came to Papa said that they want to be able to enjoy these facilities as thier counterparts in other parts of the country."

Afenifere however called on Governments in Yoruba speaking states to make it easier for farmers in their respective states to be able to access loan and grant facilities available at

various levels - federal, state and local.

"Sometimes, it was discovered that what made it difficult for farmers in the South West to access these funds is the failure or reluctance of state governments to pay counterpart funds or to even sincerely operate loans and grants facilities available to farmers".

Afenifere at the caucus meeting congratulated Chief Ayo Adebajo who turned 96 yesterday, April 10, 2024, saying, "The Caucus, at the meeting, rejoiced with one of Afenifere leaders, Pa Ayo Adebajo, thanked the Almighty God for sparing his life thus far and prayed for many more years of healthy and prosperous living for him.

Police Arrests Notorious Kidnapper, Recovers Gun, Ammunition In Delta

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Commissioner of Police, CP Abaniwonda Olufemi has said that the Police Special Team from Ughelli Division in Ughelli, Delta State has arrested a notorious kidnapper in a hotel in Udu Local Government Area.

CP Olufemi disclosed this to newsmen during a press briefing.

He said the suspect was arrested on 8/4/2024.

CP Olufemi noted that the police also recovered from the suspect, one pump action gun loaded with four live cartridges, one Beretta pistol and three rounds of 9mm ammunition.

According to him, "Due

to the rate of kidnapping in Ughelli and Environs, I detailed a special team to work in synergy with the newly posted DPO in Ughelli Police Division with a clear mandate to fish out the faceless kidnappers, and ensure that they are all brought to book.

"Consequently on 8/4/2024, the operatives on the special assignment working on credible intelligence stormed one of the hotels in Udu LGA and arrested a notorious kidnapper.

"Upon his arrest suspect gave useful information that led to the recovery of One Pump action gun loaded with four live cartridges, one Beretta pistol and three rounds of 9mm ammunition."



...Police arrest 17yr old boy who faked own kidnap with friends, collect N700,000 in Delta

By UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Commissioner of Police, CP Abaniwonda Olufemi today said the Police have arrested a seventeen (17) year old boy (name withheld) and three others (his friends) whom he connived with, to fake his own kidnap in Okhumera Quarters, Agbor-Obi Community.

CP Olufemi disclosed this during a press briefing today.

He said the suspect was arrested on 20/3/2024 at about 1600 hours after they had already collected a ransom of seven hundred thousand naira and have squandered same.

According to CP Olufemi, "On the 20/3/2024, at about 1600 hours, the DPO Agbor division received

complaint on the suspected kidnap of a 17 year old boy (name withheld) in Okhumera qtrs. Agbor-obi.

"The suspect forwarded a voice note to his sister stating that he has been kidnapped and that the kidnappers were demanding for one million naira (#1,000,000)."

He said the DPO swung into action, acting on a technically generated intelligence, and arrested three suspects.

"Investigation revealed that the 17 year old connived with his friends and faked his own kidnap.

"Before they were arrested, they had already collected a ransom of seven hundred thousand naira (#700,000) and have squandered the money."

He noted that investigation is ongoing.



Eid: National Youth Alliance President Puts Smiles On Faces In Birnin Kudu

**Doles Out Cash to 50 persons*

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The President, National Youth Alliance (NYA), Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas yesterday in the spirit of Eid-el-Fitr, stormed the sleepy town of Birnin Kudu in Jagawa State, where several less privileged were presented various cash sums.

A statement signed by the SA Media and Publicity to NYA President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen in Kaduna, informed that a total of 50 persons, comprising women and youth were beneficiaries of the gesture.

It said that while presenting the cash, Ambassador Abbas told

the beneficiaries that the token was meant to help them celebrate the Eid-el-Fitr, signaling the end of the Holy month of Ramadan.

"This is a token from the National Youth Alliance " We Move 9ja" project, which is committed to touching lives of the less privileged.

"We believe it will help you to celebrate Sallah in high spirits, even as we pray the economic situation of our country improves as soon as possible," he said.

He tasked the beneficiaries to remain patriotic and hope for the best just as their roles are important in ensuring credible leadership emerges in 2027.



Collaboration Of All Tiers Of Govt Needed For Nigerians To Enjoy Democracy Dividends - Akpabio

*Distributes over 10,000 bags of rice, other essentials to constituents

*Promises quality representation

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio on Wednesday, advocated collaboration at all levels of governments to deliver dividends of democracy to Nigerians.

The Senate President made the call in his country home, Ukana, Essien Udim Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom, while briefing his constituents on the journey so far as their representative in the red chamber.

Senator Akpabio according to a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Jackson Udom, assured his constituents that his current position as the Senate President would be used for the development of the state in collaboration with the President and the Akwa Ibom State Governor.

"This Senate President is not the one that would be fighting the state government. I will collaborate with President Ahmed Tinubu, I will collaborate with Governor Umo Eno, to make the state better for us all. We cannot be out of government for a long time. You have to go to a government that carries you along", he said.

Senator Akpabio added, "saying, "I am here once again, to thank you for standing by me, our President and the party, before, during and even after last year's elections. I have come to say thank you and also bring Renewed Hope to you all".

"As the President is doing his own, the Senate President is also doing his bit and being complemented by the state governor, Akwa Ibom would be the better for it. We have finished elections and politics, we are now into governance. The governor of the state must touch you, because he is the governor of all the people in the state irrespective of political affiliation".

The Senate President stressed, "As I am touching you now from the political angle, I will also touch the state without any political party affiliation. Most of the projects we are putting in place would be used by people resident in the state. Relax, things are getting better."



Senator Akpabio at the event on Wednesday.

Senator Akpabio then assured the people of Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District of his commitment to their welfare in appreciation of their total support for him, President Bola Tinubu and the ruling All Progressives Congress

(APC) in last year's election. Highpoint of the constituency briefing was the distribution of over 10,000 bags of rice and other essentials for his constituents from the wards, to the local governments.

Noorul Ummah Empowerment Foundation Visits Orphanage Home in Kaduna

By: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Kaduna

As part of efforts to put smiles on the faces of orphans during the Eid celebrations, some members of Noorul Ummah Empowerment Foundation visited the Ummu Aytam Orphanage Home Unguwan Dosa Kaduna to celebrate with the orphans in the home.

Speaking at the occasion, the chairperson of the Foundation Aisha Aliyu Ismail said they were at Ummu Aytam in order to

show love and compassion to the orphans, noting that they had been doing it even during Ramadan because it serves as an avenue for them to celebrate with the children.

She said they are doing that so that the orphans can feel the love that Eid El Fitr brings to the Muslim ummah stressing that the foundation aims to revive the sunnah of charity amongst Muslims.

"The foundation was established to cater for the less privileged, it is a non profit oriented

organization that depends on contributions from well meaning Nigerians."

"We have been involved in Ramadan feeding of thousands of Muslims and orphans, we are

doing so in order to earn Allah's rewards and show support and encouragement to the orphans."

The director of Ummu Aytam Orphanage Home Hajiya Zubaidah Bature commended

the foundation for their assistance and prayed Allah to reward them for their support.

Some of the orphans also thanked members of the foundation for the visit.



Sallah Homage: Governor Inuwa Receives Emir of Gombe

*Reiterates commitment to building on gains of his first term strides

*Emir Abubakar III lauds Gombe governor's monumental achievements



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON, yesterday, received the Emir of Gombe, Alh. (Dr.) Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III, on a traditional Sallah homage otherwise known as 'Hawan Gidan Gwamnati' in Hausa at the Government House, Gombe.

The yearly Sallah homage to the Government House is an age-old tradition which is led by the Emir, accompanied by district heads and traditional council members, all adorned in colourful royal garments that bring a touch of splendor, drawing thousands of spectators from across the state.

Speaking at the event, Governor Inuwa affirmed that his administration will continue to prioritize initiatives that will stimulate economic growth, foster developmental strides, and guarantee the well-being of the people of Gombe state.

The Governor expressed gratitude to the Almighty Allah for guiding the Muslim Ummah through the sacred month of Ramadan culminating in the Eid al-Fitr festival, urging both Muslims and non-Muslims in the state to continue to uphold the peace and harmony advocated by both Islam and Christianity, values for which Gombe is renowned.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, he reassured that his administration will continue to seek the support, cooperation, and wise counsel of traditional rulers and opinion leaders in providing the desirable leadership for the state in order to lead the state in the most effective, efficient, and fair manner.

Governor Inuwa maintained that despite the financial challenges in the state, his administration has made significant strides across all sectors of development, highlighting that effective leadership and ongoing reforms have earned Gombe numerous recognitions, notably the recent AAA ranking on socio-economic development index in Nigeria.

"I am delighted to host His Royal Highness and members of his entourage on this traditional Sallah homage at the Government House. On behalf of myself and the entire members of my government, we welcome you very warmly", he said.

