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■ Govt demolishes Yoruba Nation Agitators house

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

As Oyo State Government has demolished the building where the Yoruba Nation Agitators led by Modupe Onitiri-Abiola are operating from in Ibadan, Yoruba World Congress Worldwide (YWC) has tasked the security agencies to fish out the sponsors of last Saturday's invasion of Oyo State Government secretariat in Ibadan by the agitators

New Nigerian gathered that the demolished building was located on Toye Oyesola Street in the Ibadan South West Local Government Area of the state.

YWC in a statement made available to journalists yesterday by its Secretary General, Engr Stephen Ajayi, declared that there is the need to arrest sponsors of the invasion to serve as a deterrent to others.

The Congress in the statement also disowned

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Akwa Ibom Court Orders Arrest Of Man Who Abandoned Wife, Child For Lover

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

A 40-year-old man, Mr. Itoro Monday Uko in Itak Ikot Udo, Ikot Ekpen Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has been accused of abandoning his wife and daughter for a side chick. His wife, Itoro Uko who is a teacher told High Court sitting in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital that she became aware of her husband's love affair with "side chicks" after the birth of her first child and that all efforts she made to get him changed proved abortive.

Narrating her ordeal in the hands of her husband before the presiding judge, Justice Ntong Ntong, Itoro, she said that the husband abandoned her and their two-year-old daughter in the village to live with his side chick in Ikot Ekpen town. After their marriage on January 18, 2020, according to her, she gave birth to her first child after which, she got pregnant for the second child, when her husband started to beat her resulting in her first miscarriage.

She also told the court that she got pregnant again for the third time and her husband continued assaulting her and was rushed to a hospital due to bleeding in May, 2022, where she spent three days during which her husband did not show up, if not for her siblings that footed her medical bills.

The mother of one said she had to travel to her village in Mkpato Enin for her mother to take care of her till she fully recovered and that throughout her stay, her husband did not call or visit.

On how she got to know that her husband was keeping multiple sex partners, she said, upon recovery on 4th July 2022, she went to her husband's family home in Itak Ikot Udo, where they were living to find out why her husband did not visit but to her surprise, the keys to their apartment were changed and she could not enter the house to pick her clothes and that of her child.

She said that having become known to her in-laws of persisting act of battery, they advised her to stay with her parents in Mkpato Enin to avoid being killed by her husband.

Meanwhile, Itoro, an applicant to the suit through her Counsel, Ekom Friday Inwang, Esq. in an application filed, urged the court to order the arrest and detention of the respondent for being in contempt of the order of the court made 6th April, 2023.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Ntong Ntong issued the order after hearing counsel to the applicant and mother of the child, Barrister Ekom Friday Inwang following the absence of the respondent and his counsel.

Justice Ntong granted the order and "commanded Akwa Ibom State Commissioner of Police and the Divisional Police Officer, Ikot Ekpen Division, their officers and men in the name of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State and the Inspector General of Police to cause the arrest and detention of Mr. Itoro Monday Uko and produce him in Court" and adjourned the case to Thursday April 25, 2024 for hearing.



Abdulazeez Ganduje, during his visit to the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission

Ganduje's Son Visits Kano Anti-corruption Chairman, Lauds Govt For Investigating Father

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Abdulazeez Ganduje, the eldest son of the suspended national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Abdullahi Ganduje, has paid a visit to the chairman of the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission, Muhyi Rimingado, at his office.

Mr. Abdulazeez visited Mr. Rimingado on Wednesday evening, to show his support for the

chairman's anti-corruption efforts.

He also expressed endorsement of the charges brought against his father, mother and brother by the commission.

Abdulazeez voiced his concern to the commission's chairman about his unjust removal as a director of one of the companies undergoing trial, expressing his distress over being ousted without his consent.

In September 2021, Abdulazeez lodged a petition with the

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against his mother, Hafsat Ganduje, accusing her of corruption. In the petition, he detailed how he was approached by a property developer to assist in acquiring land in Kano for a substantial sum of money.

It was revealed that Abdulazeez paid the specified amounts in US dollars to his mother, Mrs. Ganduje. However, the property developer later discovered that the land he had paid for had been allocated to other buyers

and requested a refund.

The Kano anti-corruption commission had previously taken legal action against Mr. Ganduje, his wife, Hafsat Umar, his son Umar Abdullahi Umar, and five others on charges related to corruption, misappropriation, and diversion of funds, amounting to billions of naira. Other individuals involved include Abubakar Bawuro, Jibrilla Muhammad, Lamash Properties Limited, Safari Textiles Limited, and Lasage General Limited.

INEC Closes Defence In SDP, Ajaka's Petition Against Gov Ododo's Election Victory

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), on Tuesday, closed its defence in the petition filed by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and its candidate, Murtala Ajaka against the election victory of Gov. Usman Ododo of Kogi state. INEC's counsel, Uchenna Njoku, made this known to the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in

Abuja shortly after he tendered more documents against the SDP's petition. Njoku told the three-member panel of justices, led by Justice Ado Birnin-Kudo, that INEC did not intend to call any witness having assessed the case of the petitioners.

"My lords, the 1st respondent, having reviewed the state of pleadings in this petition, the evidence elicited from petitioners' witnesses under cross examination, and the documents so far

tendered in evidence by the 1st respondent, considers it reasonable not to further belabour the tribunal with the calling of witnesses.

"In the circumstances, the 1st respondent (INEC) applies to close its case," the lawyer said.

Justice Birnin-Kudo, who declared the commission's case closed, adjourned the matter until April 16 for Gov. Ododo (2nd respondent) to open its defence.

It would be recalled that

INEC conducted the Kogi governorship election on Nov. 11, 2023.

However, the SDP and its governorship candidate in the poll are challenging the declaration of Ododo of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the winner of the poll.

In the petition, INEC, Ododo and APC are listed as 1st to 3rd respondents respectively.

Earlier in the course of Tuesday's proceedings,

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No Faction In Benue APC - NASS Caucus

*Insists Akume remains party leader in state

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Benue All Progressives Congress (APC) National Assembly Caucus has debunked the claims that there are two factions of the ruling party in Benue State.

This was expressed in a statement by Hon Philip Agbese, the joint spokesman of the NASS members and federal appointees from the State. Agbese said those making such insinuations are "desperate comedians who are struggling for Mr. Ibu's role in Nollywood."

He further said that it is only in Benue that some deluded characters who thrive in hero-worshipping individuals as demi-gods want to turn logic on its head.

The Federal lawmaker said the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, remains the leader of the party in Benue as far as the APC's doctrine and philosophy are concerned.

Agbese cited Borno, Ogun, Kebbi, and other states where Senator

Kashim Shettima, Chief Olusegun Osoba, and Atiku Bagudu are still recognised as leaders of the party.

"Even before Shettima became the Vice President of the country, he was regarded as the leader in Borno State," the Deputy Spokesman of the House of Reps added.

"What did he do for Zulum that Senator Akume didn't do to make Rev (Fr) Hyacinth Alia the Governor of our state?" the statement queried.

"We are true party men and doing things the unique way in line with the party's doctrine of command, and that's why members of the National Assembly Caucus are highly respected in our constituencies," the statement added.

"We have not told anyone in our domains that we are the leaders of the party. For example, how do I address myself as the leader of the party in my federal constituency with Senator Ameh Ebute, Chief Audu Ogbah, and Chief John Ochoga all from my place?"

Police Arrests 46 Cultists In Kwara

By BILIQISONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

A criminal conspiracy involving cult activities, has resulted in the arrest of 46 suspects in Kwara State.

It was gathered that on April 13, 2024, a disturbing incident unfolded in Ilorin as suspected cultists carried out a fatal shooting, resulting in the death of Adelodun Farouq, a resident of Eleran Compound.

A statement from the Kwara State Police Command informed that the victim was buried following Islamic customs before police intervention.

Initial investigations point to Abubakar Gobir, a member of the Aye confraternity, as a suspect.

Later that night, reports emerged of further cult-related violence in Ile-Alawo Compound, Center Igboro, where an unidentified group attacked Abdullahi Alao, a motorcycle rider, causing a severe head injury. Alao was subsequently taken away by his sibling, prompting a search led by detectives.

The following day, April 14, 2024, additional incidents of criminal conspiracy involving suspected cultists erupted in various areas, including Baboko, Ile Onimago, Adabata, and Eruda. Miscreants engaged in violent confrontations using weapons like broken bottles and stones, resulting in the blockade of Baboko Road.

The situation was swiftly addressed by the DPO C Division and six patrol teams, with support from community policing, leading to the apprehension of 46 suspects.

Out of the arrested individuals, 14 were connected to recent cult activities in Ilorin. Peace has been restored in the affected areas, roadblocks cleared, and residents can resume normal activities.

CP Victor Olaiya psc(+), the Commissioner of Police, urged citizens to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious behavior to the authorities.

Don't Desecrate Courts While Fighting Corruption, Anti-graft CSOs Caution EFCC, Others

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Anti-Corruption Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have advised the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) not to desecrate the courts in the course of carrying out its constitutional role of fighting corruption.

The CSOs and human rights crusaders cautioned the EFCC and other anti-graft agencies against trampling on the rights of supposed suspects of corruption in order to avoid breaking a law to enforce another law.

The activists, who spoke at an emergency press briefing in Lagos yesterday, noted specifically that the recent public face-off between the EFCC and a former Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello in Abuja, is "both unnecessary and unfortunate."

The Executive Chairman of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL), who addressed the press, suggested that the rush by the EFCC to make an arrest, when the Court of Appeal hearing on its application to vacate the restraining order was just in a few days, might give credence to allegations of political persecution.

"Mr. Olukoyede is my friend. But if he begins to trample on the rule of law, then that's the terminal point of our friendship," Adeniran said.

The CSOs noted that the EFCC's action on Wednesday was "tantamount to the agency preempting the outcome of its appeal and also violating a subsisting and valid court order to pause action pending the determination of the case before it."

"Our layman's understanding is that a Court of coordinate jurisdiction cannot assume superiority over another," they noted.

Gbenga Soloki of the Centre Against Injustice and Domestic Violence, who also spoke, said civil societies in Nigeria would protest vehemently against any attempt to use the military to arrest an individual who had not been accused of treason.

"It is extremely disappointing to hear this afternoon that EFCC is threatening to involve the military in their desperation to forcefully or violently arrest an individual who has not been alleged of treason. Should that happen, we will be a laughing stock globally. Civil society will be active in protesting against such unforgivable infraction on our democracy should it happen as threatened. It should better not happen," he said.

Adeniran stated, "We do not consider Yahaya Bello a saint, but even the devil deserves his rights under the law. Court documents at our disposal show that the former Governor had obtained a High Court

restraining order on the EFCC not to arrest or prosecute him pending the determination of a case of the enforcement of his fundamental human rights, which the Commission has rightfully appealed with the intention of vacating.

"The Commission has done very well up to this point following the due processes of law because without vacating that order, it cannot proceed with arresting the suspect.

"According to available court documents, hearing on the appeal has been slated to come up on Monday April 22nd in Abuja. However, suddenly yesterday (Wednesday) the news of the foiled arrest of the former Governor by the Commission went viral. One would have expected the Commission to wait for the determination of its own appeal before going after the suspect.

"We think it is an abuse of court processes to ignore a court order still on appeal at the instance of the Commission and to obtain a warrant of arrest from another court on the same suspect."

The CSOs urged the EFCC to fight, prevent and prosecute corruption cases strictly within the ambit of the law set up to regulate the interaction between them and corruption suspects.

They noted that laws, including the Nigerian criminal justice system regulations and court processes, were meant to

be obeyed non-selectively by both state and non-state actors.

The CSOs recalled that when the current Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, came on board last year, one of his promises was to operate strictly within the rule of law.

"For those who are likely to misinterpret this intervention as it is their regular trademark, this goes beyond Yahaya Bello. Injustice to anyone should not be allowed to stand because it may be your turn tomorrow," they noted.

The activists therefore urged the EFCC to revert to status quo antebellum pending the determination of its appeal and a vacation of the restraining order placed on it, saying "that is the way and dictate of the law."

The press conference was attended by Comrades Debo Adeniran, Executive Chairman, Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL); Sina Loremikan, (Campaign Against Impunity); Declan Ihekhaire, (Activists for Good Governance); Gbenga Soloki, CADOV; Ochiaga Ohaneze, (Ohaneze Youth Council); Funmi Jolade, (Women Democratic Vanguard); Kola Abe, (Centre for Socioeconomic Rights); Ologun Ayodeji, (Transparency and Accountability Group); Femi Lawson, (Centre for Public Accountability) and Gbenga Ganzallo (Media Rights Campaign), among others.



Kano APC Spokesperson Accuses Presidency Of Sabotaging Ganduje

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The spokesperson of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kano, Alhaji Ahmad Aruwa, has accused the Presidency for undermining and conspiring against the suspended acting National Chairman of the APC Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje. Mr. Aruwa articulated these claims in a short video he produced in Kano circulating on social media, where he blamed the some forces in the presidency that are pushing for the exit of the former Kano State Governor as the acting national chairman.

He asserted their awareness of individuals engaged in conspiracies to sabotage Mr. Ganduje's efforts, with the intention of fracturing his relationship with the President.

He warned of the potentials for a significant political upheaval if any APC members dared to oppose Ganduje in Nigeria as he is one of the pillars of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's success at the 2023 polls.

