

# New NIGERIAN

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## **Sallah: Price Of Food Items, Animals Crash In Kano**

*\*Buyers excited*



From left, Osun State Governor Senator, Ademola Adeleke, Chief Mrs. Dupe Adeleke Sanni and Chairman Dr. Deji Adeleke @ the 41 days prayer for Alh. Tohir Aderemi Sanni held @ the Int'l Conference Centre, U.I. Ibadan. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

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- \*Says Kwankwasiya red colour unacceptable
- \*Reject alleged moves to hijack party

By: JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

As Eid-el Fitr is approaching, the price of food items and other consumables are now dropping and very much affordable to the people of all categories after long overdue price hike.

Our correspondent who was at some local markets to ascertain the commodity price situation, gathered that the price of all types of food items are currently dropping at markets and retail shops in many communities, which is an indication that in the near future, food items would become more affordable to consumers.

At Bichi Market, the price of food items like local rice, maize, sorghum, millet, beans and other related consumables have

dropped drastically and affordable to buyers, while the price of animals at Badume Market also surprisingly, dropped, which resulted in the bulk purchase for Sallah celebrations.

Malam Amadu Ibrahim, a small animals seller stated that, "the price of animals dropped unlike at previous time when a small goat is sold at higher cost than now, which is a testimony that life will become more bearable. I am happy to see that everybody can afford to celebrate easily." Other animals like chicken, turkey, geese, guinea fowl, goats, hare and rams are also affordable, according to the demands, while several people were seen busy trying to acquire items to celebrate as usual.