"Whenever I have the chance to address our people directly, I often emphasize our government's resolve to enhancing the state's economy. We prioritize initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth, development, and the welfare of our citizens. Despite receiving

minimal allocation, we are proud that Gombe has emerged as a frontier in economic growth and development, all thanks to Allah", the Governor added.

"Gombe state's recent AAA ranking in socio-economic growth is a testament to our dedication to advancing the state. I must emphasize that these accomplishments were only achievable through the invaluable contributions of peace, security, and the support of the people of Gombe state. I commend our traditional rulers, particularly the Emir of Gombe, for their tireless efforts and cooperation in attaining these successes", he added.

The Governor equally thanked the traditional institution in the State for their role in ensuring peace and tranquility in their various communities in particular and the State in General.

Earlier, the Emir of Gombe, Dr. Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III said he led the retinue of his district heads, emirate council members and traditional title holders to the Government House to felicitate with Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya and through him, the entire people of Gombe State, over the successful completion of the Ramadan fast and to pay him homage on the occasion of the Eid el fitr sallah celebration.

The Emir paid glowing tribute to

Governor Inuwa Yahaya for his holistic approach in addressing the myriad of challenges in the state and for his pragmatic leadership which he said has led to the execution of life changing projects such as the multi billion naira Muhammadu Industrial Park, which he said is a legacy project that Gombe and its people will continue to benefit centuries to come.

"Your Excellency, let me reiterate that we are deeply proud of you and the achievements of your administration over the past five years of your leadership. Your transformative projects and initiatives are evident to all of us. You have set Gombe on a trajectory of sustainable growth and development. Under your stewardship, Gombe is rising, and our economy is flourishing. The Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park stands as a lasting legacy of your administration and this would attract investments, create job opportunities for our people, and reduce unemployment.", the Emir said.

He also scored the Governor high in the areas of Healthcare revitalization, repositioning of the education sector; especially the construction of the ultra modern school in Kumbiya Kumbiya, the establishment of five legacy schools across the State as well as the mopping up of thousands out of school

children and returning them back to the classrooms.

Emir Abubakar equally applauded the Gombe State Governor for the prompt payment of salaries and settlement of outstanding gratuity of retirees among others, describing the achievements so far recorded by the Governor as monumental and unprecedented. He noted that there is no area in the state that has not witnessed the remarkable and developmental strides of Governor Yahaya's administration.

The first class monarch urged the people of Gombe State to continue to be peaceful, and keep supporting the government and traditional institution in ensuring improved peace and security in the state, maintaining that all the progress and developments that Gombe is witnessing is as a result of the peace being enjoyed in the state.

The Emir later led thousands of Horsemen clad in colorful robes and staged a spectacular durbar to the admiration of the Governor and other dignitaries present.

Highlight of the event was the symbolic presentation of traditional Sallah gift (Goron Sallah) to the Emir by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.



Sallah: House Member Hon Munir Harps On Promoting Spirit Of Togetherness Among Nigerians

*Thanks delegations for Sallah homage to his father, Ambassador Lawal Munir

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Federal legislator, Hon. Ahmed Munir has called on Nigerians to live and promote the spirit of love and togetherness as Muslims mark the 2024 Eid-el-fitr festival. The member representing Lere Federal Constituency, made the appeal while some prominent indigenes of his constituency and the local government paid a Sallah homage to his father's resident, an elder statesman Ambassador Lawal Munir. He stressed the need for unity

amongst adherents of various faiths and sects in the State and Nigeria at large, saying the nation could only overcome her socio-economic and political challenges if citizens work in collaborative manner with one another, irrespective of their ideological differences.

He expressed optimism in the ability of the current leadership to take the nation to an enviable height that would be the pride of her contemporaries.

"Nigeria is blessed and We must see ourselves as such so that the task of bringing back the country

to her deserving state and position in the committee of nations will not be a strange battle to us.

"It is my pleasure to congratulate the Muslim faithful for completing yet another 30 days of the Ramadan fasting and capping it up with occasion of the Eid feast to underscore the importance of equality and togetherness among mankind.

"It is in this light, I am urging all Nigerians to spread love across every corner of the country so that all citizens will feel loved by one another.

"Hatred and bigotry are the greatest enemies we have been contending with in our determination towards having a developed entity.

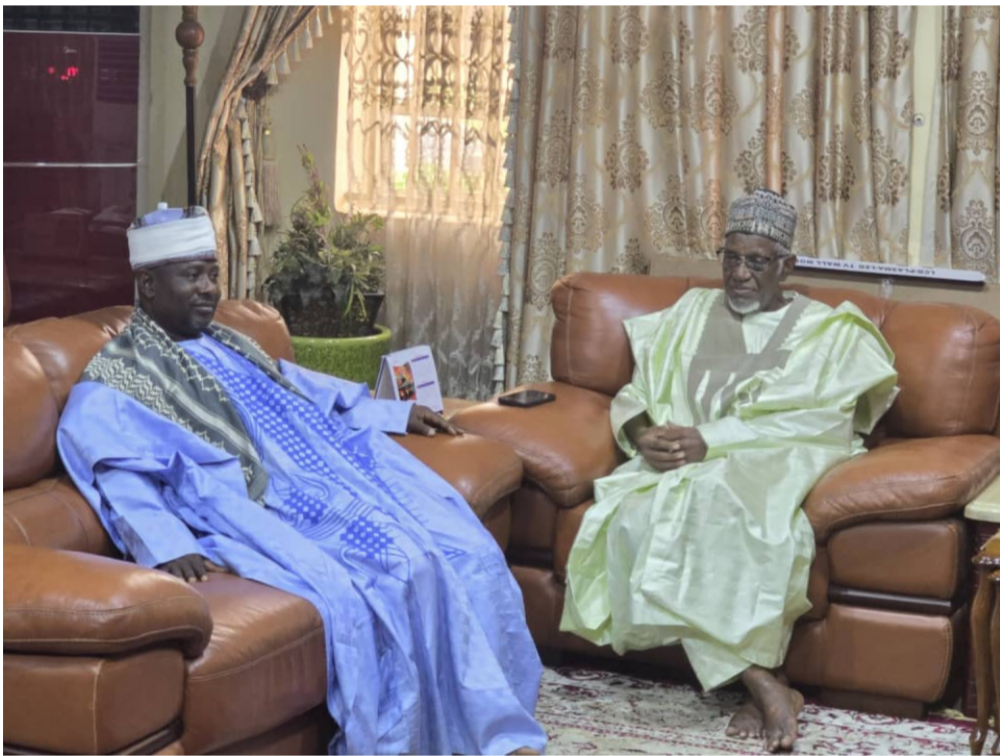
"We must purge the present generation of the seed of hatred planted in them by unscrupulous individuals who do not mean well for our dear nation in order to succeed," he submitted.

In the delegation of prominent and illustrious sons of the state who visited his father for Sallah homage were; Sarkin Kudara Yakubu Sauri, Executive Chairman of Lere, Mathew Gambo Kaku, APC Chairman of

Lere Local Government Jonathan Shakarau.

Others included former deputy speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly Professor Mato Dogara and Jakadan Kurmi Haruna Dogara among others.

He thanked the delegates for their visit, support and promised not to disappoint them for the mandate given to him to represent them at green chamber and, also promised to carry them along and also to continue bringing dividend of democracy to the good people of Lere constituency.



Eid Fitri: COAS Assures Frontline Troops Prompt Welfare, Reward System

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The Chief Of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja has assured that Nigerian Army will continue to prioritize the welfare of the troops by maintaining the sanction and reward system which characterize sound administration pillar of his leadership philosophical command, "transforming the Nigerian Army into a well-trained, equipped and highly motivated force towards achieving the constitutional responsibilities within a joint environment".

He also said that the Nigerian armed forces are aware of the continued contributions of the frontline troops towards ensuring the total defeat of adversarial elements troubling the nation.

COAS stated this on Wednesday during Eid Fitri sallah celebration with the frontline troops fighting Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East region Theater Command JTF North East Operation Hadin Kai and 7 Division NA joint Sallah luncheon held at the Maimalari Cantonment Sports Center Maiduguri

Represented by the Theater Commander, Operation Hadin Kai, North-East JTF, Major. Gen. Waidi Shaibu, COAS added, "your commitment and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, banditry, oil theft, illegal mining, and other forms of criminalities challenging our existence as a nation have not gone unnoticed by the government and the people of Nigeria.

"You all will bear me witness that the government of the day has, within available means, kept faith with its promise to make the welfare of members of the Armed Forces and our families of uttermost importance.

"The only way to reciprocate this is by redoubling our efforts at creating the right environment for peace and economic prosperity for our people and country".

Gen. Lagbaja further urged the troops to continue to with other security agencies in implementing the strategic policies of government through successful operational activities and effective tactical operations to achieve the mandate of the Nigerian military.