"We will confront anyone within the APC who dares to challenge Ganduje, regardless of their status or political influence."

Mr. Aruwa also criticized Tinubu for disregarding the support extended to him in Kano when others had rejected him.

He observed that no one in Kano, a state with largest voter turnout would support Tinubu's cause, as

Ganduje was the sole architect of his success in the state. Therefore, they will not tolerate any subversion at the Villa.

"I solemnly pledged that if anyone is to confront Ganduje within the APC, it would inevitably lead to a substantial political crisis which we are very ready to fight back."

"Irrespective of the individual's identity, we are acutely aware of the plotting and machinations orchestrated by certain APC members at the Villa.

"It was solely Ganduje who facilitated Tinubu's presence in Kano when there was a lack of support from others.

"Every resident of Kano is refraining from associating with Tinubu, as those within the APC who are acquainted with him are distancing themselves due to Buhari's influence."

Reliable sources from the Presidential villa who pleaded for anonymity, revealed that Ganduje's travails started when he was directed to galvanize the attention of Kano State Governor Abba Yusuf and his political godfather Rabiu Kwankwaso to abandon their political party (NNPP) and join the ruling APC.

It was reported that contrary to the terms of reference given to Mr. Ganduje, he arrived Kano and chaired a stakeholders meeting where he mocked Kwankwaso and Kano State Governor, a situation that stalled the negotiation process with Kwankwaso's team.

Arewa Youth Forum Knocks Matawalle Over Statement On Northern Elders Urges Tinubu To Sack Non Performing Appointees

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A frontline group, Arewa Youth Forum has slammed former Zamfara State Governor and current Nigeria's Minister of State for Defence, His Excellency, Alhaji Bello Mohammed Matawalle over comments credited to him against the Northern Elders Forum.

This was contained in a statement personally signed by Arewa Youth Forum President, Ahmed Mohammed Zagi, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Thursday April 18, 2024.

The statement reads: "We are deeply worried that a supposed minister from the



President Tinubu

North would be callous and insensitive to the extent of trading words with our revered elders, the Northern Elders Forum (NEF).

"This is not in our culture, especially we from the North to disrespect elders.

It is alien and must be discouraged. We are people with high esteem and regards for those who are older than us, hence, anything short, would not be tolerated," the group said.

Arewa Youth Forum said

that instead of the Minister to concentrate on how to end the insecurity ravaging the country mostly the North and particularly in his home State, he has taken a path that will further alienate the regime of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the Northern Region.

They therefore, urged him to retrace his steps and apologize to the Northern Elders, whom they described as patriots, committed to ensuring the welfare of their people.

Arewa Youth Forum however, commended President Tinubu for his zeal to ensure Nigerians fare better, while tasking him to purge out non performing appointees in his cabinet.

Fish Out, Arrest Sponsors Of Yoruba Nation Agitators Invasion Of Oyo Govt Secretariat - YWC

Govt demolishes Yoruba Nation Agitators house

the Yoruba Nation Agitators and their actions which it said could jeopardise the peace and order in Yoruba land, and in Nigeria as a whole.

"This is to formally inform the general public that the Yoruba World Congress Worldwide (YWC) dissociates herself from

any form of violence or any treasonable acts that could jeopardise the peace and order in Yoruba land, and in Nigeria as a whole", it said.

YWC added, "Following the invasion of the Oyo State secretariat on the 13th April 2024 by some individuals of Yoruba

Nation Agitators, to cause mayhem in Yoruba land and to cause confusion in Nigeria, we see their actions as barbaric and ill advised".

"The Yoruba World Congress Worldwide (YWC), UK, by this open letter, rejects and completely dissociates ourselves from the actions

of these individuals". According to YWC, this will "serve as a deterrent to others, we advise that the law enforcement agencies should fish out the sponsors of the criminal elements from their hideouts and bring them to book without delay".

Court Arraigns Man Over Alleged Rape Of 14-yr Old Housemaid In Enugu

*Grants him N2m bail

By: KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has arraigned one Mr. Onaike Obiora Charles at the Federal High Court sitting in Enugu presided over by Justice Folashade Ogunbanjo over alleged notorious defilement and rape of his 14 year old house help.

The suspect was arraigned on Wednesday for sexual exploitation of 14 year old Deborah in Charge: Federal Republic of Nigeria V. Nnaike Obiora Charles, Charge No. FHC/EN/CR/3/2024.

After the charge was read to the defendant, his lawyer, Gozie Iwuala Esq. moved his bail application, and

when the court asked for response of the Sam Offiah (Esq), the lawyer appearing for NAPTIP, he said he has no objection as the defendant has been on administrative bail granted him by the agency.

The court thereafter, granted bail to the defendant in the sum of N2 million Naira and two sureties in like sum.

According to the court, One of the sureties should be a land owner within jurisdiction, while the other should be a blood relation of the defendant and should provide evidence of payment of 3 years tax clearance.

The defendant is to be remanded at the Correctional Center Enugu, pending perfection of his bail conditions, and the Case was therefore adjourned to the 16th and 17th July 2024, for trial.

Our correspondent reports that the arraignment shows that this accused person who has been allegedly defiling and raping the underage victim since 2019, has been enjoying his freedom despite the gravity of the offense of rape.

Meanwhile, the false narration that he had earlier been remanded in prison came to be false yesterday during the arraignment.

It would be recalled that the victim who was a maid in the house of the Defendant since 2019, was consistently raped by the defendant in the past four, years, and the intervention of the state government to get justice for this victim of rape has become a mirage with the arraignment of the Defendant today for a lesser offense of sexual exploitation.



NEMA Distributes 1,750 Food Baskets Donated By KSrelief To Katsina Families

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Zubaida Umar has flagged off the distribution of relief items donated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRELIEF) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to 1,750 Katsina Families.

Represented by Dr. Ishaya Isa Chinoko, the flag off ceremony for distribution of relief items donated to Katsina State by KSRELIEF took place on April 16, 2024.

"I am extremely delighted to witness this very important occasion of the flag-off ceremony for the distribution of food assistance donated by our esteemed International Partner, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the enumerated most vulnerable persons in Katsina State.

"As we are aware, the current food insecurity driven by economic downturn has impacted a substantial segment of the population of Nigeria. In this regards, both the Federal and State Governments in addition to corporate organizations and public spirited individuals have made substantial interventions to support vulnerable citizens to safeguard their welfare and dignity during this challenging moment," she said.

She explained that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in line with its statutory mandate was directed by Mr. President to coordinate the intervention exercise.

"NEMA has already commenced the haulage of the food items from the designated Strategic Reserve Silos to all the local government areas of the country. Already, some states have commenced distribution of the items to beneficiaries.

"Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, you may recall that the Federal Government through NEMA has constantly supported the Katsina State

Government in providing relief to communities impacted by various forms of disasters and emergency situations," she said.

The NEMA DG said that It is on record that not long ago, NEMA has supported Katsina State with relief and recovery items in form of food and non-food items, and agricultural inputs to assist vulnerable populations and farmers that suffered losses during the 2022 devastating floods.

"The intervention was to enable them recover fast, return to normal life and contribute to national development. It is therefore in line with the vision to consolidate the partnership between Katsina State Government and NEMA that the State was selected to be part of the beneficiary states to the relief assistance from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre," she added.

She noted that the KSrelief Centre has over the years, proved to be a dependable partner to the Government of Nigeria and to NEMA in particularly.

"The humanitarian foot prints of KSrelief have impacted several disaster hotspots in Nigeria including the North East Region impacted by insurgency and the North Central States affected by landuse conflicts, communal crisis and banditry.

"KSrelief has provided tremendous support to the teeming Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in both camps and amongst host communities. Ksrelief is providing 5,606 food baskets to support Kano, Jigawa and Katsina States.

"Today, we are here to witness the flag off ceremony for the direct distribution of 1,750 food baskets donated by KSrelief to cater for 1,750 households selected from some communities in Katsina State," she informed.

NEMA DG assured that the food baskets will be handed over to the already enumerated individual household heads jointly enumerated by NEMA and the Katsina State Emergency Management



Agency (SEMA).

"Each household is expected to have 59.8 kilogrammes basket of food items consisting of 25kg of rice, 25kg of beans, 4kg of masa vita flour, 2litres of vegetable oil, 2kg of tomato paste, 0.8kg of seasoning cubes and 1kg of salt," she said.

According to her, the flag off ceremony and distribution for Kano State was held between the 26th and 30th March, 2024, while the Jigawa State distribution was held in Hadeija Local Government Area between the 30th March and 2nd April, 2024.

"I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the beneficiaries of this intervention and to implore them to make good use of the items to give succor to their families. I must warn that this items must not be seen being sold in the markets. "On behalf of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, I thank and appreciate His Majesty, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and custodian of the two Holy Mosques in Medina and Mecca as well as the Crown Prince and Prime

Minister, Mohammad Bin Salman and the KSrelief Centre for their support to Nigeria and particularly to Katsina State.

"I sincerely thank His Excellency, Mallam Dikko Umar Radda for always granting NEMA all the necessary support for the success of all its activities here in Katsina State. We also appreciate His Royal Highness, the Emir of Katsina, (Dr Abdulmumin Kabir Usman) for his direction and support.

"Today's event is once more another testimony to the strong partnership collaboration between NEMA and Katsina SEMA in service delivery to Nigerians in need of relief support," she said.

In his remarks at the flag off, Deputy Governor of Katsina State, Malam Faruk Lawal, commended the Saudi Kingdom for assisting the vulnerable people.

He said the state government has procured 80,000 bags of maize, which was sold at subsidized rates in all the political wards of the state.

Witch Hunting Ganduje Is Pure Handiwork Of Enemies - MSDG

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Movement For The Democratic Support And Good Governance (MSDG) has described the recent suspension of the APC national chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as created by his enemies just to paint him black.

Speaking to our correspondent in Kano, the group's national

president, Alhaji Dauda Mohammed Ali, said that MSDG would not fold its arms and see the destruction of leaders with developmental zeal to be embarrassed just for political benefits.

"We reiterate our determination to ensure that Nigeria's democracy is always benefiting the citizens of all categories and sections, therefore it is time for perpetrators to concentrate on

developmental projects instead of blackmailing opponents which is not real politics". He stressed.

Alhaji Dauda Mohammed Ali emphasized that whoever is taking advantage of his position to tarnish one's image and good record should know that he would also be intimidated and embarrassed by others no matter how his position is.

He therefore, warned those

who use their positions in painting others black.

Commenting about the Ganduje's contribution to better democracy since Nigeria returned to civil rule, MSDG stated that, "Ganduje's contribution is fully recognised by those who wish this nation well, and we have seen how he transformed Kano State under his two-term tenure as the governor of the

state".

MSDG advised politicians to stop intimidating opponents, rather concentrate on initiating developmental projects that would make livelihood more fruitful and sweeter than expectations and called on the APC stakeholders to ensure that there is no opposition that can facilitate intimidation among prominent leaders.

Defence Chief Underscores Strategic Importance Of Roads Infrastructure In Fight Against Banditry In Nigeria

*Applauds Works Minister, Umahi in returning Nigeria Road infrastructure to its glory

By: MKPUMA ENYINNA, Abakaliki

The Honourable Minister of Works, Engr. David Umahi has been assured of the full backing of the Nigerian military in his efforts towards realizing the lofty road infrastructure objectives of the Renewed Hope administration of President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

This assurance was conveyed by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Gwabin Musa, during a courtesy call to the Honourable Minister of Works, held at the Ministry's conference hall, Mabushi-Abuja on April 16, 2024.

Speaking during the courtesy call, the Defence Chief commended the glaring determination of the Honourable Minister of Works to return Nigeria's road infrastructure to the part of glory knowing the importance of road to the socio-economic transformation of the nation.

He placed on record the strategic importance of road to national security and its place in achieving successful military operations against acts of banditry.

He said, "We are following your activities on the internet, and we know you're almost everywhere. I want to commend you for the efforts you are putting in. We know how determined you are to ensure that our roads are back. We all know that without roads, there can be no peace. That's true for rural areas and urban areas. Roads are significant and very important to the growth of any nation.

"Despite all the challenges, we've seen how comments have been made, both professionally and unprofessionally, to your person, but you've been strong. I want to encourage you, sir, that the Armed Forces of Nigeria is solidly behind you. We will continue to provide every



necessary support that you require. We are just a phone call away. Whatever there is, that you would want us to do for you, be rest assured, we will be there, because we know the relevance and importance of having good roads in any society."

The Chief of Defence Staff also appealed to the Honourable Minister to take into consideration the need for interventions on the deplorable condition of some roads in the North East where bandits are taking advantage of the poor conditions of roads in the area to defy and relegate security operations.

He noted that the areas where the military were recording high casualties of both manpower and equipment, especially in

Maiduguri, were the areas the bandits use Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in their attacks knowing fully well the deplorable conditions of the roads in those areas.

He said, "So for us, roads are critical to our success in our operations. I want to appeal to you, whatever it is, whatever it takes, if we can fix most of these roads that we have, it will greatly assist us in carrying out our operations.

"Once we have good roads, the funny thing about North East, especially Borno State, will be resolutely tackled. Most of the distances are not that long."

In his response, the Honourable Minister of Works thanked the Defence Chief for the wonderful work the Armed Forces are

doing to rejig the security architecture and rid the nation of banditry. He particularly thanked Mr. President who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for the successes he has recorded in the fight against banditry in Nigeria.