**Indian Bound Drug Trafficker Excretes 80 Wraps Of Illicit Drugs At Lagos Airport** **P.7**

- \*NDLEA uncovers other concealed in bag's false bottom

**Enormity Of Killings In Kogi Community, Agojeju-Odo Unsettles Gov Ododo** **P.15**



## Sallah: Sen Abbo Distributes 6,000 Bags Of Rice To Adamawa North Electorate

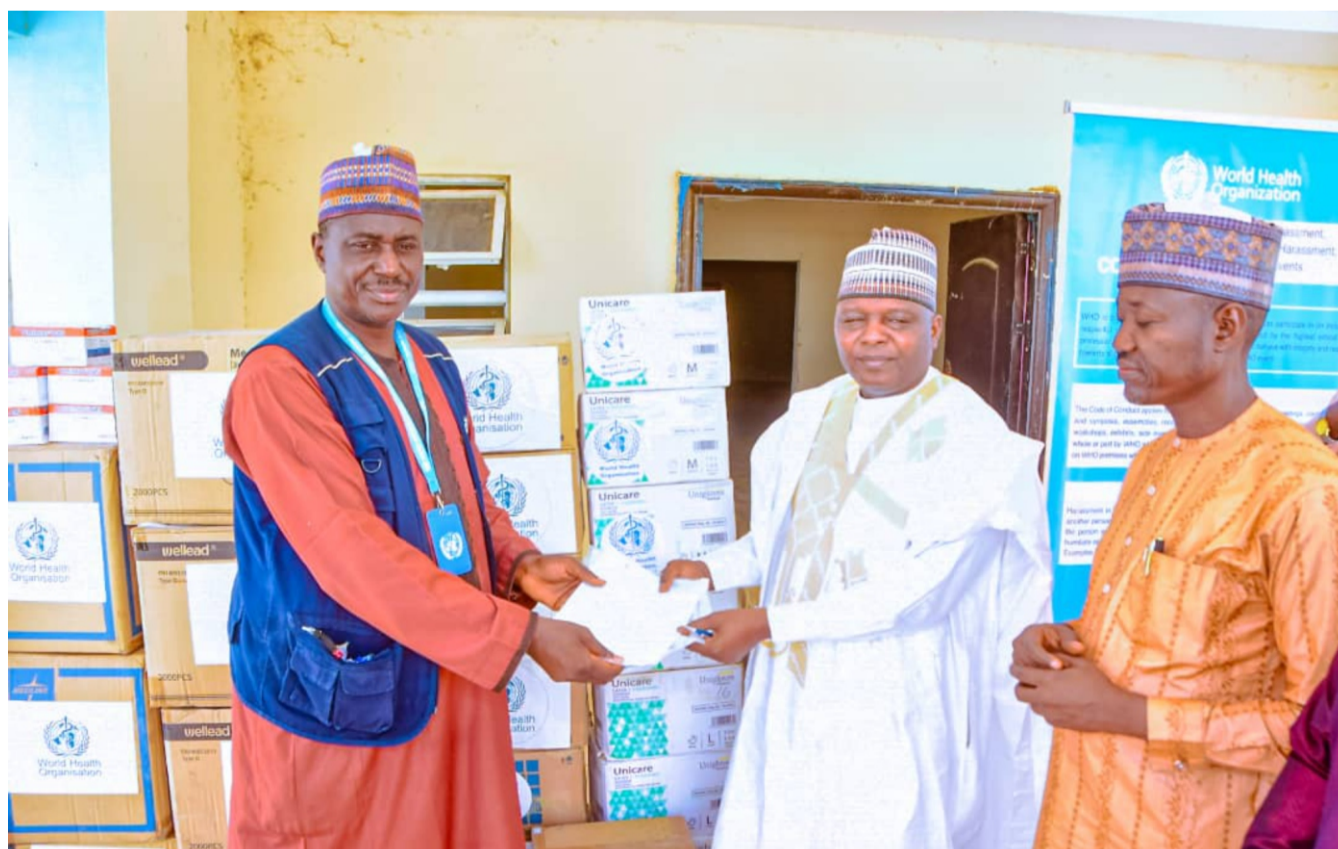


**By; TOM GARBA, Yola**  
As the Eid-Kabir is fast approaching to mark the end of Ramadan Fasting Period, Senator Ishaku Abbo has distributed six thousand bags of rice to the electorate of Adamawa Northern Senatorial District to celebrate the coming Sallah. This is usually the Senator's act of kindness and his usually way of

supporting Christian and Muslim faithful during festive periods. The gesture elated the people of Mubi North and Mubi South who are the direct beneficiaries. Abbo was represented by a team to ensure a fair distribution to intended people. Dr. Babakarewa and Abbo's Chief of Staff, Honourable Joel, Maiwake were all in Mubi

and ensured the success of the distribution. Some of the beneficiaries said that since the history of the Senatorial District, no one has ever given this kind of support in the name of Sallah celebration. According to them, Abbo has no political match, despite not being in office, he remains a political pillar to reckon with in Adamawa State and God's

willing, they will ever support him whenever it is time. Babakarewa in his own words, said that Abbo is a great man his impact is being felt despite not being in office. He said they are ready to defend him, go with him to any length and at anytime, especially in 2027 if he declares intention to contest, God willing.



## After Yobe Records 20 Deaths From Meningitis Outbreak, WHO Hands Over Medical Kits

**By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has handed over assorted medical consumables to the Yobe State Government in its quest to control Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) and Diphtheria outbreaks in the state.

Handing over the items at Yobe State University Teaching Hospital Damaturu on behalf of Dr. Kumshida Yakubu Balami, the World Health Organization (WHO) Interim Northeast Emergency Manager, Pharmacist Katugwa Emmanuel, said, the items will not only provide care for the healthcare workers but patients as well as their relatives.

“As you are aware, Yobe State is bedeviled with multiple outbreaks of diseases from last year to the beginning of this year. We started responding fully to the Diphtheria outbreak and by the grace of God, we are containing it but suddenly we had this cerebrospinal meningitis outbreak which started in February, 2024.

“We are seeing a different trend of meningitis that is type 'C' in our routine immunization vaccine which we give children under two years. This presentation hopefully we expect that our healthcare workers, patients and their relatives will all be protected so as to contain the outbreaks to its barest minimum” he said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) as the lead agency in international health response is supporting the State Government to provide on-the-job mentoring, capacity building to healthcare workers and coordinate

partners to ensure effective response across the hotspot Local Government Areas (LGAs). Additionally, the organization is strengthening pillars such as the Surveillance pillar to ensure early reporting and investigation, Case Management/IPC/Laboratory pillar, Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar, and the Vaccine and Logistics pillar.

While appreciating the World Health Organization (WHO) for their unyielding support and the gesture after receiving the items on behalf of the Yobe state Government, the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Lawan Gana explained the consumables would strengthen the healthcare system in the state.

“As a reliable partner to the state, these assorted medical consumables donated by the World Health Organization (WHO) will definitely support the state in controlling the outbreaks (Meningitis and Diphtheria). We have been working together with the World Health Organization (WHO) right from the beginning when we established the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) in Potiskum, which is the current epicenter of the Meningitis outbreak.

“We will continue to work closely to contain the outbreak and with this donation of items, it will further enable the health care workers to protect themselves and the patients they are providing services to,” he said.

About 15 different medical consumables made of thousands of cartons were handed over to the Yobe state government.





Olubadan designate making public appearance in Ibadan

## Olubadan Designate Olakulehin Meets Kingmakers, Returns To Ibadan

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

At last, the Olubadan-designate, Oba Owolabi Olakulehin on Friday made his first public appearance at his Alalubosa area residence in Ibadan.

Oba Olakulehin has not been seen in the public after the demise of the late Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lekan Balogun. The Olubadan designate on his appearance hosted some of the Ibadan kingmakers who paid him a visit.