COAS also congratulated the Muslim faithful for observing



the 2024 Ramadan Fast successfully and felicitated with the officers, soldiers, civilian staff of the Nigerian Army and their family members on the occasion of 2024 Eid-El-Fitr celebration.

In his remark, the Acting

General Commanding Officer (GOC) 7 Division, Nigerian Army, Brig.-Gen. Abubakar Haruna urged Nigerians to continue pray for frontline troops as they celebrate the 2024 Eid-Ftir Sallah.

"We need prayers in our fight against insurgency, I therefore, urge you to pray for our gallant troops who sacrifice their comfort to provide peace and security to the nation".



Highway Project Carries Markings Of Corruption, Abuse Of Power - CUPP

**Says it lacks transparency, due process*

**Contract awarded without proper oversight, competitive bidding process.*

**APC govt has failed to deliver on promises of open government*

**Insists all govt contracts must follow Outrageous, unacceptable Black Clouds Hovering Over Award Of Calabar*

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has come hard on the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led federal government over what it described as outrageous, cost of the Calabar Highway Project. General Secretary, CUPP, High Chief Ameh Peter Yakubu in a statement on Friday, said that they are all worried that due process was not followed in both the selection and award of the contract for the project.

"The intention of Federal government that vehicles would pay an average of N3,000 per toll gate is not acceptable and should be rejected by all Nigerian citizens as this will further increase the burden on the Suffering masses of our country.

"Anything above 300 Naira will create a lot of hardship but worst case scenario 500 Naira will be totally intolerable. Let the people breathe.

"We all know that there are institutions and bodies, agencies that are created by law to take care of matters of this nature, ranging from the Federal Executive Council, which sits to consider the economic imperative of this kind of gigantic project, the National Assembly which has been constitutionally mandated to appropriate the funds, Bureau of Public Procurement which looks at the entities that will execute the contract without the federal

government spending way above and beyond what the project would ordinarily have cost, and etc.

"Do please remember that in constitutional democracy which we practice, funds are not arbitrarily expended without the authorisation of the legislative arm, which controls the purse of the nation and the president ought not to have doled out a trillion naira plus to his friends without authorisation.

"But in the event that the coastal highway is a build, operate, and transfer project, due process must also be followed with the a f o r e m e n t i o n e d institutions and agencies ought also have been put in the know with their input taken into consideration.

"If President Tinubu, as reported in the dailies and social media, has awarded the contract to the Chagourys who are alleged to be his bossom friends and business partners without due process and due consideration to the constitutional and statutory provisions, the National Assembly (that is if we have a functioning and responsible parliament that is not beholden to the Executive Branch) is obligated to set up an ad-hoc committee to investigate and possibly call the president to order because doing what he is alleged to have done is a breach of the Constitution which he has sworn to uphold and protect."

Eid-el-Fitr: Enugu Muslim Community Asks Governor Mbah To Provide Them Larger Prayer Ground.

By; KELVIN OKPARA, (Enugu,

Muslim community in Enugu State has appealed to the state Governor, Dr. Peter Peter Mbah to approve government owned Okpara Square for their prayers during their festive periods, such as Eid-el-Fitr, saying their current Central Mosque Prayer Ground no longer contains them during such events.

The appel was made on Wednesday, by the Sarkin Hausawa of Enugu State, Abubakar Yusuf Sambo (11) during this year's celebrations.

Our correspondent reports that governor Mbah, was represented at the ceremony by the state commissioner for information, Mr. Aka Eze Aka.

The SARKI, who applauded the governor over the existing peace and security in the state, said the Muslim Center located at Uwani, Enugu can no longer accommodate the large crowd of worshippers during the festive periods like Eldifiltri.

He said: ' Muslim community is today joining their counterparts all over the world to celebrate this year's



Enugu Governor

Eldifiltri during this month of Ramadan.

" Ramadan is a very important period in the lives of every muslim because it is a month every muslim is expected to be disciplined, honest, just and share love with one another.

" So it is a very important period in Islam so the Muslim community in Enugu State thank Allah for making this year's celebration very fruitful"

The Islamic cleric noted that the center is too small

to accommodate them and their vehicles hence the need for a bigger place.

The SARKI said that their prayers do not last up two hours and will therefore not take much time.

He expressed joy that the governor has visited them twice since he took over mantle of leadership of the state, stressing it remains an honour to the entire Muslim community in the state.

The SARKI described Mbah as a promise keeper, noting that he promised

them during his campaigns that he will be governor of all residents of the state and has been living up to that promise.

He added that the governor has through his visits to them fulfilled the promise he made to be governor of all the residents.

Also speaking, Muslim women leaders who spoke at the event appealed to the governor to carry them along in the state scheme of things, especially job employment and women empowerment, pointing out that

they supported him fully during his electioneering campaigns.

In his remark, governor Mbah had assured the Muslim Community that his government is poised towards transforming the state, and make life bearable for all residents, Muslim inclusive.

He commended them for their peaceful disposition in the state, and urged them to always make promotion of peace and harmony their watch word

Jema'a LG Boss Felicitates Muslim Ummah At Eid-el-Fitr

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

As Muslims in the country joined their counterparts across the world to commemorate the Eid-el-fitr, the Executive Chairman of Jema'a Local Government Council, Comrade Yunana Barde has sued for peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance amongst the Citizenry in Kaduna State.

In a sallah message made available to journalists in Kaduna, the Executive Chairman

enjoined Muslims to use the lessons learned during the Holy month of Ramadan for sober reflection and the betterment of the nation. Comrade Yunana Barde also urged the Muslim ummah to eschew bitterness in their daily endeavor as well as tolerate and accommodate each other for societal development, stressing that Muslims and Christians must unite and coexist in the interest of peace and nation building.

The Jema'a Local

Council Chairman who admonished citizens in Kaduna State to live in peace with one another, also charged Nigerians to support the present democratic structures across the country for lasting peace and socioeconomic prosperity.

He further implored people in Kaduna State to support the Governor Uba Sani led SUSTAIN Agenda and other administrative policies, in the interest of peace and development, adding that the present APC administration in

Kaduna State desires support and prayers of all to enable it succeed in the present quest for grassroots development and lasting peace and security in all sections of the state.

The Chairman of the most economic viable council in southern kaduna, however, prayed for a peaceful Sallah celebration across the state and the country, while appealing to the wealthy individuals to assist the needy for Allah's blessings.

Akintunde Akintayo Foundation Donates Food Items To 300 Women In Ondo

Akintayo Akintunde, a renowned philanthropist, has empowered no fewer than 300 elderly women in Ile-oluji community in Ile-oluji/Okeigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The philanthropist gave the elderly women cash gifts and food items which includes: rice, spaghetti, spices, salt and groundnut oil.

While distributing the food items, Akintayo said the rationale behind the empowerment was to relieve the beneficiaries experiencing the adverse effects of soaring prices of food items occasioned economic downturn.

The Philanthropist, who doubles as the founder of Akintayo Akintunde Foundation, noted that the aged women do not only

lack the financial wherewithal, but also the strength to vigorously engage in business activities that would earn them money to eke out better living.

He said, "Today marks a significant moment in our journey towards empowerment and solidarity.

"As we gather here, I am deeply humbled and honored to share with you the progress and impact of our empowerment program, particularly aimed at supporting 300 elderly women who have endured the harsh effects of an unhealthy economy.

"In the face of adversity, we chose not to turn a blind eye but to extend a helping hand. The rising cost of essential food items has burdened many, especially our elderly women, who are often the

most vulnerable in our communities. It is with this recognition of their struggle that we embarked on a mission to make a tangible difference in their lives."

"Through our empowerment program, we have not only provided food items to alleviate immediate hunger but also offered financial assistance in the form of cash gifts. These gestures may seem small to some, but to those who receive them, they represent hope, dignity, and a renewed sense of possibility."

"Beyond the material support, our program embodies a spirit of compassion and solidarity. It is a reminder that we are not alone in our struggles and that together, we can create meaningful change. By coming together as a community, we amplify

our collective impact and sow the seeds of a brighter future for all.

"As we reflect on the journey thus far, let us reaffirm our commitment to continue uplifting those in need, especially the elderly women who have paved the way for generations to come. Let us stand united in our resolve to build a more inclusive and equitable society, where no one is left behind.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of our empowerment program. Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering support have made a profound difference in the lives of many. Together, let us continue to be beacons of hope and agents of change in our communities.



Caleb Danladi Foundation Felicitates Muslim At Eid-el-Fitr

By; **ACHADU GABRIEL, Kaduna**

The Founder/CEO of Caleb Danladi Foundation, Mr. Caleb Danladi has congratulated Muslims as they celebrate the Eid-el-Fitr, following the end of the Ramadan fast.

He expressed this in a statement he personally signed, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Wednesday April 10, 2024.

"As the world gathers to celebrate Eid el-Fitr, it brings me great joy to extend heartfelt Eid Mubarak greetings to each and every one of you in Nigeria.