He said that the military deserves the cooperation, support, and solidarity of all Nigerians in their efforts and sacrifices to secure the citizenry.

He decried the recent brutal killing of the military personnel in Okuama Delta State and thanked the military for their sense of maturity in the face of the needless provocation.

"Let me offer my deepest condolences to you for your personnel that were brutally murdered at Okuama in Delta

State while doing everything to ensure peace and security in the area. It's quite very unfortunate. Let me thank Mr. President for the maturity and thank the military led by you for the maturity.

"Those personnel who were killed are children of parents. They have children, and they have wives. Our hearts go out to you and their families, and we condemn that very terrible and barbaric act. We caution those who are making very unhealthy statements on the matter, as if the lives that were lost were the lives of animals"

The Honourable Minister assured the Defence Chief of the preparedness of the Ministry in addressing the concerns of the military on the conditions of roads, especially in the areas of their operations in the North East.

He said, "Let me appreciate your concerns over our roads, especially as it affects your programmes in North East. And let me assure you that when we get those routes and your major concerns, we are going to analyze them to know the ongoing projects among them, and then know why the projects are slow in their execution. It could be for the reason of funding. Everything has become a priority in our road sector development.

"We would like to analyze it and together we will take it to Mr. President, who has put the security of life and property ahead of any other thing." He further said, "I'm very sure that Mr. President, as usual, will give it the desired attention. It's not his will that any person will die for the reason of a bad road. So I'm reassured by the character and the content of Mr. President that something will be done. We have to get our designs and figures right, and together, we can do that."

INEC Closes Defence In SDP, Ajaka's Petition Against Gov Ododo's Election Victory

Njoku told the tribunal that INEC brought the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) devices used for the election as ordered by the court on Nov. 25, 2023.

Njoku also tendered three sets of documents, which included a letter, dated Feb. 22 forwarding the BVAS, a document containing the summary of the BVAS devices and another documents containing the BVAS' identification numbers.

When Njoku applied to tender the documents, Ibrahim Sanni Mohammed, SAN, who appeared for Ododo and Ayo Asala, SAN, who appeared for the APC, did not object to the admissibility of the exhibits.

Lawyer to SDP and Ajaka, Pius Akubo, SAN, objected on the grounds that it was only documents that were tendered without the actual exhibits.

Ruling, tribunal's Chairman, Justice

Birin-Kudu, admitted the documents as exhibits and marked them accordingly.

The BVAS tendered were in relation to seven LGAs, including Okehi, Ajaokuta, Basa, Ogori-Magongo, Lokoja, Adavi and Okene.

Meanwhile, Ododo indicated his readiness to open his defence on Wednesday.

His lawyer, Mohammed, disclosed this

upon being asked by the tribunal's chairman when the 2nd respondent was willing to open his defence.

Mohammed assured the tribunal that his client was ready to commence his defence on Wednesday.

It would be recalled that the electoral umpire had, on Monday, tendered some electoral documents used in the conduct of the poll in defence of its case.

Renewed Hope Initiative: First Lady Flags Off North East Women Farmers Empowerment In Borno

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

The First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Bola Tinubu' has flagged off North East Zone leg of her oet project, "Renewed Hope Initiative" in Maiduguri on Tuesday, the Agricultural Support Programme in fulfilment of her promise to continue to promote the womenfolk, particularly, farmers across the country. Represented by the wife of the Vice President, Hajiya Nana Kashim Shettima', she said the Renewed Hope Initiative's commitment to supporting women farmers nationwide aligns with the broader national agenda to strengthen the agricultural sector of the economy.

Sen. Oluremi said 20 women farmers from each of the six states of the North Eastern Zone, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno will be supported with N500,000, totalling N3 million.

She added that a draft of ten million Naira (N10,000,000) for each of the six states of the North East Zone which will be handed over to the first ladies of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States who are also state coordinators for onward disbursement to all beneficiaries in their respective states.

The first lady further said that Renewed Hope Initiative will be collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to empower potential farmers.

In this phase, 75% of the beneficiaries will be young female farmers while 25% will be for our young male farmers.

Mrs. Tinubu' also disclosed that Renewed Hope Initiative Social Investment Programme (RHI-SIP) will be empowering One Hundred (100) Persons with Disability Small Business Owners in Borno State, with the sum of One Hundred Thousand Naira (#100,000) each to recapitalize their existing businesses.

According to her, they will all be specially identified, trained and empowered. Also, the pre-identified eighty (80) women farmers in each State for our agricultural support programme will be carried along

"Today, we are flagging off the Renewed Hope Initiative Agricultural Support Programme for the North East Zone in fulfilment of our promise to continue to promote the womenfolk, particularly farmers across the Nation.

"Given the mood of today, we have decided to have a twin event. The Renewed Hope Initiative Social Investment Programme (RHI-SIP) will be empowering One Hundred (100) Persons with Disability

Small Business Owners in Borno State, with the sum of One Hundred Thousand Naira (#100,000) each to recapitalize their existing businesses.

"Today, we are supporting twenty (20) women farmers per State in the North East Zone with the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) each. These farmers are those in the agrarian sector, animal husbandry, poultry and fish farming.

"As we speak, this programme is holding simultaneously in three (3) other zones, namely: North Central - Plateau State; North West- Kebbi State, South West - Ogun State, while that of South South will be hosted at a later date.

"The administration of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR recognizes the pivotal role that agriculture plays in achieving sustainable development and ensuring food sufficiency.

"I want to implore our women farmers receiving support today, to seize this opportunity to expand their agricultural ventures, contribute to local and national food production, and serve as role models for others aspiring to join the agricultural sector.

"I am confident that this initiative will not only transform the lives of the individual beneficiaries, but also contribute to food sufficiency in the North East Zone. I urge all stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and non-governmental organizations, to work hand in hand to support local farmers to ensure food security in our communities and Nation at large.

"All pre-selected recipients of the grant will receive the funds today, through our RHI Coordinator for Borno State, Her Excellency, Dr. Falmata Babagana Zulum. Every Home A Garden Our "Every Home a Garden" competition for first time women farmers is still on.

"This programme is designed to encourage our women to grow a garden in their homes. It does not cost much to grow food at home.

This garden is to feed your families and share with your neighbours. The goal of this is to ensure food in every home, hence our slogan for this initiative is "#FoodOnEveryTable".

"I encourage you all to spread the word in your communities. The winner of this competition will go home with Twenty Million Naira (N20,000,000). Entries are to be submitted through the State First Ladies by October, 2024.

"The best garden in the State will be selected by the State First Lady and sent to



my Office, while the overall winner out of the thirty-seven (37) presented, representing all States of the Federation and the FCT will be announced in December, 2024.

"Young Farmers' Club. We will soon be launching the "Young Farmers' Club" in Public Schools across the nation. The motto of this club is "Growing the Food I Eat, Starts with me". The Club will be launched in State-owned Primary and Secondary Schools.

"This initiative is to encourage farming among our y young population. The first School to start the Club, either Primary or Secondary will have their members kitted with Branded Club T-Shirts and Trousers.

"The School with the best farm for each State would be identified, and prizes would be given to them, ranging from School renovations, equipping of School Science Laboratories, Provision of ICT equipment and upgrading of School Libraries, as their preference may be.

"I encourage all Public Schools to participate as soon as possible and identify students who are interested in joining the Club.

#One Nigeria/Unity fabric. As we are in Abeokuta, the home of rich fabrics and textile designs, I am happy to also inform you of our National Fabric Competition #ONE NIGERIA/unity fabric.

"This competition seeks to create a fabric that is indigenous, promotes peace and unifies us as Nigerians. The competition is open to all Nigerians within and outside the shores of the country within ages of 15 to 25.

"The winner of this competition will be given a cash prize of twenty-five million Naira (N25,000,000) to be channelled towards his/her education or business venture as the case may be. Call for entries has begun and submission of entries closes on the 30th of June, 2024.

"The Unity Fabric will be launched on the 1st of October, 2024. To the glory of God,

on March 28, 2024, I was made a Global and National Stop TB Champion by the Global Stop TB Partnership, Geneva, Switzerland. The First Ladies of the Thirty-Six (36) States of the Federation were also made Stop TB Champions of their respective States.

"Hence, Her Excellency, Dr. Falmata Babagana Zulum is the Stop TB Champion for Borno State. As Champions, our role is to spread awareness about Tuberculosis.

"I want to seize this opportunity to tell you all that tuberculosis is not a shameful thing. It is a disease that is preventable, treatable, and curable if detected early and treated properly.

"Therefore, we should be our brother's keeper, encourage people with prolonged coughing to go for testing and not stigmatize them. Let us also ensure that our children are immunised as, and when due. We will in earnest start a comprehensive advocacy campaign on Tuberculosis.

"While we are at this, would you believe that Nigeria has the highest number of HIV/AIDS infections in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially, Mother-to-Child Transmission? My Office will be starting an advocacy campaign on this very soon.

"I thank all our RHI State Coordinators, Your Excellencies, for your support and commitment at ensuring the goals and objectives of the Renewed Hope Initiative are achieved. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Governor of

Borno State, His Excellency, Prof., Babagana Zulum, CON and the First Lady, Her Excellency, Dr. Falmata Babagana Zulum for their warm reception and continued support.

"To all those involved in organizing and implementing the Renewed Hope Initiative Women Agricultural Support Programme nationwide, I thank you. Finally, I look forward to witnessing the impact of this intervention in the lives of our women farmers and the broader agricultural community across Nigeria," Oluremi said.



Hunger: A'Ibom Plans Big To Ensure Food Sufficiency

*Targets 600,000 households for free food

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Towards tacking hunger, especially among the poorest of the poor in Akwa Ibom State, Government is adopting a multi-pronged approach.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Offiong Offor, who disclosed this, said that the administration of Governor Umo Eno was embarking on massive food production through investments in agriculture. Speaking on Monday during a media interaction tagged, "ARISE Scorecard" with the theme, "Food Sufficiency and Security", Offor listed strategies adopted by government to feed the people.

With her at the briefing, was the Commissioner for Information, Mr Ini Ememobong, Commissioner of Economic Development, Emem Bob and the Chairman, Akwa Ibom Bulk Purchase Agency, Mr Dan Akpan.

She disclosed that seven local government areas in the state have provided lands to support food production.

"Government is funding agricultural cooperative societies, providing lands, fertilizers, improved seedlings, cassava stems, loans and grants and constructing rural roads all in a bid to increase food production.

"Food sustainability remains the priority of governor Umo Eno's administration. The first thing is that the Ministry of Agriculture merged with the Ministry of Rural Development which also has a component of cooperatives.

"He was deliberate in doing this because the cooperatives system is the system that is driving food productivity anywhere in the world.

"The state government has a database of farmers and is working with farmers associations such as the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Rice Farmers Association, Aquaculture Associations in the 31 local government areas of the state.

"The government is also working with market unions to supply staple foods at subsidized prices. It has provided cold rooms, fishing nets and boats to artisanal fishermen.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Economic Development, Mr. Emem Bob said that government was targeting about 600,000 households captured in its Social Register for its various interventions programmes aimed at ameliorating economic hardship in the state.

Emem said though the State's Social Register has increased to 2.3m people, government is reaching out to the vulnerable poor through 600,000 households captured in the social register.

"The social register is well-structured, it's structured in such a way that we have broken the villages, wards and local local governments, these make up the state social register. And the total number of people we have in the social register is 2.3m as individuals.

"When you talk about households we have about 600,000 households in the social register and that is what we have been using for various interventions in the state" Bob said.

He explained that process for selection into the social register is very clear and transparent, adding that social register has been

there for the past eight years but Governor Umo Eno, only ordered that it should be expanded to accommodate those who have fallen under the poverty line.

He said "How people are selected for the social register is very clear, it is a very transparent process in the sense that there is what we called Community Based Targeting. Don't forget that anything that involves the World Bank is very transparent; they are thorough. Community Based Targeting is what was used for social register and we have State Organizing Coordinating Units which work with the National Social Safety Nets Coordinator unit in Abuja, they work together and they have Staff across the local government. They go to villages, meet with village heads to pick these people"

Information Commissioner, Comrade Ini Ememobong had while setting the tone for the briefing expressed appreciation to governor Umo Eno for the various interventions programmes of government to address the current hardship in the state.

Probe Of Father: Kaduna Speaker Warns Bello el-Rufai from Threatening, Intimidating Assembly

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon Yusuf Liman has warned Bello el-Rufai, the son of the immediate past governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai from threatening and intimidating the House over the probe set up to investigate his father's eight years in office.

Hon Liman expressed worries that Bello sent insulting and subtle threat messages to him as the Rt. Hon Speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly via WhatsApp over the probe of his father.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen on Wednesday by the Media Aide to the Speaker, Malam Suraj Bamalli. The State House of Assembly had on Tuesday, established a committee to investigate financial dealings, loans, grants, and projects implementation from 2015-2023 in Kaduna State during the administration of Ex-governor el-Rufai.

The Speaker also noted that Bello el-Rufai allegedly took to Social Media with two tweets on X, insinuating a call to "fight" and disrespecting the entire members of Kaduna State House of Assembly.

Bello el-Rufai, is a member of the House of Representatives, representing Kaduna North Federal Constituency.

According to the statement, "Threats and intimidation from anyone, including federal lawmakers, will not deter the Kaduna State House of Assembly from its pursuit of justice and accountability. The Assembly remains resolute in its mandate to provide checks and balances and uphold the rule of law in Kaduna State.