One of the kingmakers, the Osi Balogun Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lateef Adebimpe, who led other three of the kingmakers to the residence of the Olubadan designate told journalists that Oba Olakulehin is hale and hearty.

The Osi Balogun Olubadan while speaking with journalists after the visit to the Olubadan designate disclosed that, "it is impossible for the Olubadan-in-Council to nominate Olakulehin unless they are sure that he is in good condition.

"It has been sometime we have seen our Kabiyesi Owolabi Olakulehin in our midst and we have been making arrangements for Olakulehin's coronation ceremony, who is our new Olubadan of Ibadanland", he said.

The Osi Balogun Olubadan added, "We thank God that he is hale and hearty, and very soon, he will ascend the throne of his fore fathers, we will relate what we see here to our colleagues.

At the visit to the residence of the Olubadan designate, included the Osi

Olubadan, Oba Eddy Oyewole; the Ashipa Olubadan, Abiodun Kola-Daisi and Asipa Balogun Olubadan, Oba Kola Adegbola

New Nigerian learnt that in accordance with the traditional arrangement in Ibadanland, the next Olubadan of Ibadanland after the demise of Oba Lekan Balogun who was from the Otun line is the Balogun of Ibadanland, Oba Owolabi Olakulehin who is the most Senior in the Balogun line.

## Hardship: Akwa Ibom To Review Pension Upwards

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Pensioners in Akwa Ibom State who retired before 2012 may have reasons to smile as the state government is considering a memo to increase their pension.

The decision became known by the Commissioner for Information, Comrade Ini Ememobong after the State Executive Council (Exco) meeting presided over by Governor Umo Eno at Government House Uyo on Wednesday.

Ememobong, in a brief from the Exco decision after receiving a memo proposing an increase in the pension of the affected pensioners, stated that the memo was referred to Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs for consultation with local government areas.

"The council received a memo proposing an increase in the Pension of pensioners who retired before 2012. The memo was deliberated and referred to HC-Local

Government and Chieftaincy Affairs for consultation with the Local Government Areas. Decision to be taken by next week" Ememobong stated.

Recall recently, pensioners through thier union in the state, Nigerian Union of Pensioners, Akwa Ibom State Council had lamented their pathetic conditions blaming it to neglect by successive administrations inspite of repeated appeals for attention.

Addressing journalists on behalf of thier members in Uyo, the Chairman of the union and Secretary, Obong Ekpeyong Ekpo and Obong Cosmos Essien respectively, explained that the worsening condition of members of the Union should be a source of concern to government and public spirited Nigerians.

According to the state secretary, "The sad plight of our members is that those who retired in the 1980s with salaries of N1,000, N1,500 or

N2,000 are still collecting such funds as pension till date in Akwa Ibom State.

The pensioners however, threatened to embark on mass protest to major streets in Uyo, the state capital to let the world know thier predicament.

Though the date for the protest was not announced during the interaction but the union leaders said that the streets demonstration would wrap up with the blockage of main gate of Government House to press home thier demand.

Meanwhile, four staff of the state's Ministry of Culture and Tourism have been selected to participate in the 2024 China-Aid Training Programme Seminar on Tourism Capacity Building for English-Speaking African Countries from April 11 to 24, 2024.

This according to information, was contained in a brief presented to the Exco by the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Mr. Charles Udoh.

## APC Chieftain, Alao Celebrates Mrs Ajimobi @ 65

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in Oyo State, Engr Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Saturday, felicitated the wife of late Governor Abiola Ajimobi, Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi, on her 65th birthday.

The APC chieftain in a congratulatory message described Mrs Ajimobi as a virtuous woman and a strong pillar behind her husband and as well remains a great source of inspiration to the womenfolk not only in Oyo State but all over the country.

Emphasizing that Mrs Ajimobi, "is an icon whose milk of kindness has continued even after her tenure as First Lady in Oyo State", she said "as a wife who holds tenaciously to the memory

of her husband Mrs. Ajimobi has continued to hold aloft the political legacy of late Senator Ajimobi.

"I want to join the teeming admirers and well wishers of the former First Lady of Oyo State and wife of our Leader, late Senator Abiola Ajimobi, Dr. (Mrs.) Florence Ajimobi, as she clocks 65 years in the land of the living", he said

Engr Alao added, Mrs. Ajimobi deserves to be celebrated because apart from being a strong pillar behind the successes that could be ascribed to our great Leader, she is a role model to the womenfolk whose imprints while in and out of office have remained indelible"

"I wish our dear former First Lady many more years in the land of the living in good health, peace of mind and sustained prosperity."