"This auspicious occasion marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, and serves as a time for unity, gratitude, and renewal of faith.

"Eid al-Fitr is not just a celebration of breaking the fast, but a profound testament to the strength of our community and the resilience of our spirit.

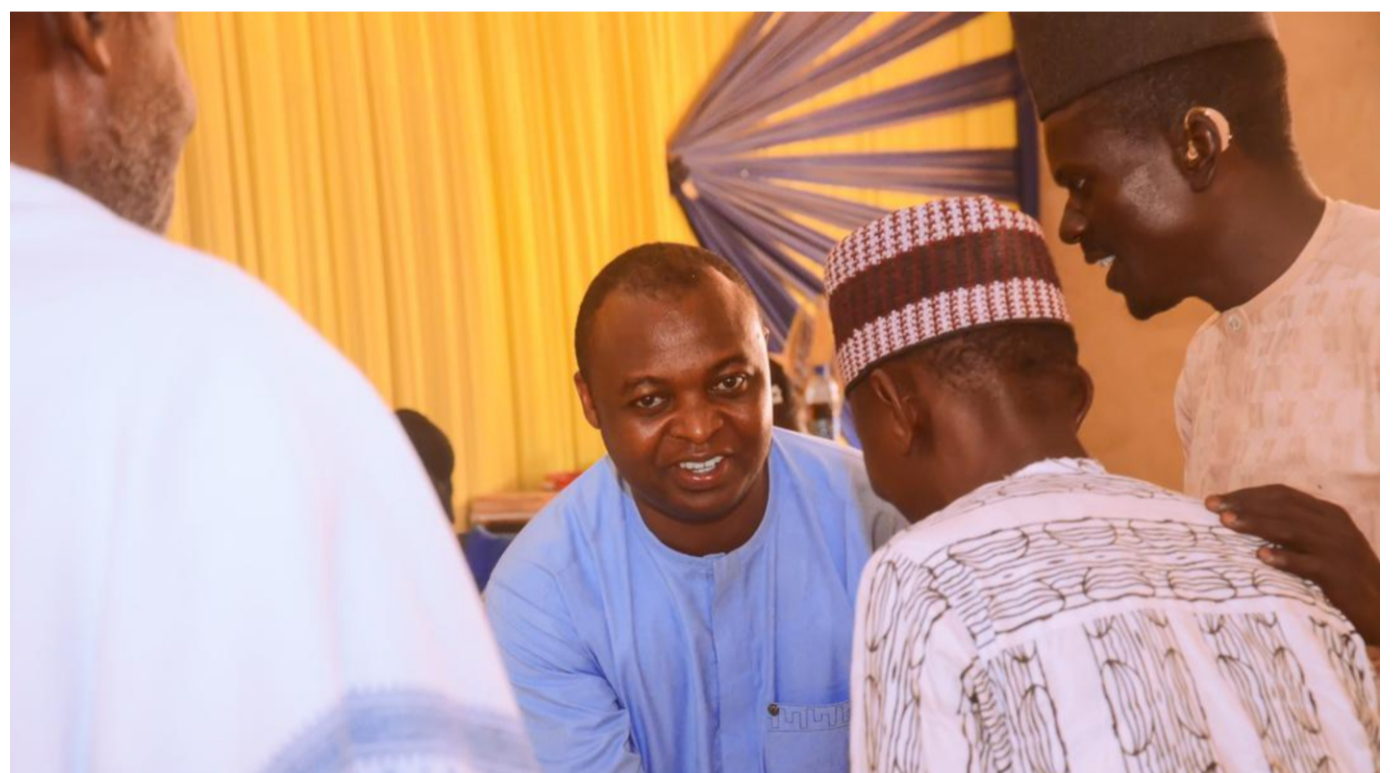
"Throughout the month of Ramadan, we have embarked on a journey of self-discipline, empathy, and spiritual growth, seeking to draw closer to our Creator and to one another. As

we bid farewell to Ramadan, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the blessings received, allowing them to guide us in our daily lives.

"In the spirit of Eid, let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves and extend a helping hand to those in need. Let us embody the values of compassion, generosity, and kindness, spreading joy and goodwill wherever we go.

This is a time to reach out to family, friends, and neighbors, to share laughter, love, and the blessings of this special day," he said.

Speaking further, he said that, "as we come together to celebrate Eid, let us also take a moment to appreciate the diversity and richness of our Muslim community. Regardless of our backgrounds, cultures, or languages, we are united by our shared faith and our shared



humanity.

"Let us embrace this diversity as a source of strength and inspiration, celebrating the unique contributions that each of us brings to the tapestry of our community.

"On this joyous occasion, I pray that Allah showers His choicest blessings upon you and your loved ones, granting you peace, happiness, and prosperity in

abundance.

"May your homes be filled with laughter, your hearts with contentment, and your lives with purpose and meaning. May Allah accept our fasting, prayers, and acts of worship, and may He guide us always on the path of righteousness and goodness.

"As we celebrate Eid al-Fitr, let us look forward to a future filled

with hope, unity, and prosperity for all. Together, let us strive to build a world where justice, compassion, and understanding prevail, and where every individual is valued, respected, and cherished.

"Once again, Eid Mubarak to all our dear Muslim faithful! May this blessed day bring you and your loved ones endless joy, peace, and blessings."

NSA Felicitates Muslim Ummah @ Eid el Fitri

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu has expressed deep felicitations to the Muslim Ummah for witnessing another Eid el Fitri celebration.

The NSA in a statement he made available to newsmen on Tuesday, April 10, 2024, urged Muslims to continue to reflect on the lessons of the Eid el Fitri exemplified by sacrifice, endurance, total submission to Allah, alms giving, and night vigils.

He urged Muslims to continue to imbibe the virtues of the festivity expressing optimism that with such level of dedication to Allah and commitment to the well being of mankind, Nigeria will in no distant time regain its lost glory.

Ribadu urged Nigerians to continue to pray for the success of the Tinubu led administration in containing the myriads of socio economic challenges it met on ground, maintaining that with focus, commitment and dedication, there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

The NSA acknowledged that in its desire to reset the country, the Tinubu led administration is taking some tough decisions adding that the pains of such tough policies will sooner than later ease off and give way for a new and prosperous country.

"I urge my Muslim

brothers to continue to reflect on the lessons of sacrifice, dedication, total submission to Allah and commitment to the welfare of the less privileged which became the hallmark of the 30 day fasting.

"It is my fervent hope that they will maintain the tempo of sacrifice, dedication to the will of Allah and commitment to the well being of mankind in the course of the year.

"With such commitment, it is my fervent belief that sooner than later, Nigeria will overcome all its existential challenges.

"Let us also continue to pray for the Tinubu led administration to succeed in its desire to return Nigeria to its lost glory where every citizen will benefit from the abundant resources that the country is blessed with.

"I want to use this opportunity to acknowledge that some of the policies being undertaken by the federal government are tough. But I assure you that with the zeal and commitment of the president, the gains of such decisions will soon overshadow the instantaneous pains.

"We have already started seeing the effect of some of these policies as the naira has been making a lot of gains against the dollar which translates into softening of the spiralling inflation.

"It is our hope that with consistency, commitment, dedication and the support of all Nigerians, Nigeria

Nigeria Can Overcome Challenges Through Innovation, Inclusive Governance - National Youth Alliance

*Insists Tinubu must instill sense of pride, belonging in youth to end "Japa"

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

All hope is not lost in Nigeria, as the country can overcome present challenges through collaboration, innovation, and inclusive governance. This was contained in an Eid-el-Fitr message by the President National Youth Alliance (NYA), Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, which said that, "we can overcome our challenges and build a prosperous and united Nigeria".

According to a statement titled, "Eid Mubarak: State of the Nation" signed by the SA Media and Publicity to NYA President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, issued to newsmen in Kaduna on Wednesday April 10, 2024, the frontline group said that One pressing issue that demands attention is the volatility of the Nigerian Naira.

"We've witnessed fluctuations from nearly N2,000 to \$1 to the current rate of N1150 to \$1. While the recent short-term improvement is welcomed, it's essential to recognize the underlying damage caused by years of fluctuating exchange



rates, round-tripping, and economic instability.

"These factors have severely weakened our economy, posing challenges that may persist for a decade or more," it said.

NYA President lamented that the removal of fuel subsidies has further compounded the economic strain on Nigerians.

"The ripple effects are felt across all sectors, with skyrocketing inflation exacerbating the financial burdens faced by citizens. Additionally, insecurity continues to plague our

nation, particularly affecting farmers who bear the brunt of violence and displacement.

"Moreover, the recent increase in electricity tariffs adds to the financial strain faced by ordinary Nigerians. As we navigate these challenges, it's evident that urgent action is needed to address the underlying issues and chart a path towards sustainable development," it added.

The group urged President Tinubu to prioritize engaging with the youth of Nigeria to understand their needs and aspirations.