"We urge the good people of Kaduna State to remain vigilant and steadfast in their support for transparency, accountability and the rule of law. The Kaduna State House of Assembly will continue to serve the best interests of the state and its citizens.

"In light of recent events, the Kaduna State House of Assembly wishes to address the erratic and unruly actions of Hon. Bello Elrufai, the member representing Kaduna North Federal Constituency.

"Shortly after the establishment of a committee to investigate financial dealings, loans, grants, and projects implementation from 2015-2023 in Kaduna State, Hon. Bello Elrufai took to social media with two tweets, now deleted, insinuating a call to "fight" and disrespecting the entire Legislative Arm of Government. Additionally, he sent insulting and subtle threat messages to the Rt. Hon Speaker of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Hon Yusuf Liman via WhatsApp.

"The screenshots of these tweets and messages have been widely circulated, causing concern among the citizens of Kaduna State. It is disheartening that a Federal Lawmaker, entrusted with representing the people, would resort to such behaviour, attempting to obstruct the lawful functions of the State Assembly.

"The Kaduna State House of Assembly wants to reassure the good people of Kaduna State that it remains steadfast in its commitment to serving without fear or favour. The members of the Assembly took an oath to uphold the integrity of their office and ensure due diligence in their duties, regardless of any attempts at intimidation or threats".

60th Anniversary: FCAH&PT Honours AgroInfoTech Africa, Founder, Okediji Ayooluwa With Awards On Agric Innovation

By: BAYOAKAMO Ibadan

The Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Moor Plantation Ibadan as part of events commemorating its 60th anniversary, has honoured AgroInfoTech Africa Group and its founder, Mr. Ayooluwa Okediji, with distinguished awards. At the events, "ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" and the "DISTINGUISHED INNOVATIVE AWARD" were presented to Mr. Okediji and AgroInfoTech Africa in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the field of agriculture, particularly in pioneering digital agriculture and agribusiness innovations.

Mr. Okediji has led AgroInfoTech Africa since 2006, consistently demonstrating an unwavering commitment to enhancing the agricultural landscape through technological advancements. His visionary leadership has transformed

traditional farming into a tech-driven, youth-led enterprise, integrating digital tools to propel agri-food businesses and projects forward and translating research into practical, climate-smart farming applications.

Under his stewardship, AgroInfoTech Africa through its triad of ventures has not only established Nigeria's first Digital Agribusiness Innovation Center and an agri-food business management consulting outfit, but has also successfully launched initiatives like FarmClusters, Farmsured and Farmtrove. These platforms have redefined agri-food cooperatives, finance, insurance, and pension schemes to farmers, thereby fostering resilience and empowering the agricultural community, offering zero-cost social protection mechanisms - all leveraging technology.

The awards underscore Mr. Okediji's trailblazing work in creating a sustainable and innovative

agricultural ecosystem. His strategic initiatives continue to empower a new generation of agripreneurs, with AgroInfoTech Africa's efforts significantly enhancing productivity and sustainability within the sector.

Mr. Okediji expressed profound gratitude for the recognition received both personally and on behalf of AgroInfoTech Africa, reiterating their commitment to continue spearheading transformative initiatives in the agricultural sector.

Through strategic collaborations and innovative technology, they aim to significantly enhance the agri-food landscape.

The agricultural community, as well as stakeholders from various sectors, extend their heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Okediji and AgroInfoTech Africa.

These accolades are a testament to their substantial contributions and enduring dedication to advancing agriculture in Nigeria.

Katsina State Governor, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda, joined other governors and the leadership of the National Assembly to pay Sallah Homage to President Tinubu in commemoration of Eid-el-Fitri. In Lagos.

Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS



Disregard For Rule Of Law: Yahaya Bello Media Office Raises Alarm, Asks President To Call EFCC To Order

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The media office of the immediate past Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, has urged President Bola Tinubu, to call the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to order.

The media office made this known in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The statement read, "About 9:30 am today, the 17th day of April 2024, persons who described themselves as officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arrived the Wuse Zone 4 Residence of His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Bello to effect his arrest.

"This is despite a subsisting Order of injunction granted on 9th February 2024 by the High Court of Justice, Lokoja Division in Suit No. HCL/68M/2024 between Alhaji Yahaya Bello v. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, restraining the Commission either by itself or its agents from harassing, arresting, detaining or prosecuting Alhaji Yahaya Bello, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive fundamental

rights enforcement action.

"The EFCC was duly served with that Order on 12th February 2024 and on 26th February 2024; the EFCC filed an Appeal (Appeal No. : CA/ABJ/CV/175/2024: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission v.

Alhaji Yahaya Bello) against the said Order to the Court of Appeal Abuja division. The Appeal was accompanied by a Motion for Stay of Execution of the Order of the High Court which the Court of Appeal adjourned for hearing till the 22nd day of April 2024.

"Furthermore, Judgment in the substantive case between Alhaji Yahaya Bello and the EFCC is to be delivered at 12 Noon today in Lokoja.

"Contrary to all of the above, the EFCC has now laid siege to the home of H.E Yahaya Bello seeking to arrest him in contravention of the extant orders!

"It is a surprise that an agency led by a lawyer could flagrantly disobey a subsisting court order by



taking actions contrary to the reliefs granted.

"We are aware of the total commitment of the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the rule of law and can say categorically that the leadership of the EFCC might have offered the agency on a platter of gold to desperate politicians to convert to their score settling tool without minding the effect on its integrity and the image of Nigeria as regards the rule of law.

"A situation where law enforcers disregard the rule of law is a definite recipe for anarchy, which will adversely affect every aspect of the nation's economy.

"Nigerians have perceived the desperation of the anti-graft agency to embarrass and harass the former

Governor by all means through spurious allegations, especially the latest one dating back to September 2015, way before he assumed office.

We are aware that there are clandestine moves to correct the error, but with even more questionable allegations, which would embarrass the Commission and Nigeria more than the initial one.

"It is unfortunate that an agency that is supposed to enforce the law is now the first culprit with respect to disobedience of court orders.

This is a big dent on the fight against corruption. He who comes to equity must come with clean hands.

"We call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to call the EFCC to order in the interest of legal sanity.

Katsina Governor Names Bawale New Head Of Service

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has approved the appointment of Alhaji Falalu Bawale as new Head of Civil Service of the State.

Alhaji Bawale took over from Alhaji Usman Isyaku who retired after attaining 35 years in service.

Until his new appointment, Alhaji Falalu Bawale was a Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Katsina State Head of Service.

Governor Dikko Radda in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed also approved the appointment of the former Head of Service, Alhaji Usman Isyaku as his Special Adviser on Public Sector Administration Reforms.

Governor Radda "congratulated the new Head of Service, Alhaji Falalu Bawale on his appointment and urged him to bring to bear his cognate experience in his

new assignment."

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda also thanked the outgoing Head of Service, Alhaji Usman Isyaku for his contributions and "wished him well in his new position."

Born on August 15, 1966 at Yar'adua Quarters in Katsina Metropolis, the new head of the Katsina state Civil Service, Alhaji Falalu Bawale was a 1990 Graduate of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria where he obtained a Bachelor of Education (Languages Art) Degree. Alhaji Falalu was later bagged a Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) from Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina in 2002.

He proceeded to Bayero University Kano (BUK) in 2005 and obtained a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Administration.

Alhaji Falalu Bawale is a widely traveled gentleman, who has attended several workshops, seminars and conferences across the globe.

Governor Uba Sani Appoints Ibrahim DG KADGIS

By: FUNMIADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, has appointed Engineer Bashir Garba Ibrahim as the Director General of Kaduna Geographic Information Service (KADGIS).

Engineer Ibrahim holds a Doctorate and Master's Degree in Engineering Management from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, in addition to a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the same institution. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the Special Adviser for Information and Communication Technology

According to a statement from the Chief Press Secretary To The Governor of Kaduna State, Muhammad Lawal Shehu on April 15, 2024, Engineer Ibrahim is an experienced educator, researcher, scholar, and engineering professional, having served Nigeria in various capacities that cut across several sectors in education, engineering, research, procurement, and public service.

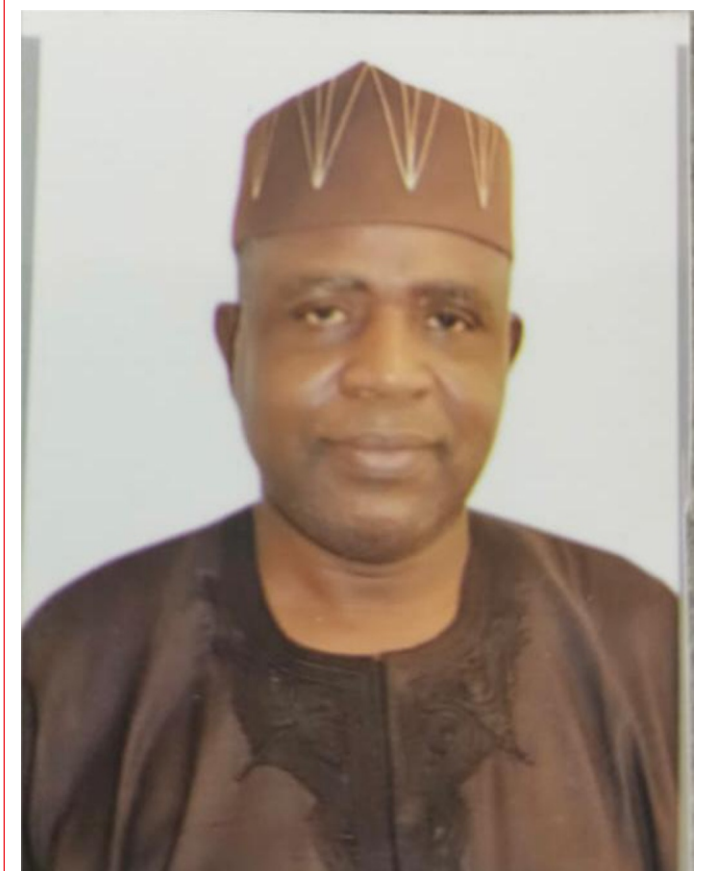
He has worked at reputable institutions such as the AirForce Institute of Technology (AFIT)

Kaduna and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Additionally, he has held various positions such as Managing Director-AFIT Consult Limited, Director-Centre for Defence Procurement, Logistic and Supply Chain Management, and Director-Public Procurement Research Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

At Ahmadu Bello University between 2016 and 2020, he served as secretary to several committees such as University Tenders Board, University Procurement Planning Committee, University Project Monitoring Committee, and University Payment Improvement Committee. At the Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna, he held positions such as Chairman Curriculum Development (BSc/PGD/MSc Procurement and Supply Chain Management) Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Coordinator Technical Drawing Courses (Mechanical Engineering Department), and Chairman Curriculum Review (BSc/PGD/MSc Automotive Engineering) Department of Automotive Engineering.

He was also the National Coordinator Committee for Directors of Works and Physical Planning of Nigerian Universities in 2014 and served as Chairman of the Committee for the Restructuring of Procurement Division and Project Management (NARICT) Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. The new DG is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply Chain Management (UK), Member, Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Member, International Association of Engineers Senior Professional Engineer (IAE), Member, Council for the Regulation of Engineer's (COREN), Fellow, African Society for Engineering Management and President (SEM), Member, International Industrial Accident Investigation Member (IIAI) AE, Fellow, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and Fellow, Nigeria Association of Evaluators.

Governor Uba Sani urged Engr Garba to remain diligent and apply his years of experience and dedication to excellence to move KADGIS forward.



Katsina State Head of Service, Alhaji Falalu Bawale

APC Chieftain, Lukman Faults NWC For Backing Ganduje Over Suspension

*Warns against disrespecting High Court order affirming suspension

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Former National Vice Chairman, North-West of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) Salihu Moh Lukman, has faulted position taken by the members of the party's National Working Committee (NWC) over the suspension of the party's National Chairman Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

There was an attempted suspension of Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, APC National Chairman, by his Ganduje Ward of Dawakin Tofa Local Government on Tuesday but was declared as nullity.

A High Court in Kano State on Wednesday, however affirmed the purported suspension of the APC National Chairman.

Reacting to the development through a statement, Lukman said both the party and Ganduje mismanaged the political opportunity. He also decried a video in circulation, which showed Dr. Ganduje addressing his supporters in Hausa, claiming that President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu affirmed that he (Dr. Ganduje) remains the National Chairman of APC.

He said: "Around the same time, while supporters of Dr. Ganduje were busy circulating the video, early on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, Justice Usman Mallam Na'aba of Kano High Court No. 4 Ordered Dr. Ganduje to stop parading himself as a member of APC.

"In a swift reaction, the APC NWC was reported to have dismissed the order of the High Court as a nullity. This is very scandalously disturbing



Lukman

as it portrays the APC NWC as a lawless body, which is disrespectful of Orders of our Courts.

"Any law-abiding citizen or body ought to recognise that any Order given by our Courts is binding until it is vacated. It is quite embarrassing that the APC Legal Adviser, Prof. Abdulkarim Kana would contemptuously claim that the Court order is not enforceable, as according to him 'it was obtained by fraud.' To the contrary, it is only the disposition to be fraudulent that would push both Dr. Ganduje and the APC NWC to disrespect a valid order issued by a competent Court of law."

The statement warned against disrespecting the order of the High Court.