"The phenomenon of "Japa" or the emigration of young Nigerians in search of better opportunities abroad, underscores the urgency of this matter. We must instill a sense of pride and belonging in our youth, convincing them that Nigeria is their home and their future lies within its borders," it advised.

According to Ambassador Abbas, "As we celebrate Eid today, I extend warm wishes to everyone observing this auspicious occasion. Eid Mubarak to you and your loved ones. May this day be filled with joy, peace, and blessings for all.

"On this day of celebration, it is also crucial to reflect on the state of our nation, Nigeria. As we mark 317 days of President Tinubu's presidency, it's imperative to assess the trajectory of our country and the challenges we face.

"In conclusion, as we celebrate Eid and reflect on the state of our nation, let us commit to working together towards a brighter future for all Nigerians.

"Eid Mubarak once again, and may Allah bless our nation with peace, prosperity, and progress," the statement prayed.

Chairman Kaduna State RIFAN Felicitates Muslim Ummah At Eid-el-Fitr

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As Muslims in the country joined their counterparts across the world to commemorate the Eid- Kabir, the Kaduna State Chairman of the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN), Alh Mohammed Umar Numbu and the Dan-Galadiman Numbu has sued for peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance amongst the citizenry in the country.

In a Sallah message made available to journalists in Kaduna, the Kaduna State RIFAN Chairman



enjoined Muslims to use the lessons learnt during the Holy month of Ramadan for sober reflection.

Alhaji Mohammed Umar Numbu also urged the

Muslim ummah to eschew bitterness in their daily endeavours, as well as tolerate and accommodate each other for societal development.

The RIFAN Chairman

who admonished citizens in Kaduna State to live in peace with one another, also charged Nigerians to support the present democratic structures across the country for lasting peace and socioeconomic prosperity.

He further implored people in Kaduna State to support the Governor Uba Sani led SUSTAIN Agenda and other administrative policies in the interest of peace and development.

The Kaduna State RIFAN Chairman, however, prayed for a peaceful Sallah celebration across the state and the country, while appealing to the wealthy individuals to assist the needy for Allah's blessings.



Nuhu Ribadu

Bauchi Gov Congratulates Muslims, Seeks Continuous Peace Among Ethnic And Religious Groups In State

By; **ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi**

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has while congratulating Muslims in the state on the occasion of Eid-el-Fitr Sallah celebration, sought for continued peaceful coexistence among the various ethnic and religious groups in the state.

Bala Mohammed expressed this in a signed press statement made available to journalists in Bauchi by the Special Adviser on Media and Communication to the governor, Mukhar Gidado.

According to the statement, "All thanks and praises go to Almighty Allah for seeing us through the holy month of Ramadan during which all Muslim Ummah across the world observed the obligatory fast at the end of which we are today celebrating the 2024 Eid-el-Fitr. While congratulating the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of the Eid-el-Fitr, it is my hope that the lessons learned during the month of Ramadan would continue to guide our actions and utterances after the holy month.

"While celebrating the

Eid-el-Fitr with merriment, we should also use the occasion to reflect on our past activities and see how we fared spiritually, so that we can take corrective measures towards improving our relationship with Allah (SWT), fellow Muslim Ummah and adherents of other faith. We should

emulate Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by making sacrifices for the benefit of the less privileged ones in our society. We should also pray to Almighty Allah for peace, unity and prosperity of our dear State and the country as a whole.

"Our Government is irrevocably committed to the continued peaceful coexistence among the heterogeneous ethnic and religious groups in the State. I appeal for your continued understanding, cooperation and support



Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State at Eid-el-fitr prayer ground.

towards the realization of this noble objective.

"I would like to appeal to you all to use the occasion of the Eid-el-fitr to strengthen the existing relationships and also establish new ones. You should also imbibe the spirit of forgiveness, love and respect for one another. I also appeal for tolerance and accommodation by the various ethnic, religious and political groups in the state.

"I want to commend you for your perseverance and resilience in the face of the

current economic hardship, which is a national problem. As you all know, the State Government in collaboration with the Federal Government are taking measures to ameliorate the situation by providing palliative items in form of foodstuffs. Let me also assure you that Government will continue to take necessary measures to bring succor to the good people of the State. Meanwhile, I want to appeal to you to see the situation as



Osun State Commissioner of Police, Muhammed Umar Adah, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and Timi of Edeland, Oba Munirudeen Adesola @ the 2024 Eid-el fitr held @ the Muslim Grammar School playing ground Ede, Osun State on Wednesday. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

Let's Sustain Sense Of Community Built During Ramadan - Uba Sani

By ; **FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna**

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State, has felicitated Muslims in Kaduna State, Nigeria and across the globe on the joyous occasion of Eid-El-Fitr, the celebration of end of the Ramadan fasting, one of the five pillars of Islam.

In a statement personally signed by him, he said that the Ramadan period afforded the Muslim faithful the world over, the opportunity to demonstrate the values of charity, compassion and cooperation, as well as reflect, seek forgiveness, and show gratitude to Almighty Allah for His countless blessings.

"It renewed, among the faithful, a strong sense of community as people gathered in mosques and community spaces to share iftar meals with their neighbours. As we celebrate the occasion of Eid-el-Fitr, I urge the Muslim faithful to imbibe in their daily lives the lessons of Ramadan, which includes self-control, discipline, sacrifice, perseverance, and total devotion to the will of Almighty Allah.

"I call on all Nigerians to use the Eid-el-Fitr celebration to pray for the restoration of peace and security in our communities. May we see the end of terrorism, banditry, insurgency, kidnapping and other forms of violent crime in Nigeria. As Nigerians, we must continue to pray for our leaders and ask Almighty Allah to guide and strengthen them so that they can lead our states and country to the path of progress and sustainable development.

"Our dear President,

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR is working very hard to secure the country and stabilize the economy. We must give him all the support and cooperation," he said.

According to him, in Kaduna State, they have not wavered in their determination to degrade criminal elements laying siege to our communities.

"We have forged solid partnerships with federal security forces and strengthened the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS). Working with our dear President, the National Security Adviser and the Nigerian Army, we secured the release of our abducted Kuriga school children.

"We give Almighty Allah all the glory. We have taken steps to improve internally generated revenue, reduce cost of governance and ensure efficient management of our human and material resources to transform the state.

"We are making steady progress. We are determined to change the face of Kaduna State. We want to make rural living a pleasurable experience. We are focused on turning Kaduna State into an international business hub; the investors choice destination.

"Above all, we are working assiduously to rebuild trust and make our dear state an "oasis of peace and harmony." To quicken our pace, we require the total commitment and support of our people, and sustenance of the sense of community built during the Ramadan period.

"May Almighty Allah be our guide as we continue on this journey of restoration. Happy Eid-El-Fitr."

Sallah: Kano Imams Call For More Prayers For Nigeria

By; JABIRU HASSAN, Kano

Imams in Kano State have called on the people of the state of all religious faith to intensify more prayers for Nigeria to overcome all its challenges.

They made the call at the end of the eid prayers in their respective prayer grounds, where they urged the Muslim Umma to

always work with the Ramadan lessons they learnt in order to make livelihood easier and better in accordance to the teachings of the Holy Prophet.

Sheikh Usman Mohammed, who led the prayer at Dungurawa Juma'at Mosque Prayer Ground, reminded the Muslim faithful across the globe to emulate the habit

of forgiveness, helping the needy and being simple at all the time.

Similarly, Ustaz Hamza Abubakar advised the citizens to stop abusing their leaders due to either political differences or personal interests, where he stressed that prayers for leaders is better and appropriate than to abuse those who lead people of

all categories.

Our correspondent reports that this year's Sallah festival was low key due to the present economic situation although children and wards wore new looks across Kano State because parents and guardians were able to sew new clothes for their young ones.



Sallah: Fintiri Urged Muslims To Sustain Lessons Learnt During Ramadan

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has called on Muslim faithful to sustain the lessons of sacrifice, discipline and love learnt during the period of Ramadan.

According to the governor, this is a period for sober reflection.

He therefore, urged Nigerians to reflect on the state of things in the country, in order to find lasting solutions.

While congratulating the Muslim Ummah for completing one of the Five Pillars of Islam, he said "Remember that moderation is important in everything you do during this period."

He said the Muslim Faithfull has gone through one of the most rigorous Islamic obligations of one month fast and prayers as well as other forms of worship and urged all believers to imbibe the lessons learnt during the Ramadan period through sacrifices, almsgiving to the needy, continuous exhibition of piety as well as Charity to one

another.

"The Holy Month of Ramadan is an opportunity for our Muslim brothers and sisters to deepen their relationship with Allah, promote a life of sacrifice, charity, and love for one another," the Governor said.

He also notes that the period of the Eid celebration was a clarion call for Nigerians to imbibe the lessons of the season such as selfless service to God and humanity as well as a sincere commitment to righteous conducts in private and public life.

"Let us remember we are one people and continue to encourage one another to contribute to peace and unity amongst us. This will ultimately ensure our country remains the great nation that we are all proud of."

The Governor reiterated the determination of his administration to deliver democratic dividends and called for cooperation from all citizens of the State to enable government succeed, especially in the ongoing peace process.

Sallah: NBAIS Registrar Felicitates Kaduna Gov, Speaker Abbas, Emir Of Zazzau

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Registrar National Board For Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS), Professor Yahuza Suleiman Imam has felicitated Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State, Speaker House of Representatives,, Emir of Zazzau, Minister of Environment and Muslim faithful on the successful completion of this year's Ramadan fast and prayed for peace, love and unity in Zazzau emirate, Kaduna state and Nigeria as a whole.

Yahuza who was speaking on the occasion of Sallah celebration in Zaria, urged Muslims to celebrate the Sallah in love, and unity across all communities in

Kogi and Nigeria at large.

The Registrar described the Ramadan period as being stressful but deserving, because it is the only period for spiritual reflection on the need to mortifying the flesh in sincere sacrifice and supplications to Allah.

He said, Ramadan symbolises Allah's way of teaching humanity on virtuous living, where people keep away from all forms of comfort to appreciate what the less privileged experience and deprivation they suffer daily.

Professor Yahuza Suleiman Imam tasked Muslim faithful to extend the lessons of Ramadan to their daily lives and their relationship with their



neighbours.

According to him, "Let's seek peace at all times and promote unity of purpose in our society", he appealed.

He prayed that, "may the celebration usher in sustainable peace to every home in Zazzau emirate, Kaduna State and Nigeria at large".

Gov. Bala Assures Bauchi Traditional Rulers Of Protecting Their Integrity, Image

By: **ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi**

The Executive Governor of Bauchi State Senator Bala Muhammad, has expressed his administration's readiness to protect the integrity and image of the traditional institution in the state.

Bala Mohammed made this known when he received the Emir of Bauchi, Dr. Rilwanu Sulaimanu Adamu and other traditional title holders of the Emirate on traditional Sallah homage at Government House Bauchi, yesterday, where the governor assured of his administration's determination to continue to uphold, protect and respect the dignity of the traditional institution in recognition of its rich cultural heritage.

He further assured that the traditional institutions in the state will continue to be respected and treated with utmost dignity.

He explained that the role of traditional institutions and community leaders in maintenance of peace and stability across the state can not be over emphasized and therefore commend them for the efforts.

While expressing satisfaction with the 2024 colourful Durbar exhibition, Governor Bala urged them to maintain the age long tradition that culturally brought the people together to demonstrate their heritage.

Governor Bala used the forum to declared that the state under

his leadership will continue to support and collaborate with the Federal Government in improving the standard of living of the residents.

According to him, "We in Bauchi state are very lucky with the APC led Federal Government, we have two key Ministers in the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare as well as Foreign Affairs occupied by two personalities from the State, my younger brothers, Prof Muhammad Ali Pate and Amb Yusuf Maitama Tuggar. They are all doing well."

He added that, "Though we belong to the different political parties, but we are working together for the good of the entire state. That is the beauty of politics and essence of democracy and democratic governance."

Speaking further on the benefits of team work, the Governor said that, "The Minister of Health has told me that the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) will be completely renovated and there will be a permanent site, there will be a new Teaching Hospital in Azare while there



Gov. Bala Mohammed right with Dr. Rilwanu Sulaimanu Adamu Emir of Bauchi

will be a Federal Medical Centre in Misau."

On his part, the Emir of Bauchi Alhaji Rilwanu Sulaimanu Adamu, noted that they were at Government House to exercise the annual traditional Sallah greetings to the governor and congratulate him for successful completion of Ramadan Fasting. He commended Governor Bala Muhammad for upgrading the palaces of all the Emirs and District Heads across the state adding that the move would enhance their operations. The Emir was particularly elated

with the transformation of the Government House which he described as the dream of the founding fathers of Bauchi State. He also appreciates the Governor's purpose-driven leadership and applauded the notable sacrifices and bold decisions taken under his leadership particularly in the area of building up respect of the traditional institutions.

The Emir however, appealed to good government of Bala Mohammed to make fertilizer and other farming needs

available for the farmers before the commencement of the 2024 farming season as the rain is set to start falling soon based on forecast.

Our correspondent who covered the occasion reports that this year's Sallah Durbar procession was held at the newly constructed arena which the Governor named Dr Rilwanu Sulaimanu Adamu Square, Government House Bauchi out of respect for the Emir and his leadership qualities and loyalty.

Kwara Confirms Receipt Of New Grains From FG, Distribution Begins Soon

By: **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Kwara State Government has said that it has received 12,058 bags of grains of maize, millet, and sorghum from the Federal Government.

The breakdown of the 12,058 are: 7,042 of 50kg bags of maize; 2,916 of 50kg bags of millet; and 2,100 of 50kg bags of sorghum, which were still being received as at yesterday.

The state government also announced the receipt of 8,700 of 25kg bags of rice, according to a statement by the

Commissioner for Communications Mrs Bola Olukoju.

The statement said the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Senator Abubakar Kyari will flag off the distribution of the grains in the state very soon — in manners that would follow the distribution template sent by the Federal Government.

The state government has constantly supported the Kwara public to cope with the inconveniences that trailed the removal of fuel subsidy.



el-Rufai Jr.: When Mud-slissing Backfires

By: JAMES SWAM

When former Governor Nasir el-Rufai's son, Bashir, recently shared sensational content on X (formerly Twitter) to cater to the vulgar tastes of his audience, his lack of experience led him to overlook the potential repercussions of spreading propaganda.

The overwhelming response from Nigerians should serve as a lesson for him to be better prepared before engaging in such a misguided, reckless attempt at character assassination against a sitting governor.

Since then, both traditional and new media platforms have been inundated with debates regarding Governor Uba Sani's disclosure of Kaduna state's indebtedness which he did while shedding light on his administration's ten-month tenure during a town hall meeting. In attendance were the key stakeholders of Kaduna state, comprising different sectors.

The governor addressed the gathering earnestly, discussing the state of affairs within his government, focusing on security measures, infrastructure upgrades, healthcare, educational funding, vocational training initiatives, governance cost reduction, the Safe Schools Project, and efforts to attract foreign investment in various sectors, including partnerships with UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, etc.

Despite the enlightening discourse on the state's development trajectory and strategies to overcome obstacles, the persistent theme in political discussion thereafter amplified by little-known Bashir el-Rufai, focused on the astonishing boldness of the governor to reveal the humongous indebtedness of the state.

Yet, is it not commendable for the governor to openly disclose the state's financial obligations to its citizens? Shouldn't transparency and accountability be applauded? A cursory Google search would illustrate how governors, over time, have shared the financial realities they inherited upon assuming office.

Did former Governor Nasir el-Rufai disclose the state's financial situation upon taking office in 2015? Indeed, he did so, albeit critically and disparagingly.

el-Rufai's predecessor, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero claimed to have left N8.6 billion in the Kaduna State treasury as at May 29, 2015 and was applauded by el-Rufai, who said, "I am happy that the situation is not as bad as we thought." However, two months later, el-Rufai refuted Yero's assertion during a press



Nasir el-Rufai

conference.

According to the government, Yero left only N228 million (2.65% of the N8.6 billion) in working capital, juxtaposed with outstanding liabilities of N370 million, thereby creating a deficit that impeded governance operations.

Furthermore, 97.35% of the funds Yero purportedly left in the treasury according to el-Rufai's spokesman at the time, Samuel Aruwan, were designated for SURE-P, MDGs, SUBEB, and state pension, and therefore could not be considered as working capital.

Governor Uba Sani's revelation thus follows an established pattern, doesn't it? It's crucial to note that the governor was aware that the state had taken some loans, including the \$350 million he facilitated for Urban Renewal and other developmental projects based on a comprehensive blueprint presented. However, was the plan strictly adhered to? Why are there abandoned road projects scattered throughout the city? Why did some contractors vanish from the sites with their equipment even before May 2023? And what about the 115 contractual liabilities? Why are they asking for N120 billion to complete the projects?

The facts of the matter have been

twisted and manipulated by El-Rufai Jr. to appeal to base instincts. Those who sensationalised Governor Uba Sani's honest speech have unconsciously fueled calls by groups for an investigation into the El-Rufai administration. Their attempt to rubbish the governor has backfired.

The Joint Action Committee on Non-Violence Movement (JACON), Arewa Youths Consultative Forum (AYCF), and Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) backed the governor, pressing for a probe of the El-Rufai administration to uncover instances of awarded contracts without execution or partial execution, as well as to recover funds from contractors who failed to deliver after receiving mobilisation payments.