"We must warn both Dr. Ganduje and the APC

NWC to refrain from any act of disrespect to our judiciary. At the same time Dr. Ganduje should stop dragging Mr. President into a matter that clearly borders on his weak ability to manage relationships at local levels. With due respect to Dr. Ganduje, unless he can do the needful by repairing all political challenges he has back in Kano State, including with Kano State Government, his ability to continue to superintend as National Chairman of APC will be weak and his ability to provide the needed inspirational leadership to the APC to guarantee winning elections will be a fantasy.

"Both Dr. Ganduje and the APC NWC, and indeed all leaders of APC must respect the current subsisting order of the

Kano High Court that Dr. Ganduje is not a member of APC, until the order is vacated. To the extent that the order subsist, Dr. Ganduje is legally banned from acting as National Chairman. At this rate, perhaps, the APC NWC, is also demonstrating high level of incompetence, which calls to question their legitimacy. A competent NWC should be considering convening meetings of higher organs of APC to manage this delicate legal reality.

"The reality is that, as it is, Dr. Ganduje is both a moral, political and legal burden. The big issue is whether the APC NWC has joined Dr. Ganduje to the extent that members, individually and collectively are equally moral, political and legal liabilities!"

Customs CG Adewale Leads Delegates To Benin Republic Counterpart To Strengthen Collaboration

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in an effort to strengthen the longstanding partnership with its counterpart in the Republic of Benin, a high-powered delegation led by the Comptroller-General of Customs (CGC), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi MFR, embarked on a crucial mission to meet with the Director-General of the Customs Administration of Benin Republic on Thursday April 11, 2024.

The primary focus of the meeting, as outlined by the CGC, according to the Service spokesperson, CSC Abdullahi Maiwada, was to deliberate on strategies aimed at amplifying trade activities between the two nations and ensuring the seamless implementation of recommendations previously discussed during their rendezvous in Cotonou.

Highlighting the significance of the collaboration, the CGC, Maiwada stated, "We are cognizant of the established framework for cooperation between our respective customs administrations. This framework was established at a higher level by the authorities of the heads of State, President Patrice Talon of Benin and His Excellency President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu of Nigeria, both expressing a desire to work together. It is upon this foundation that the customs of both countries are united in their efforts". Welcoming the delegation with open arms, Mrs Adidjatou Hassan Zanouvi, the Director-General of Benin Customs Administration, reiterated their steadfast commitment to executing the mutually agreed-upon measures, emphasising the importance of thorough monitoring to ensure effective implementation.

The collaborative endeavours between the Nigeria Customs Service and the Benin Republic Customs Administration, according to her, serve as a testament to their shared commitment to facilitating seamless trade operations and ensuring the efficient management of cross-border activities for the mutual benefit of both nations.

"In the meantime, during the visit, the CGC seized the opportunity to inspect ongoing projects within the Nigeria Customs Service, Seme Area Command. Accompanied by the Customs Area Controller, Comptroller Timi Bomodi, the CGC meticulously assessed the progress of the projects and received assurances of diligent oversight from the responsible authorities", Maiwada



The deliberation during the visit

Hardship: Tinubu Approves Release Of 42,000 Metric Tonnes Of Assorted Food - NEMA

*Distributes 1,750 food baskets donated by KSrelief to Katsina families

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON
 Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Zubaida Umar has said that His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR has approved the release of 42,000 metric tonnes of assorted food commodities from the Strategic Grains Reserve of the Federal Government for distribution in all the 774 local governments of Nigeria to support vulnerable populations as identified by the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Represented by Dr. Ishaya Isa Chinoko, she disclosed this, during the flag off ceremony for distribution of relief items donated to Katsina State by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRELIEF) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on APRIL 16, 2024. According to her, the directive by President Tinubu in response to the dire situation.

"I am extremely delighted to witness this very important occasion of the flag-off ceremony for the distribution of food assistance donated by our esteemed International Partner, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the enumerated most vulnerable persons in Katsina State. "As we are aware, the current food insecurity driven by economic downturn has impacted a substantial segment of the population of Nigeria. In this regards, both the Federal and State Governments in addition to corporate organizations and public spirited individuals have made substantial interventions to support vulnerable citizens to safeguard their welfare and dignity during this challenging moment," she said. She explained that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in line with its statutory mandate was directed by Mr. President to

coordinate the intervention exercise. "NEMA has already commenced the haulage of the food items from the designated Strategic Reserve Silos to all the local government areas of the country. Already, some states have commenced distribution of the items to beneficiaries. "Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, you may recall that the Federal Government through NEMA has constantly supported the Katsina State Government in providing relief to communities impacted by various forms of disasters and emergency situations," she said. The NEMA DG said that It is on record that not long ago, NEMA has supported Katsina State with relief and recovery items in form of food and non-food items, and agricultural inputs to assist vulnerable populations and farmers that suffered losses during the 2022 devastating floods. "The intervention was to enable them recover fast, return to normal life and

contribute to national development. It is therefore in line with the vision to consolidate the partnership between Katsina State Government and NEMA that the State was selected to be part of the beneficiary states to the relief assistance from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre," she added. She noted that the KSrelief Centre has over the years, proved to be a dependable partner to the Government of Nigeria and to NEMA in particularly. "The humanitarian foot prints of KSrelief have impacted several disaster hotspots in Nigeria including the North East Region impacted by insurgency and the North Central States affected by landuse conflicts, communal crisis and banditry. "KSrelief has provided tremendous support to the teeming Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in both camps and amongst host communities. Ksrelief is providing 5,606 food baskets to support Kano , Jigawa and Katsina States.



Hardship: Tinubu Approves Release Of 42,000 Metric Tonnes Of Assorted Food - NEMA

*Distributes 1,750 food baskets donated by KSrelief to Katsina families

"Today, we are here to witness the flag off ceremony for the direct distribution of 1,750 food baskets donated by KSrelief to cater for 1,750 households selected from some communities in Katsina State," she informed.

NEMA DG assured that the food baskets will be handed over to the already enumerated individual household heads jointly enumerated by NEMA and the Katsina State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

"Each household is expected to have 59.8 kilogrammes basket of food items consisting of 25kg of rice, 25kg of beans, 4kg of masa vita flour, 2litres of vegetable

oil, 2kg of tomato paste, 0.8kg of seasoning cubes and 1kg of salt," she said.

According to her, the flag off ceremony and distribution for Kano State was held between the 26th and 30th March, 2024, while the Jigawa State distribution was held in Hadejia Local Government Area between the 30th March and 2nd April, 2024.

"I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the beneficiaries of this intervention and to implore them to make good use of the items to give succor to their families. I must warn that this items must not be seen being sold in the markets. "On behalf of His Excellency, President

Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, I thank and appreciate His Majesty, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and custodian of the two Holy Mosques in Medina and Mecca as well as the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammad Bin Salman and the KSrelief Centre for their support to Nigeria and particularly to Katsina State.

"I sincerely thank His Excellency, Mallam Dikko Umar Radda for always granting NEMA all the necessary support for the success of all its activities here in Katsina State. We also appreciate His Royal Highness, the Emir of Katsina, (Dr Abdulmumin Kabir Usman) for his

direction and support.

"Today's event is once more another testimony to the strong partnership collaboration between NEMA and Katsina SEMA in service delivery to Nigerians in need of relief support," she said.

In his remarks at the flag off, Deputy Governor of Katsina State, Malam Faruk Lawal, commended the Saudi Kingdom for assisting the vulnerable people.

He said the state government has procured 80,000 bags of maize, which was sold at subsidized rates in all the political wards of the state.



Buhari Estate Residents Kick Over Installation Of Telcom Mast, Set For Legal Battle

By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The residents of Muhammadu Buhari Police Estate, along Badagry Expressway, Lagos State have protested the installation of telecommunication mast in the estate, just as they threatened a legal battle if not reversed.

They claimed that the manager of the estate, which belongs to Nigeria Police Cooperative, Remax Realtors has failed to obtain the requisite approval from the appropriate authorities before embarking on the installation.

The residents also alleged that the manager of the estate did not consider the health hazard of such mast in a residential estate.

They expressed dissatisfaction in a petition addressed to the Assistant Inspector General of Police/Executive Secretary, Nigeria Police Cooperative multi-purpose Society Limited, Ikeja, Lagos, AIG Oyediran Adesoye and Relax Realtors, dated March 25, 2024 titled, "Notice of Legal Action Due To Unlawful Erection of Telecommunication Mast In Muhammed Buhari, Estate Mowo, Badagry Lagos."

It stated in part that "Failure to comply with these demands will compel our clients to seek legal recourse, including but not limited to seeking an injunction from the appropriate court to halt all construction activities until legal compliance is achieved."

However, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Remax Realtors Mrs Funke Adesoji described the claims as unfounded, saying all the necessary approval have been obtained, before the consent by the Police authority for the installation.

In a telephone chat with our correspondent, she said, "The operator that wanted to install the mast approached us, and they brought all their approval and records."

"As I speak to you, the police cooperative has approved for the mast to be erected. If they(residents) have any problem, they should visit the Police."

"What is the purpose of a mast, its relevant and how does it affect the health before we jump into conclusion? The residents of the estate are going to benefit mostly from the mast. It is not affecting their health by any means."

"The residents think I have



collected hundreds of millions of Naira. Some people have been living in that estate for eight years and I wanted to ask how much are they paying for maintenance of infrastructure, or security? For the Police officers in the estate, Remax Realtors is paying them on a monthly basis.

"If I have the means to develop the estate and improve the lives of the people, will I not take it; I am a businesswoman. How much is the operator paying per year?."

"If I wanted to have any consideration on the location of the mast, it will be with the Nigerian Police Cooperative."

"Every resident have their own allocation of land and anything outside your space does not belong to you. Where the mast is located right now is not on anybody's house or entrance."

"The operator is paying N1.5 million per year and we intend to use the money to fence the place."

The Assistant Inspector General of Police/Executive Secretary, Nigeria Police Cooperative multi-purpose Society Limited, Ikeja, Lagos AIG Oyediran Adesoye, in a signed letter dated March 25, 2024 and titled, "Re-request for approval for the installation of mast at Muhammed Buhari Estate, Mowo, Badagry, approved the mast installation."

Also speaking in a telephone chat the Police Public Relations Officer Nigeria Police Cooperative Multi-purpose Society Limited, SP Hauwa Idris Adamu confirmed the

receipt of the petition by the AIG, saying he is working on it.

"Yes, we have received the petition and the AIG is working on it", the Police Cooperative Multi-purpose Society simply said.

According to the petition, the residents are protesting against the non-compliance with the provisions of the section 10 (1), 11 (3) of the NCC guidelines for the installation of telecommunication masts and Towers 2009,

It stated that Remax Realtors, in contravention of established laws and regulations, has failed to comply with essential legal requirements, including but not limited to failure to obtain: BTS Permit, Aviation Height Clearance Permit (AHC), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Compliance, Local Government Stacking Permit and Nigeria Communications Commission License.

It stressed that the NCC Guidelines for the installation of Telecommunications Masts and Towers 2009 clearly states that: "Any person erecting a telecommunication mast or towers whose height exceeds 20 meters shall be required to obtain a permit from the commission before such mast or tower is erected."

The petition reads: "The provisions of Section 11(3) of the aforementioned guidelines enunciates further: "It shall not be lawful for a person to engage in the business of installation of telecommunication mast and towers without a valid license

issued by the commission."

"Furthermore, despite numerous attempts to engage Remax Realtors and bring them to a reasonable resolution, all efforts have fallen on deaf ears. Remax Realtors have failed to involve the Community Development Association (CDA) of Muhammed Buhari Estate, Mowo, Badagry, Lagos State, indicating a disregard for the local community and established protocols that has brought the community to its present state of development."

"The aforementioned violations do not only showcase Remax Realtors' lack of respect for legal procedures but also raise serious concerns about the health and well-being of the residents residing in close proximity to the mast within Muhammadu Buhari Estate, Mowo, Badagry, Lagos State."

"The construction of telecommunication infrastructure without proper permits and clearances can lead to electromagnetic radiation exposure, which has been associated with various health risks like cancer amidst others. "On behalf of our client, we urge the Nigeria Police under your esteemed leadership, to take immediate and decisive action in addressing this matter."

"We request a thorough investigation into Remax Realtors' actions, enforcement of applicable laws and regulations, and the suspension of mast construction until all necessary permits, clearances, and environmental assessments are obtained and deemed

compliant by relevant authorities."

"Furthermore, we implore your office to collaborate with relevant agencies such as the National Communications Commission (NCC), the Community Development Association (CDA) of Muhammadu Buhari Estate, Mowo, Badagry, Lagos State, and the local government to ensure full compliance and adherence to legal and environmental standards."

"We trust in the diligent efforts of the Nigeria Police to uphold justice, protect the rights of the community, and safeguard our environment and health from potential hazards arising from unlawful activities."

However, the Lagos State Government through the State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA), among others, in a document sighted by our correspondent granted an approval for the construction of the mast.

In the approval titled "Permit No: LASIMRA/V-METER N5400334/ official Permit, dated 1st February 2024, signed by one Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oladeji on behalf of the GM/CEO, listed the Mohammed Buhari Estate among other sites granted approval."

While alleviating the fear of the residents on the health hazard, the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) in its Health Report, titled "Health Implication of Mounting Telecommunication Mast Close To Buildings" asserted that BTS radiation scare is a myth and not reality.