Renowned civil rights activist and former senator Shehu Sani advocated for a deeper examination of the actual level of indebtedness to dispel citizens' suspicions of a government cover-up. For the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) a "Judicial Commission of Inquiry" to analyse the massive debts and contractual liabilities incurred was necessary.

Hassan Gimba's piece titled "El-Rufai And The Short Trek To Posterity", Suyi Ayodele's "Nigeria's Leaders, Kaduna's

Debt, and El-Rufai's Silence", and Usman Santuraki's "Governor Uba Sani vs. El-Rufai: Who Blinks First?" all unearthed criticisms of the El-Rufai administration. The matter has sparked intense scrutiny from writers and columnists, portraying the "accidental public servant" in an unfavourable and disparaging light.

This isn't what the young El-Rufai had anticipated. The massive calls for probe of his father's time as governor should teach him a lesson, and the senior El-Rufai should by now have whipped him sufficiently for turning the searchlight on him for the wrong reasons.

Undoubtedly, the unfolding events are causing unrest within the El-Rufai camp more than Governor Uba Sani's. Public opinion largely places blame on the former governor's associates for escalating tensions. Critically, the disrespectful attacks from El-Rufai's son, Bashir, on Governor Uba Sani are deemed unwarranted. From all indications, El-Rufai Jr.'s attempt to mudsling the governor has backfired. But, May Uba Sani and Nasir El-Rufai's friendship endure.

James Swam is a Kaduna-based public affairs analyst and author of "How to be an Effective Spokesperson".

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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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S/NO	POSITION	SIZE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
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2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL W RAPA ROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF W RAPA ROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PA GE 2 O R 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
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PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
B A C K PA GE S T R I P	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	590,000.00	44,250.00	634,250.00
FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

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

X-Raying the Delta State Disability Protection Bill, 2024

By: JEROME-MARIO UTOMI

Similar to the provisions of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), an international human rights treaty, adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and opened for signature on 30 March 2007, to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all disabled persons, the Delta state house of assembly recently made history with its passage of the disability protection bill, 2024.

The bill which passed through the third reading at a plenary presided over by Emomotimi Guwor, the speaker of the house of assembly, was sponsored by Marylyn Okowa-Daramola, member representing Ika north east. The passage of the bill followed a motion moved by Emeka Nwaobi, house majority leader, Bridget Anyafulu, chairman, house committee on housing, women affairs, girl-child entrepreneurship and humanitarian support services.

Viewed broadly, the above move by the Delta state House of Assembly becomes deeply appreciated when one brings into view the World Health Organization's 2011 World Disability Report, which revealed that about 15 percent of Nigeria's population, or at least 25 million people, have a disability. Many of them, the report added, face a number of human rights abuses including stigma, discrimination, violence, and lack of access to healthcare, housing, and education.

More specifically, a major landmark inherent in the bill as passed by the house is that when signed into law by the state governor, it promises to become a remarkable win for persons with disabilities in Delta state as its provisions will ensure improved inclusiveness, participation, protection, equity and empowerment as well as ensure improved access to transportation, including exclusive parking spaces.

Again, aside from coming with accompanying penalties for infringements and calls for the establishment of the Commission for Persons With Disabilities, a body that will facilitate implementation of the provisions of the proposed law, also very alluring is the awareness that the proposed law will also promote inclusivity and accessibility by providing persons with disability lifts, ramps and other accessibility aids to all physical structures and emphasized the rights of persons living with disabilities to basic and secondary education, to live independently, access information and participate fully in political, cultural and social life."

Beyond this merits that flows from the recently passed bill, deltans with critical interest are, however, worried about the development. To them, policy formulation has never been a problem in the country as Nigeria at both state and Federal levels is visibly blessed with world class policymakers. Rather, implementation and enforcement of those globally acclaimed policies have always been the major impediment to the nation's

development.

There is also the belief in some quarters that the enactment of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act is neither new nor final but only a first step in the fulfillment of Nigeria's obligations under the CRPD. This consciousness again raises the poser as to what should be done to put effective measures in place for its full implementation to ensure equal treatment and participation of people with disabilities?

Indeed, the above fears expressed by Deltans of goodwill cannot be described as unfounded particularly when one remembers that Nigeria has reportedly ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 and its Optional Protocol in 2010, without in practical terms, giving fair deal to the disabled in the country—a failure attributable to weak enforcement and lack of coordinated implementation.

According to Aniete Ewang, Lawyer and Nigeria Researcher in the Africa division, Human Rights Watch, Nigeria ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 and its Optional Protocol in 2010. Since then, civil society groups and people with disabilities have called on the government to put it into practice. In 2011 and 2015, the National Assembly passed the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill 2009, but former President Goodluck Jonathan declined to sign it into law. The bill for the new law was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate joint committee in November 2016, but was not sent to Buhari for his signature until December 2018.

On January 17, the repor added, Buhari denied on national television that he had received the bill. Hundreds of people protested, and barely five days later, he signed the bill into law.

The law prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and imposes sanctions including fines and prison sentences on those who contravene it. It also stipulates a five-year transitional period for modifying public buildings, structures, and automobiles to make them accessible and usable for people with disabilities.

Also very troubling in the opinion of this piece is the fact that if the recently passed bill by the state is juxtaposed with the federally passed law on Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition), both share common features.

Take as an example, both laws prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and imposes sanctions including fines and prison sentences on those who contravene it. The two propositions at both state and Federal called for the establishment of a Commission for Persons with Disabilities, responsible for ensuring that people with disabilities have access to housing, education, and healthcare. The Commission was also empowered to receive complaints of rights violations and support victims to seek legal redress amongst other duties.

From the above standpoint, it again elicits the question as to if after all these years,



Delta Governor

the provisions in the Federal Government version could not offer adequate protection to Nigerians, what difference will the ongoing efforts at the state level make? Another question that is important as the bill itself is; why is the ongoing effort by the Delta State House of Assembly not covered all areas of life, from Health, Education and Employment to Equal Recognition before the Law, Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse, and Accessibility?

Why did the Delta state lawmakers fail to offer intersectional perspectives, in respect of women with disabilities and children with disabilities as found in the United Nation's Optional Protocol which clearly established individual complaints mechanism for the UNCRDP, and compels States Parties who ratify the Optional Protocol to agree and recognize the competence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider complaints from individuals or groups who claim their rights under the Convention have been violated? If the present effort by the State House of Assembly (Disability Protection Bill, 2024), becomes toothless like its Federal counterpart, will the energy dissipated on this bill not amount to share waste of time and task payers money?

For a better understanding of the relevance of questions, the UNCRPD contains 50 Articles. Aside from provisions around definitions, principles and processes, the Convention contains 26 Articles covering all areas of life, from Health, Education and Employment to Equal Recognition before the Law, Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse, and Accessibility. The Convention also offered intersectional perspectives, in respect of women with disabilities and children with disabilities.

The Article 8 for example stated in clear

terms what the States Parties need to undertake in order to achieve immediate, effective and appropriate measures aimed at raising awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding persons with disabilities, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to persons with disabilities, including those based on sex and age, in all areas of life.

Article 9 on its part focused on accessibility that will assist the targeted beneficiaries live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, noting that States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia: (a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces; (b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

For me, these are tiny details that if taken care of by the state Assembly would have made a whole lot of positive difference.

Utomi Jerome-Mario is the Programme Coordinator (Media and Policy), Social and Economic Justice Advocacy (SEJA), Lagos. He could be reached via: jeromeutomi@yahoo.com/08032725374.

Grassroots Development: Uba Sani Signs MoU With SWA Sports Ltd

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna
Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani yesterday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SWA Sports Ltd, while Aisha Shuaibu, Director, Founder and President of SWA Sports Ltd, signed on behalf of the consultancy firm. According to him, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in line with his administration's continuing efforts at enhancing and developing sports

initiatives across Kaduna State held at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House in Kaduna. "This strategic partnership is a great step towards bolstering sports infrastructure, fostering talent development, and promoting a culture of athleticism within our state". "Together with SWA Sports Ltd, we look forward to realizing our shared vision of a healthier, more active and peaceful community through sports, while also leveraging the revenue generation

opportunities a developed sports ecosystem will enable". Meanwhile, Governor Uba Sani hosted an interactive session with the Kaduna State APC Stakeholders from the 23 local governments. The interactive session was to ensure that Kaduna State citizens is carried along, held at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna. This is part of his citizens engagement agenda in ensuring that every citizen is

carried along in the process of moving Kaduna State forward. It would be recalled that Governor Uba Sani has previously hosted various townhall meetings and stakeholders engagement meetings amongst others which will be a continuous process. During the town hall meeting, he assured residents of inclusive in his administration through his Sustainable development agenda and protection of lives and property.



YSFON President Felicitates Muslims On Eid-El-Fitr

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

President of Youth Sports Federation of Nigeria (YSFON) Dr. Yusuf Nasiru Gawuna has facilitated Muslim faithful on this year's Eid-El-Fitr. In a statement he personally signed, the former Deputy Governor of Kano State, congratulated Nigerian Muslims for a successful 30 days fasting and wished them Allah's guidance and blessings. He also urged them to use this period of

the Salah as a sober reflection and continue to pray for the peace of the country.

"I want to say congratulations to all Muslims for a successful Ramadan and Eid-El-Fitr celebration and to urge them that as they celebrate a successful fasting period, they should continue praying for peace, progress and development of the country.

Gawuna who a fortnight ago sent similar

Easter message to Christians reminded Muslims that the Ramadan symbolizes new beginnings and spiritual rejuvenation after a month of purification, offering ample opportunities to sustain the positive habits cultivated during Ramadan. Just as he advised Nigerians to live harmoniously with one another.

Meanwhile Gawuna has charged all the teams participating in this year's 28th Chief of Naval Staff U-14 boys and

NAOWA U-18 girls football competitions presently going on in Enugu to play to the rules of the game and avoid acts capable of bringing the championship to disrepute.

He noted that the competition which will end on Saturday is one of the flag ships tournaments of the Federation and he's looking forward to a successful completion of this year's edition.



Federal Ministry Of Sports Development Commends Super Falcons 2024, Olympics Qualifications

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

The Federal Ministry of sports development, has hailed the Nigeria Super Falcons having qualified for Olympics Games, after a goalless draw with S' African Banyana Banyana

The Super Falcons of Nigeria qualified for the women's football event of the 2024 Olympics in Paris after a goalless draw with South Africa at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria on Tuesday night.

The Falcons taking a 1-0 lead from the first leg encounter in Abuja recently

maintained and avoided a defeat in the second leg securing qualification against their rivals. With this result, Nigeria broke the 16-year jinx of absence from the Olympics since 2008.

Honourable Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh has saluted the Super Falcons of Nigeria for qualifying for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris after edging South Africa over two legs.

The Minister commended the team for their bold, energetic, and dogged performance that earned them a goalless

draw in Pretoria and a 1-0 win over two legs following the win in Abuja last week. Enoh expressed immense pride in the Super Falcons' achievement, highlighting their performance worth, picking the ticket to Paris.

"Today, we salute the Super Falcons for their extraordinary display of tenacity and doggedness, breaking barriers and reclaiming Nigeria's spot on the Olympic stage. Their victory is not just a triumph for Nigerian football, but a testament to the power of dedication and teamwork. As

we look forward to Paris 2024, let us rally behind our champions and support them as they strive for greatness."

He appreciates the coaching staff, and all Nigerians for all their efforts stating it is a win for the country. He noted that all hands must be on deck, as they prepare to represent the nation with pride and determination at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Meanwhile, the Super Falcons are to Play in group C of the 2024, Olympics, games in Paris, alongside, Spain, Japan and Brazil, respectively.

Over 30 Teams Battle For Honour At 2nd Edition Kaduna Sallah Slam Beach Volleyball

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

As the second edition of Kaduna Sallah Slam, Beach Volleyball Competition serves off, over 30 male and female teams are participating.

A statement signed by the Media Rep, Okpani Jacob Onjewu

Dickson said that the competition, organised by the Kaduna State Beach Volleyball Association (KADSVB) championship dunked off on Wednesday at the Beach Courts of the prestigious Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS), Kaduna.

"Over thirty beach volleyball clubs are currently participating

in the three-day event "They are classified into four categories, male and female senior, and male and female junior," it said.

According to the statement, some of the clubs participating includes, Succeeders, Destiny, Dolphins, Green Light, Kaf Ambassadors and Diamond.

Others are Dynamite, JZ spikers, Boro, Police Machine, Stinging Bees, GG Spikers and Bayonet for the male category.

For the female junior teams, Destiny, Flourish, Dolphin, Diamond, Young Eagle, B Shakers, Gifted Hands, and others are participating.

The championship is solely

sponsored by Engr. Musa Nimrod, Chsian of KADSVB and supported by Enviplan International Limited and Musa/Rifkatu Foundation.

Succeeders of Sabon Tasha were the winners of first edition for the Senior Male Category.



Paris Olympics Ticket: SWAN Wants Early Preparation For Super Falcons

*Congratulates Sports Minister, NFF



By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has commended the Super Falcons for breaking a 16-year jinx to qualify for the football event of 2024 Olympics slated for Paris, France.

President of SWAN, Mr. Isaiah Benjamin, in a statement via the Association's Secretary-

General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, on Wednesday, reckoned that the resilient spirit of the Nigerian women saw them through against a toughened South African side. While looking at the task ahead of the Nigerian women team as a dominant force in Africa in the past decades, President Benjamin expressed optimism that the Super Falcons will make bold statement at the upcoming Games despite enormous

challenges facing them in the group they have been placed. However, he said the quality of preparation is key ahead of the global competition.

Nigeria are in group C and will face world champions Spain, Japan and Brazil at the Olympic Games.

"The Super Falcons are really making Nigeria proud and they have only demonstrated what they are known for as the dominant force in Africa.

"After missing out at the

Olympics since 2008 in Beijing, getting back wasn't going to be easy at all. So, I salute their courage which is unprecedented.

"Despite the tough group they found themselves in the upcoming Olympic Games, I believe they can make a good statement if given the right preparations ahead.

"Yes, they can build on what they achieved at the 2023 World Cup where they showed the world that they no

push overs at the global stage," he said.

The number Sports Writer in Nigeria also thumbs up Nigeria's Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, for once again showing leadership which propelled the women to go all the way.

The SWAN President then saluted the leadership of the Nigeria Football Federation for always creating the right ambience for the team.

**Paris Olympics Ticket:
SWAN Wants Early
Preparation For
Super Falcons**

*Congratulates Sports Minister, NFF

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Find Solace In Sallah Occasion, Marafan Yamman Zazzau Tasks Nigerians

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Nigerians have been charged to find solace in the hope that accompanies the auspicious occasion of Sallah celebration that marks the beginning of a journey towards unity, peace, and renewal.

Marafan Yamman Zazzau Alhaji Mustapha Adamu Ubaidullah gave the charge in an interview with newsmen in Zaria on the occasion of Sallah celebration.

He said, "we have to strive for harmony, discipline, and compassion, knowing that through perseverance and solidarity, brighter days await all of us as countrymen."

The traditional title holder hoped that this period will be a celebration of faith, unity, and gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us.

He advised Muslims to embark on this journey of reorientation for our better selves, unlocking our full potential and creating lives of meaning and fulfilment for ourselves and others.

According to him the journey of reorientation starts with self-awareness taking the time to reflect on our beliefs, values, and goals.

"We can identify areas where we may need to adjust and set clear intentions for the positive changes we wish to make".

Ubaidullah reminded Muslims that a journey of reorientation starts with self-awareness – taking the time to reflect on our beliefs, values, and goals.

The rewards of self-reorientation can be profound – greater fulfilment, improved relationships, and a sense of purpose and direction. he said.



Marafan Yamman Zazzau Alhaji Mustapha Adamu

Eid-el-Fitr: Show Selfless Sacrifice, Communal Love, Sunday Katung Enjoins Muslims

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Senator representing Kaduna South Senatorial Zone, Sunday Marshall Katung, has enjoined Muslims to show selfless sacrifice and communal love as exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim and his son, Ishmael to guide Nigerians, as they submit themselves to the Will of Allah for a better Nigeria.

In his Eid-el-Fitr message and lessons learnt during the Ramadan, he said, "Let me on this special day rejoice with our Muslim brethren in Kaduna South Senatorial District, Kaduna State and Nigeria as they join other faithful across the globe to celebrate this year's Eid-el-Fitr, marking the end of the successful completion of the Ramadan Fast."

According to him, "Ramadan is indeed, a month of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and devotion to Allah. It is considered the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, as it is believed that the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, (peace be on to him) during this month."



Sunday Marshall Katung

He urged all Nigerians to have a sober reflection on the State of the Nation, saying that as Nigerians mark this year's Sallah, he noted that though the challenges confronting the country look intimidating but expressed optimism that with unity of purpose, Nigerians will surmount them. He believes, "Therefore, selfless sacrifice and communal love as exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim

and his son, Ishmael, should guide us, as we submit ourselves to the Will of Allah." "Let us continue to practice the lesson of tolerance, perseverance, and love for our neighbours that we learned during the Ramadan. Let us also learn to always follow the path of dialogue in resolving our differences rather than advocating for violence," he prayed. According to him, "We must all understand that our strength as a people revolves around our diversity. Hence, we must do all that we can to ensure that we manage this diversity to build a strong, economically viable, politically stable and prosperous Nigeria. May I remind us that the essence of the celebration of Eid is about sacrifice, love, and hope for a peaceful coexistence in our dear Senatorial District, the State and the country in general." While wishing all a happy festival, he urged Nigerians to celebrate responsibly, in line with the general dictates of their faith and the spirit of the occasion.