Arewa Group Cautions EFCC To Thread Softly Over Yahaya Bello

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Worried by the current situation of unconfirmed allegations of corruption against the immediate past Governor of Kogi State Yahaya Bello, Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF) has called on the anti graft agency, Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to thread with caution.

The forum in a statement signed by its President General, Alhaji Yerima Shettima, averred that the fact that the case is already in court awaiting determination, the anti graft agency should not take the laws into its hands, making all efforts to tarnish the image of the ex governor, despite not being convicted of any offence.

"We are worried on whose authority or interest the anti graft agency is carrying out their actions despite the disclosure by the Kogi State government that no money is missing," the statement said.

It described the invasion of the former governor's Abuja residence by the operatives as contrary to a subsisting court order granted February 9, 2024 by the Kogi State High Court of Justice, Lokoja Division, in Suit No. HCL/68M/2024 between Alhaji Yahaya Bello Vs. EFCC, restraining the Commission either by itself or its agents from harassing, arresting, detaining or prosecuting him, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive fundamental rights enforcement action.

"Despite a subsisting order of injunction granted on 9th February 2024 by the High Court of Justice, Lokoja Division in Suit No. HCL/68M/2024 between Alhaji Yahaya Bello v. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, restraining the Commission either by itself or its agents from harassing, arresting, detaining or prosecuting

Alhaji Yahaya Bello, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive fundamental rights enforcement action.

"The EFCC was duly served with that Order on 12th February 2024 and on 26th February 2024; the EFCC filed an Appeal (Appeal No.: CA/ABJ/CV/175/2024: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission v. Alhaji Yahaya Bello) against the said Order to the Court of Appeal Abuja division. The Appeal was accompanied by a Motion for Stay of Execution of the Order of the High Court which the Court of Appeal adjourned for hearing till the 22nd day of April 2024.

"It is unfair that Contrary to all of the above, the EFCC decided to lay siege to the home of them former Governor seeking to arrest him in contravention of the extant orders!

"We perceive the desperation of the anti-graft agency to embarrass and harass the former Governor by all means through spurious allegations, especially the latest one dating back to September 2015, way before he assumed office.

"We are aware that there are clandestine moves to correct the error, but with even more questionable allegations, which would embarrass the Commission and Nigeria more than the initial one.

"It is unfortunate that an agency that is supposed to enforce the law is now the first culprit with respect to disobedience of court orders. This is a big dent on the fight against corruption. He who comes to equity must come with clean hands.

"We call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to call the EFCC to order in the interest of legal sanity because we are not in banana Republic where anything goes," it said.

AYCF therefore, called on the EFCC to ensure that the fundamental right of the ex Governor is respected to the later, we are watching with keen interest.

Printer Flees Abroad Over Threat To Life By Cultists

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Consequent upon incessant threat to his life by members of a cult group, a Lagos based printer has fled the country to seek refuge in Canada.

It was gathered that the threat to assassinate him by the cultists ensued as a result of his refusal to integrate into their group and also carry out an assigned role of assassinating a young man perceived to be member of a rival group.

Identified as Babalola Wasiu Olanrewaju, aged 21 years, a devoted Muslim, a school certificate holder, he was said to have strongly believed that the only option available to him was to flee the country in order to avoid being assassinated by the notorious cult boys.

According to a close source, Olanrewaju who resided with his parents in Ikorodu area of Lagos, has since been living in fear after he had an encounter with one Mr. Ajala Yusuf, who stylishly lured him to join the cult group through a rewarding printing job.

The source, who quoted Olanrewaju to have confided in him about his experience in the hands of the dreaded cultists stated thus, "The bitter experience started sometimes in 2022 around October when I was still learning Printing and Art design, on that faithful day a guy saw me when I was going to deliver some job to a customer for her son birthday celebration, after I had delivered the job one Mr. Ajala Yusuf called me to ask whether am the one who did the printing job why I answered him affirmatively he told me he has a work for me on that day we agreed on price and he made advance payment of 50,000.00 for the work.

"I was so happy because am planning my graduation and I knew I have made extra cash for myself. When I got to the office I kept it within myself and am to deliver the job by December 3rd for a friend birthday

according to hm.

"When I brought the job for delivery he paid his balance and gave extra cash because I did not disappointed him and he invited me to the party while I promised him that I will surely come without my parent knowledge. On that 3rd of December I told my mum that my boss asked me to come to his place for some assistance that I may not return on that day. When I got to the party all I saw on that day were young boys and girls all on the same black cloths and I met some old school mate because am a bisexual in nature I get along with them in that party.

"When I entered the hall the leader of the gang asked who I am and my invitee spoke in a language that is strange to me that was when he apologized to me that he forgot to tell me that there is a dress code for the party and he wished I stay. I said no problem he immediately brought a black jean and a t-shirt that had been customized with their logo inside a bag in his hand. I have no choice since am with them already and is already late, and all I knew was a cup of wine was given to me only to find myself in a dark room not knowing that I have been initiated into their family."

Olanrewaju was quoted to have also said that he was disturbed at several occasions with calls to attend meetings and warned that he will be killed if his parents were informed.

"For a start, it was so wonderful and I was happy because they send me money and gave me printing jobs whenever they have birthday ceremony. At first I thought I had made it not until late 2023, sometime I will be at work the members will called and asked me to meet them and I have no option than to go to wherever they are going because they are threatening to kill me if I inform my



Olanrewaju

parents about all that am going on. Whenever they are out for their illegal act, either fighting other groups using cutlasses bottles and charms from different places, I will have to go along with them without the knowledge of my both parents until I graduated on the 7th of January 2023.

"On one faithful day I was in the house thinking about how to get out of the ugly situation, when my dad came in and he said we are proceeding on a journey I was so happy because I find peace whenever am out of the country reason being that I have been given an assignment to attack one Mr. Akinwale in Campus Square Lagos Island which I had refused. So in view of that series of threat messages which I have deleted after reading those messages because of my parents specifically my dad."

He was quoted to have added that "On the 5th of December 2023, unknown to me that the guys have been after me coming to our house almost every day, when we returned from the journey, I was shocked when my younger brother told me that some group of boys came looking for me and I quickly called him into the closet and asked whether he has told my mum about those who came looking for me and he said no. I told him they are my friends that he shouldn't

tell my mum and dad about it. From the moment my brother told me about the boys, I began to look for a way to get myself out of the country, and that made me remained indoor complaining of bad weather.

"Surprisingly I received a call from one of the boys who said I cannot hide from them, how they got my number is what I cannot explain. When their calls became constant with a threat that if I refuse to carry out the assignment I will pay dearly with my life then the thought of going into hiding came up.

"On the 24th day of December 2023 when I was coming from an errand, while I disguise for the group not to recognize me, I was shocked when my phone rang with a message that we are behind you but will know you are coming from Lagos disguised in a cloth, thinking you are smart this will be the last chance for you to carry out your assignment or consider yourself dead."

"That was when I made up my mind that there is need for me to look for where I can get a protection for my life because what they are asking me to do is against my wish, from that moment I knew that Nigeria wasn't a safe place for me anymore. I couldn't report to the police because they claimed to be highly connected."

Oborewori Pledges Friendly Environment For Investors

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori on Tuesday, said his administration would continue to actively promote and sustain a business-friendly environment that would significantly attract potential investors to the state.

Governor Oborewori, who disclosed this while inaugurating the Asaba Branch of Signature Bank, said his administration was continually seeking ways to enhance the ease of doing business in the state in order to attract more investors.

He said: "This administration is very pro-business and it is continually seeking the ways to enhance the ease of doing business in the state in order to attract more investors."

"One of the ways we have achieved this is through enhancing peace and security which is the fourth pillar of our MORE Agenda.

"We are constantly working with the relevant security agencies to sustain the tempo of peace that we currently enjoy in the state.

"This is to ensure that people can go about their lawful businesses without fear or hindrance. Many people come into Delta

State on a daily basis.

"So, I want to assure you that, as you have come to open this branch here and proposing another one in Warri, the bank will enjoy the government's support".

While expressing delight at the official commissioning of the bank in Asaba, the Governor said the State Government was more than happy to welcome the additional bank to the rapidly expanding banking sector in the state. He pointed out that Asaba had witnessed the influx of old and new generation banks in the last five years or thereabout because of the city's growing reputation as a peaceful centre for trade, commerce, entertainment and hospitality.

"Also, with its transformation into a modern city, Asaba is a strong pool for young professionals and entrepreneurs, hence the prospects for commercial banking are huge.

"Since the founding of the Signature Bank in 2022, it has steadily built a reputation for customised banking services, creating solutions to customers' need and deploying cutting edge technology and a strong culture of excellence in professionalism.

"I have no doubt that its presence in Asaba will



enliven the banking sector in the state and lead to healthier competition, which is good for customers," the Governor added.

Governor Oborewori said he was excited by the prospect of employment opportunities that the bank would bring to Deltans because, according to him, job creation was one of the four pillars of the MORE Agenda of his administration.

He affirmed that the coming of Signature Bank would also boost the retail economy in the state, even as he assured the board, management and staff of the bank that they would find Delta State a sustainably conducive place for doing business.

Earlier, the acting Managing Director of the bank, Mr. Godwin Nosike, said the establishment of a branch in Asaba was a testament to the bank's belief in the opportunities and friendly business environment that the state provides, adding that they were in the process of setting up another branch in Warri.

"We have experienced the friendship and cordial reception of the state right from the time we commenced the construction of the branch. We are immensely grateful for this.

"It is also our belief that we will continue to enjoy this hands of friendship as we set out to do business in the state," Nosike said.

Protesters Accuse Alia Of Not Doing Enough To Halt Bandits Attacks

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Indigenes of Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State on Tuesday blocked the Makurdi-Naka road in Benue State, protesting the killing of 14 people by suspected Fulani herdsmen on Sunday night.

The attacks which were carried out on Sunday between the 9pm and 10pm when most of the villagers were asleep.

Earlier, In a condolence message by the Gyarawa Forum, GAF, signed by its Secretary, Mbapuun Fabian, the attack at Tser Kperiyisa, claimed the lives of 10 persons identified as Atayugh Aondona(M), Atayugh Monday(M) and Atayugh Friday(M).

Others include Atibee Kperiyisa(M), Atibee Catherine(C), Anande Tete(M), Atsaga Ayange(M), Atsaga John Yeye(M), Oraduen Aondoso(M) and Ordem Msuega(M).

In another community known as Tse-Adaa, the attackers killed two persons, Msanhe Orgbo(M) and Ayageor Ankina(M), while Gor Kyor(M) and Ormba Gbem(M) were killed at Tse-Shiver, all within Sengev ward of Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

GAF also disclosed that, two of the victims were picked alive but later died on arriving the hospital in Naka, Gwer West LGA.

During Tuesday protest, the protesters carried several placards with different inscriptions, calling on the Federal and State Government to protect the people against armed herdsmen.

One of the protesters, a former local government chairman of Gwer West, Hon. Francis Ayagah called on the federal government to ensure the safety of his people.

He disclosed that the renewed insecurity in the area was as a result of the

failure of the Governor Hyacinth Alia administration to enforce the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law of Benue State, thereby allowing herdsmen to move freely with their cows and arms, which are used to attack the people.

Another protester, Mr Titus Numzua who hails from Seghev/yegev council ward where all three attacks occurred disclosed that the influx of herdsmen in the area has complicated the security situation of many communities in Gwer West.

He also called on the federal government to ensure the safety of the people and particularly called on Governor Alia to provide logistical support to security agencies, the Benue State Livestock Guards and the Community Volunteer Guards to complement to ensure peace returns to Gwer West.

In a related development, the Senator representing Benue North West Senatorial District, Dr. Titus Zam, while sympathizing with the victims condemned the coordinated attacks on some of his constituents which led to the death of many people, including women, children and the elderly.

In a statement signed by his Personal Assistant on Media Terungwa Nunde says, Zam prayed to God to continue to protect his people and called on Governor Alia to come to the aid of his people.

Also, the member representing Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency, Arc. Dr. Asema Achado, has condemned the gruesome murder of his constituents, and called on the Benue State Government to enforce the law prohibiting open grazing and also ensure the perpetrators of the dastardly act are brought to book.

District Head Of Lame Commends Bauchi Govt

By; ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi

The District Head of Lame Sarkin Yakin Bauchi, Alhaji Aliyu Yakubu Lame, has expressed gratitude to the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Muhammed for the award of several ongoing developmental projects in his domain, Lame District in Toro Local Government Area, as well as other parts of the state.

The District Head expressed this during an interview with journalists recently at his palace, saying that people in Lame District in particular are enjoying 90% of development in the area of

ongoing roads construction.

He said they are overwhelmed by the construction of road from Magama Gumau - Rishi up to Rahama a border town with Kaduna State and ongoing road construction of gigantic road that were ignored by previous administrations, from Gerjule up to Lame town and another road to Tama town, apart from hospitals and schools built in the area.

The traditional ruler expressed gratitude to the governor for upgrading and rebuilding the palaces of the emirs and district heads and his various interventions through the

distribution of palliatives, support to the poor and the needy which eased the sufferings of the people during Ramadan fast and Sallah celebrations.

He extended gratitude and appreciation to philanthropists like Alhaji Bala Wunti, former Bauchi State Governor, Ahmadu Mu'azu, Senator Shehu Buba and other well meaning citizens that supported the people during Ramadan fast and Sallah celebrations and prayed to Allah to reward them abundantly.

Alhaji Aliyu further commended the governor for playing a role that is critical to rapid growth of the state, adding that he

deserves a huge praise for focusing on the development of the 20 local government areas of the state.

He called on the people in the area to always embrace peace, saying that no community or country could develop in the atmosphere of rancor and acrimony, and advised every Nigerian to at all times, deem it fit to contribute his or her quota towards the progress of the community and the nation. He urged the youth to desist from drug abuse, crime and criminality and embrace good morals and be responsible for their actions, so that they will become the leaders of the country tomorrow.

Rise In Costs Of Cooking Fuel, Electricity Spells Doom For Trees In Nigeria

By: BUHARI HABIBU

The Nigeria Bureau for Statistics (NBS) has said that the average price of cooking gas increases on a year-on-year basis by 34% and electricity tariff has witnessed an outrageous increase with a 100% rise affecting all customers in 2020 and a recent increase of 340% that affected some (Band A) customers.

With such upward review, the attention is mainly on the worsened cost of living crisis, but the impact on the environment is often unnoticed. Every government policy that could have a negative impact on the environment must be cautiously designed to have minimal or no effect on the survival of trees.

Trees have direct and indirect effects on health, nutrition, food security and water availability. One attitude of man that affects his social and scientific consciousness is the cutting down of trees. It is funny and ridiculous when a man rests under the shade of a tree after cutting down another tree. Irrespective of educational status, humans often play ignorant with the benefits and protective roles of trees.

The protective roles are only acknowledged when the trees are no more. Trees strengthen the soil, reduce the tides of water to prevent flooding and diminish the strength of wind to protect the roofs of our houses. Unplanned replacements of trees with artificial structures for social benefits exposes humans and the environment to disasters, and man may have to leave the environment for erosion and flood or live an evidently compromised life.

Almost every person in the world has heard of climate change. The palaver of climate change has advanced from projection of possible effects to horrifying confrontational incidences touching every living creature. Recently, the ambient temperature in Nigeria has shown progressive increase, resulting in heat waves. During heat waves, trees provide the most conducive natural environment for humans and animals in most parts of Africa. The importance of trees in reducing the negative impacts of climate change is beyond the well-known mitigation role in the provision of shade.

Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases that causes climate change by making the world hotter. The job of removing carbon dioxide from the air is best performed by trees. Trees currently absorb about a third of the carbon dioxide emitted due to human related activities; this helps to markedly reduce the environmental temperature of the world. Expressing it in a different way, planting more trees could reduce the temperature of our environment, while cutting down trees could result to a progressive rise in environmental temperature. Trees store a large chunk of the world's carbon, as carbon constitutes about 50% of the composition of the tree. Burning any of its parts would emit carbon into the air in the form of carbon dioxide. This would



further heat up the world. Conversely, planting trees removes the carbon dioxide in the air, storing it in all parts of the tree as the tree is growing and also sinking some of the carbon into the soil. Actually, significant amounts of the carbon in the air today were originally in the trees, but were released when the trees were cut and burnt, so planting trees helps to return these carbon molecules to where they originally belong. This will help to markedly reverse the high environmental temperature that is reducing the goodness in our lives. This process is called a natural climate solution.

Currently, governments and non-for-profit organisations around the world are putting in immense efforts to plant trees and return the carbon to where it originally belongs. This unusually high amount of carbon in the air is reducing the crop yield, making food more expensive and increasing the incidence of some diseases, causing loss of lives and increasing economic losses due to the high cost of purchasing drugs. Collectively, deforestation and global warming would affect the availability of water, and this explains the crisis of water scarcity, especially in Northern Nigeria. Cutting down of trees affects the processes involved in rain formation, including formation of water vapour and cloud, leading to reduced rain and increased water scarcity.

Many Nigerians across social and educational statuses use parts of trees as cooking fuel in the form of firewood or charcoal. Some use charcoal to iron clothes, as room heater during harmattan or to burn incense to provide fragrance. The main alternative sources of heat for these crucial domestic activities is the use of cooking gas or electricity. As the prices of cooking gas and electricity increase, the ratio of Nigerians using these sources of

heat shift in favour of burning of trees, leading to an increase in the number of affected trees and a resultant increase in global warming. Although both the use of cooking gas or generation of electricity from gas plants may lead to the production of gases that could cause global warming, the negative impact of burning of trees poses a greater danger to the environment. Burning of trees is a double-edged sword against the environment in favour of global warming, where the first edge is the loss of the main remover of carbon dioxide from the air and the other is the addition of carbon dioxide to the air through burning. In 2018, the Director-General, Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Dr Muhtari Aminu-Kano, said Nigeria has lost 96 % of its forest due to deforestation, in another way, only 4 % of the Nigerian forest is left. In Nigeria, the annual rate of deforestation is 3.5% and approximately 350,000-400,000 hectares is cleared of trees per year. In some communities not a single tree can be seen across a distance of more than two kilometers. But during the peak of the hot seasons or heat waves, members of the community crowd around the few available trees to get the best refreshment; as other artificial open shades cannot give the excellent refreshment trees are endowed with.

There is the need to urgently stop this barbaric act of tree cutting and burning. This massive loss of trees is synonymous to suffocating the Nigerian citizen, even while the respiratory tract is perfectly functional. We may progressively inhale low-quality air that is deprived of the desired amount of oxygen. In one year, a mature tree could absorb more than 22kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. Through a process called photosynthesis, leaves pull in carbon dioxide and water, and use

the energy of the sun to convert them to sugars which are stored in the fruits we eat. But as a by-product of this process, oxygen is produced and released by the tree. It has been proposed that one large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people.

Increase in the prices of cooking gas and electricity makes firewood and charcoal more expensive and thus, increasing the monetary value of trees. This makes the cutting down of trees more lucrative and tempting. People cut down trees planted by their forefathers, who they have never seen or even heard of without replanting any. Many land owners now cut their trees and sell the wood to survive economic challenges. Some now see trees as assets or 'standing banks'. Successive governments have attempted massive tree planting projects, but have had ample challenges that caused serious setbacks. Currently, deforestation is progressively surpassing afforestation and the most critical means of stopping this ugly trend is to reduce the price or prevent a rise in the price of cooking gas/fuel and electricity. There is a strong link between the price of cooking gas and electricity on one hand and the heat waves we are experiencing and quality of life we live. Any government policy that will increase the costs of cooking gas/fuel and electricity should also have components that will protect trees and encourage afforestation. When the costs of cooking gas and electricity are to be increased at any time, policy makers must remember we have only 4% of our forest left. We are not blind and deaf, let us not be trampled upon by elephant.

Dr. Habibu, a lecturer with Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State can be reached via; buharihabibu@rocketmail.com

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ADVERT RATE

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

TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT

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

TECHNICAL DATA

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

LOOSE INSERTS

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

SPACE	RATE	VAT	TOTAL
FULL W RAPA ROUND	6,750,000.00	506,250.00	7,256,250.00
HALF W RAPA ROUND	4,500,000.00	337,500.00	4,837,500.00
PA GE 2 O R 3	400,000.00	30,000.00	430,000.00
PA GE 4 O R 5	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
B A C K PA GE S T R I P	250,000.00	18,750.00	268,750.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	837,500.00	62,812.50	900,312.50
D O U B L E S P R E A D (C O L O U R)	700,000.00	52,500.00	752,500.00
C E N T R E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	575,000.00	43,125.00	618,125.00
D O U B L E S P R E A D (B L A C K & W H I T E)	590,000.00	44,250.00	634,250.00
FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R)	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

PROPERTY AND IT, VACANCY, AGRIC, AND EVENTS/EDUCATION RATE

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

Zulum To Resettle Borno Community, Harness Agricultural Potentials

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum yesterday, disclosed that his administration would ensure that the displaced people from Koshebe are resettled soon. Koshebe is a community in Mafa Local Government which was displaced by Boko Haram insurgents over two years ago. Zulum said that resettling the people back to Koshebe would pave the way to harness vast agricultural land for food sufficiency.

"This place has vast agricultural land, thousands of hectares. So the main objective of my visit is to ensure resettlement of communities around this area, especially Koshebe, Amaramatti, Ngudda, among other places," Zulum said.

The governor also stated, "While we are resettling them, we would support them to cultivate their farmlands. This place was providing farming opportunities to thousands of people, not just those from Maiduguri or Borno, but people from far places like Sokoto, Kano among others." Governor Zulum stated that Borno State Government would partner with the federal government to cultivate the vast farmlands around Koshebe and adjoining communities.

Zulum said his administration would work with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to support farmers with the necessary implements to achieve President Tinubu's food security initiative.

"Mr President has released some funds to the federal ministry of agriculture to support farmers, and we have received some agricultural inputs; the state government would complement the federal government's efforts and ensure that people return to their farmlands," Zulum said.

Zulum also inspected a road project being executed by the North East Development Commission (NEDC), linking Koshebe, Ngowom to Maiduguri.

Governor Zulum expressed gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, noting that when completed, the road project will boost agricultural activities and provide access for farmers to convey their farm products.



Sanwo-Olu, Fashola, Others Chart New Course For Youth At Lagos Leadership Summit

By; **RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos**

The first Lagos Leadership Summit, held on Wednesday, ignited new passion and zeal towards charting a new course of action for the country's future. The event, organised by Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA), presented an opportunity for inclusive interaction between old and new generations.

Debates, speeches and panels delved into topics that challenged the mental, emotional and physical preparation of the youth to take up leadership roles. Discussants evaluated how young people currently in leadership positions had inspired impactful changes.

The event, with the theme: "Leadership and Nigeria's Future", held at Konga Place in Lekki, was graced by a large physical and virtual audience, indicating the interest of the youth in the conversation.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu shared his personal leadership engagement story with the participants, recalling how, at 37, he was appointed into Lagos State cabinet as Special Adviser with only private sector experience.

The Governor said his appointment into public service offered him the opportunity to learn multidimensional leadership and build problem-solving capacity, which, he added, prepared him for bigger tasks in the course of his public career.

Sanwo-Olu said the summit was initiated with the objective to create an engaging platform for young people to channel their energy, knowledge and creativity to actions that would project their leadership skills.

He said: "We believe young people are leaders not only for

tomorrow, but today. This idea gave birth to Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy through which we provide opportunities for young leaders to learn, innovate and develop skills that will enable them hone their leadership skills.

"For us, it is not about the contemporary challenges that we face; it is about the innovative ideas and solutions that we will bring about in solving the problems. That is why we all gather here to make you think out of the box, innovate and unleash your leadership potential.

"The quality of output from the Academy has not only shown us that we took the right step, the feedback has been outstanding and we are prepared to create more platforms for robust youth engagement. The country is banking its future on the youth. Character is critical; young people must have the competence and vision to make the changes you want to see."

Former Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, during a discussion titled: "Ethical Leadership and its Impact on Nation Building", lent his voice to the notion that young people must go through the rudimentary process of leadership before being entrusted with responsibilities.

The former Lagos Governor also said the notion that "the end justifies the means" could no longer be a standard practice in governance, stressing that the leader must do the right thing even if the consequence won't go down well with the population.

He said: "Days of the end justifies the means can no longer be the gold standard for governance any more. The process must be as important as the result. I subscribe to enjoyment after adversity because I have had introspection on every sustainable success

story we have had, not one of them had not been built on the foundation of adversity.

"Therefore, if the utilitarian value of any policy, project or programme being pursued by the government serves the greatest good to the greatest number of people, then the leadership must go for it regardless of the consequences. In years to come, many people would look back and say it was better that we did it the way it was done."

The Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, shared perspectives on "Leadership and Community Engagement: Strengthening the social Fabric of Nigeria" during a session

moderated by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Legal Matters and Public Private Partnership (PPP), Mrs. Bukola Odoe.

Dr. Hamzat noted that foundation for building a consensus in the community had been jettisoned for individualism.

This, the Deputy Governor said, had made parenting significantly deviated from its essential purposes.

He said: "The older generation inherited a robust community engagement model that pursued the agenda of the collective. Today, the foundation for engagement is weak and people have moved towards individualism, which has eroded the values of collectivism entrenched in our culture and civilisation.

"In trying to bridge the gap and create robust community



Gov Sanwo-Olu

engagement, technologies have given us the speed and instantaneous power to drive change within our communities today. We must continue to aggregate what is positive and use it for the best of our communities."

Minister for Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, urged the participants to go with the trend of technological advancement, noting that the future leadership would be influenced by the Industrial Revolution that would be taking place in the era.

LJLA Executive Secretary, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, said the summit aimed to forge connections between the old and new generation, while understanding that the idea of leadership is beyond rhetoric.

"Our world is evolving at an unprecedented pace and the

challenges we face require leaders who are not only capable but compassionate, visionary and adaptable. We believe leadership must transcend rhetoric and manifest tangible outcomes. We need leaders who inspire confidence, foster unity, and drive transformation," she said.

Other speakers at the event included the Minister of State for Youth, Ayodele Olawande, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Citizenship and Leadership, Rinsola Abiola, Lagos Commissioner for Science and Technology, Olatunbosun Alake, Commissioner for Agriculture, Abisola Olusanya, Economic Adviser to Katsina State Governor, Khalil Nur Khalil and Founding Partner of Venture Platform, Kola Aina, among others.

Tomme Tippee Reopens In Nigeria

By; **BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja**

Renowned baby care brand, Tomme Tippee is set to return to its prime position in the baby care industry in Nigeria by resuming its operations.

The official announcement of the company's return to Nigeria coincides with the grand opening of Nigeria's premier baby-care emporium, One Stop Baby Shop at the Wuse area of Abuja.

The return of Tomme Tippee to the Nigerian market is through a new distribution partnership of the global brand with Alami UK and One Stop Baby Shop, Nigeria.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, the CEO of One Stop Baby



Shop, Mrs Omolara Shaibu said, "the event promises to bring industry leaders in the baby care industry in convergence, while also offering freebies worth over five million Naira (N5,000,000) to expecting mothers, nursing mothers and fathers.

"To benefit from freebies at the event mothers are required to give answers to questions on the Tomme Tippee social media link and submit with just a click.

Prospective winners are also expected to tag mothers-to-be and encourage a minimum of 3 of them to follow the Instagram handles of @one_stop_baby_shop and @tommeetippeenigeria," she added.

Such prospective winners will be eligible to win products worth up to N250,000 of over 500 items to be won.

Final winners are to be declared at the midnight of 26 April.

According to Mrs Shaibu, "the grand opening of the One Stop Baby Shop Mall, at House 11, Port Novo Street, off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2 will take place on April 27 and it promises to be breathtaking as an exclusive baby shower extravaganza, open to all expecting mothers, new mothers and fathers is one of the events lined up for the day, while the entire mall will be marked down with discounts up to 50% off."

At ABU's 2024 Sponsio Academica, 71 MBBS Students Take Oath Of Practice

***Aisha Muhammad wins Vice-Chancellor's prize for 'Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student'**



By: SANIALIYU, Zaria
The highpoint of yesterday's 2024 Sponsio Academica of 71 MBBS students of Ahmadu Bello University was the administering of the Physician's Hippocratic Oath on the new qualified medical doctors by the Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Dr. Fatima Kyari. This was contained in a statement from the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, dated Thursday, April 18, 2024. The Physician Pledge serves as a foundational ethical code for medical professionals; and it is based on the ancient Hippocratic principles that emphasize on duties, such as patient confidentiality, beneficence, and non-maleficence.

Another significant thing at the occasion was a lecture organised by the College of Medical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University in preparation for the students' exist, which they would ultimately find useful in navigating the multi-disciplinary team nature of healthcare. The lecture, entitled "Conflict Resolution in Healthcare: Building Bridges for Better Patient Care", was delivered by Prof. Abdullahi Alkali Abba, who is the Provost, College of Medicine, Kaduna State University. Equally, the former Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Lokoja and a one-time Chief Medical Director of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Prof. Abdulmumini Hassan Rafindadi, gave words of advice as a 'Medical Elder' at the

occasion. A number of prizes were presented to academically outstanding graduating MBBS students for 2024 in pre-clinical and clinical courses, with Aisha Muhammad winning the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for 'Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student'. This is beside the other prizes she won as the 'Best' in courses such as Anatomy, Medicine, Medical Microbiology, Paediatrics, as well as Anatomy and Surgery. She also won the NMA Kaduna State Prize for 'Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student'. Speaking at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, congratulated the students on attaining the medical feat and urged them to strictly obey the rules and regulations of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and all other laws for the

control of medical and dental professions in Nigeria. The Vice-Chancellor also expressed appreciation to the College of Medical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for the successful organisation of the 2024 MBBS students oath-taking event. Earlier in his address of welcome, the Provost of the College of Medical Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Mohammed Sani Shehu, congratulated the graduating students, parents, friends and well-wishers on the successful completion of the medical studies. Prof. Shehu explained that the event marked a significant milestone in their journey towards becoming compassionate healers, dedicated caregivers and future leaders in the field of medicine. While wishing all of them a successful and rewarding career

in medicine, the Provost also urged the graduating students to read the code of medical ethics and professional conduct, as well as to always reflect on the content of the oath throughout their medical practice. He expressed the College's immense appreciation for the invaluable contributions of the University Management, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, and all other individuals and organisations for making the occasion a huge success. The event took place at the 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre, Ahmadu Bello University, Samaru Main Campus, Zaria on Wednesday, 17th April, 2024; and it was well attended by several guests, including parents, guardians, friends, and other well-wishers.



Lawrence James Ekele: Football Coach With A Difference

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

One coach who has made a mark in his career in Nigeria as a football coach, is Benue born Coach Lawrence James Ekele.

He has done just not himself proud, but his state of origin and country.

Kick starting off his career at the prestigious National Institute for Sports (NIS) in Lagos Nigeria far back in 2011, he has gathered experience and recorded successes at several engagements since then.

Same 2011, he served Aspire Africa Football Dream as coordinator, before joining Heartland FC Owerri in 2012. Based on his track records, he was engaged by Zamfara United FC Gusau in 2013, where he spent a year, before joining DSS FC Kaduna Nigeria in 2015.

Perhaps, DSS FC had a strong hold on him, as he spent five years with the team, before quitting in 2020.

While with DSS FC, he secured the first ever trophy for Nigeria from the World U-19 DANA Cup in Denmark. Coach Lawrence James Ekele based on that feat, is still being sought by several teams in Europe and Asia.

As the Head Coach of Kaduna based Dynamic Sporting Solutions (DSS) Football Club, he trounced top football countries to reach the final of the DANA cup in 2016, where they went ahead to beat highly rated United States of America.

That victory though painful for the Germans, but endeared the coach of the winning country, Nigeria to them and several teams from that country have since been after him to append his signature on a contract that would see him inspire their teams to victory.

That this stroke of success came about just five years after he left the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Lagos, shows that besides what he learnt there, he actually had some in built coaching talent bottled up inside of him.

The Idoma-born coach, shortly after his course at NIS was recruited as an intern in Heartland of Owerri in 2012. He joined the services of Zamfara United in 2013 and was there for a season as an assistant coach, before he moved to DSS as Head Coach in 2015.

It would be recalled that in an exclusive chat after the DANA Cup victory, he told our reporter that winning the DANA Cup didn't come without challenges.

He explained that on arrival in Denmark, they barely rested before being handed down their match schedules.

"As soon as we stepped into Denmark, we were given the matches fixture and we thrashed Germany 6-0 in our first match. Most times we didn't rest at all, even playing two matches in a day," he said. He further explained that as Africa's only representatives at the competition, they did not just get an easy sail, but slugged it out in a qualifiers



held in Togo, where they finished tops.

Coach Ekele praised President of DSS FC, Chief Sunday Adeleye for single handedly bankrolling all their trips right from the qualifiers to securing travel visas and tickets to Denmark.

His career continued at

Futures of Africa International Academy Kaduna Nigeria in 2021, while his most recent stint was at Kebbi State Team

Academy, from 2022 to 2023, which is being reviewed by the current administration in the state.



How ID Burster Brutally Knocked Out Ghana's Bastie Samir In 2nd Round To Win UBO Belt

By: AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

Idowu "ID Burster" Rasheed who made his first international debut on Saturday, April 13, did an unimaginable by brutally destroying a more experienced Ghanaian, Bastie Samir in the second round to win the vacant Universal Boxing Organization (UBO) African Light-Heavyweight title belt at Kawukudi Park Nima, in Accra, Ghana.

Bastie Samir, who has a staggering Boxrec record of 20 wins one draw and one loss with 18 knockouts, got knocked down three times from the explosive jabs, hook blows and uppercut punches of ID Burster and was rushed to the clinic for immediate medical attention.

A mild drama ensued after the bout, when the Ghanaian's referees and umpires that officiated the fight were attempting to rob the Nigerian boxer of his obvious victory while announcing the result, surprisingly declaring the bout as technical.

It took the intervention of the Secretary General of the Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBBofC), Remi Aboderin that called the attention of the President of Universal Boxing Organization with enough video evidence before the UBO via their official media handle overturned the results initially announced by Ghanaian officials and declared ID Burster winner.

The President of NBBofC Dr, Rafiu Ladipo while receiving the boxer of Aiyegbeni Boxing Club in Ibadan back to Nigeria on Monday, described his achievement as a commendable one and a true Nigerian warrior who conquered his enemy right in his domain.

Meanwhile, Dr Ladipo however, explained that he will come to Ibadan to decorate the boxer with his title belt immediately the UBO African Light-Heavyweight title belt is sent to Nigeria by the promoter while congratulating the Chairman of Oyo State NBBofC, Hon. Gbenga Opaleye and the financier of the Aiyegbeni Boxing Club, Edna Aiyegbeni, daughter of the late famous Nigerian Boxing Promoter, Chief Francis Aiyegbeni.



Oyo Agog As Oyomesi FC Set For Unveiling

By ; AYO OJEDOKUN, Lagos

A football club established by Barrister Wakil Oyeleru Oyedemi, Oyomesi FC to represent Oyo axis in the professional cadre of Nigerian football will be officially unveiled on Saturday April 20, 2024 at Durbar Stadium Oyo. Players, coaching crew, kits, management crew and the supporters club for Oyomesi FC will be unveiled to the public according to a statement issued by the General Manager of the Club, Alh. Babatunde Saheed and made available to

the sporting press.

"We are not leaving any stone unturned in ensuring that we have a good outing when officially presenting the team to the public as the formation of this football club marks a historic moment for the people of Oyo town, ending years of anticipation for their very own football team," said the GM that also popularly known as Role Model.

"We have carefully picked good players and a result oriented technical crew that formed Oyomesi FC, a football team that will be

representing Oyo Alaafin town, just as we have 3SC from Ibadan and Crown FC of Ogbomoso. And this has also provided job opportunities for many of our youths," Babatunde Saheed, also known as Mr. Sports, added.

He stressed further that the Oyomesi FC will commence its Nationwide League campaign on Sunday against the Ogbomoso United with a view to earn a qualification to higher football league cadre at the end of the season.



Supreme Court Reserves Judgment In Appeal Challenging Constitutionality of Pension Law Of Delta Governor

By: **UTEBOR PETER, Asaba**

The Supreme Court of Nigeria has adjourned for judgment, the suit filed by a human rights activist and a former National Publicity Secretary of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Mr. Olukunle Edun, who is challenging the judgments of the lower courts.

He is challenging them over refusal to hear on the merit the suit he filed, challenging the constitutionality of some of the provisions of the Pension Law of Governors of Delta State, which was passed by the State House of Assembly awarding bogus entitlements and benefits to former Governors and Deputy Governors of the State.

This also includes, residential buildings, several vehicles to be renewed every four years, personal staff, security aides, state sponsored foreign vacations, all at the expense of the state but which were not product of assessment by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission as required by law.

Both the trial court and the Court of

Appeal held that the plaintiff lacked the locus standing to challenge the unconstitutional provisions and also refused to determine the merit of the case.

At the hearing of the appeal yesterday by the Supreme Court, foremost human rights lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana, SAN sought leave of the Supreme Court to appear as an amicus curia and accordingly filed an amicus brief in the appeal.

However, the appeal was heard only on the basis of the briefs filed by parties in the appeal.

From arguments in the briefs filed by the parties and Mr. Falana, the decision of the apex court on the vexed issue of locus standi in public interest litigation will be a watershed as many of the courts still refuse to entertain public interest cases filed by public spirited persons who challenge obvious impunity and unconstitutional actions of the various governments and their officials.

Judgment has been reserved by the Supreme Court for the 12th day of July, 2024.



Governor Oborewori

Clark Demands Setting Of Disciplinary Committee To Probe Wike's Anti-party Activities

By: **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

Former Federal Commissioner for Information and South South Leader, Chief Edwin Clark has called for the setting up of a disciplinary committee that will be saddled with the responsibility of probing the anti-party activities of former Governor of Rivers State and others whose roles led to the failure of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 elections.

In a statement on Wednesday in Abuja, he observed that the former governor of Rivers and presently the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Nyesom Wike is the greatest enemy of the PDP, manipulating it, with an intent of destroying it.

According to him, his (Wike) anti party activities must be decisively dealt with, by

setting up a strong disciplinary committee made up a strong people with resilience to resist pecuniary gains.

The elder statesman also called for the immediate dissolution of the present National Working Committee (NWC) of the PDP, describing it as their anti-party activities.

Clark's statement is titled, "As the National Working Committee, (NEC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) meets: A Poser- PDP: To be or not to be?"

He said that after the dissolution of the NWC, an Acting National Chairman should be appointed in accordance with the Constitution of the party, saying that there was a precedence during the tenure of Prince Uche Secondus, who was still in court, when the party appointed another Acting National Chairman.

The Leader of Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (SMBLF), advised the party to immediately revisit the on-line registration of its members as it was initiated by the then National Chairman, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, to save the party from depending on individuals, lamenting that some overzealous members of the party have hijacked it for their selfish gains.

Clark believes that PDP would collapse as the second principal party in the country today if the former Vice President and the 2023 Presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar is made the candidate for 2027 elections.

Clark said, "I know that many people who read this article will say to themselves that they thought Chief Edwin Clark said he

has retired from active and partisan politics. Yes, I said I have resigned from partisan and active politics. But it was one of the famous philosophers Aristotle, who said "Man is by nature a political animal." He went on to narrate that because no human can flourish on their own, there is a natural tendency of man to partner with their fellow men.

He noted that one of the partnerships is that relating to polis, which is the Greek word for community; from where is derived political partnership, stressing that for as long as Almighty God keeps him alive, both physically and mentally, he will continue to speak on governance and political matters, especially when it is tending to adversely affect the nation.