(c) Tolaish Joan Visuals

Florence Ajimobi



## Nigeria: A Nation Bereft Of Patriotic Statesmen - National Youth Alliance

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

A frontline group, National Youth Alliance (NYA), has described the problems plaguing Nigeria as a result of absence of patriotic statesmen that would serve as role models to the youth. This was expressed in a statement signed by the SA Media to NYA President, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Sunday April 7, 2024.

"It is unfortunate that with the current condition of the country that our economy is on a constant downturn, all our elders who ought to be father's of the nation at these trying times have remained silent.

"It is even more worrisome that with the degenerating security issues, it is expected that our fathers raise their voices against

the scourge," it said.

Ambassador Abbas explained that, "Numerous individuals purporting to be paternal figures have ensnared the younger generation, stifling their potential through various means.

"The fundamental principle of a father nurturing his son's growth has been distorted, complicating the inheritance of power and resources.

"As a result, the passing down of authority, materials, and other essentials has become a daunting task for these individuals."

NYA said that this phenomenon underscores Nigeria's status as a "fatherless nation," where the guidance and support needed for youth development are conspicuously absent, hindering the country's progress.



Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas

## Police Arrests 9 Suspected Ritualists, Including 2 ABU Students

\*Confess to murder of aged man

\*Jerry can full with suspected human blood found on them

\*Arms, fetish items found in their vehicle

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Kaduna State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of a nine-man gang of suspected ritualists under the name of 'Neo Black Movement (NBM)' at a Cemetery in Dutsen Abba Ward along Zaria - Kaduna expressway with one full jerry can of human blood.

Their arrest followed a tip-off by the formation, after a source drew the attention of the service formation that some group of people were sighted at the said cemetery, which in turn Saye Lowcost Division was alerted.

Those arrested for alleged involvement in ritual activities are, Samson Ezekiel (32), Samuel Francis (27), Usman Nura (34), Gabriel Sheba (23), Haruna Sa'id (37), Bala Lukman (27) and Jabir Rilwan (37).

A search was conducted on their vehicle, a Lexus sedan, with registration number RSH 712 CW, where two locally made pistols, one Beretta pistol, two jacket knife, two calabashes and a jerry can,



Some of the nabbed suspected ritualists

full of human blood were recovered.

The suspected ritualists, comprising the new and the old members, were apprehended while initiating the new members.

They explained how they got the human blood while confessing to have slaughtered an aged man and have disposed his body along Jaji military cantonment, in neighbouring Igabi Local Government Area, where his vital body parts were

dismembered, but were taken away by other gang which came from Kaduna.

Following the arrest of seven suspected ritualists along Zaria -Kaduna expressway, two other suspects were apprehended by the locust, at ABU Congo Conference Hotels, along old Jos road, they are Austin Ifinju from Ondo State, aged 28 and Yoruba by tribe and Aliyu Ali Yahaya, resident of Hadu Nasko road Abuja, aged 24. Agatu by tribe and a

student of ABU Samaru.

Their arrest followed the recent arrest of the seven suspected ritualists, who specifically mentioned the duo during the interrogation by Lowcost, as their active members.

The two have joined the other seven in the custody of Lowcost Zaria Area Command for further investigation.

ASP Mansur Hussaini Public Relations Officer of the Command confirmed the arrest, explains that investigations are on going.

## Human Rights Violations In Nigeria Surge, 1,580 Incidents Recorded In March - NHRC

\*North Central records highest cases

\*Police, Military, DSS responsible for 94 rights violations cases

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday, hinted that Nigeria recorded 1,580 human rights violations in last month (March) alone.

NHRC Senior Human Rights Adviser, Mr Hilary Ogbona who dropped this hint, said the rights violations included killings, kidnapping, domestic violence, abductions, children's right among others.

Speaking at the National Human Rights Commission

headquarters, Mr. Ogbona said North Central topped the list of the complaints of human rights violations recorded with 468 cases.

He stressed that the police, military, and Department of State Service DSS as state actors recorded 94 rights violations cases, adding that the killings of the military and police personnel in Delta State formed part of the report and that 542 cases of violation of children's rights were also recorded during the period.

Mr Ogbona maintained that domestic violence is becoming too rampant in some part of the country

with 471 cases recorded and that the non state actor and private actors have 32 and 36 respectively while 3 cases of violation of rights were recorded against disabled people.

Stressing that other sectors including social economic and cultural rights accounted for 157 while referred cases was put at 24, he said killings and kidnapping accounted for 499 while another 71 violations of rights to life were also recorded by the commission during the period.

While maintaining that the 1,580 human rights violations were the entire

figures recorded in the 36 states offices of the commission and Abuja, he expressed worry over the increasing cases of human rights violation, saying about 301 school children were abducted in Kaduna state alone while 40 people were killed in Benue state.

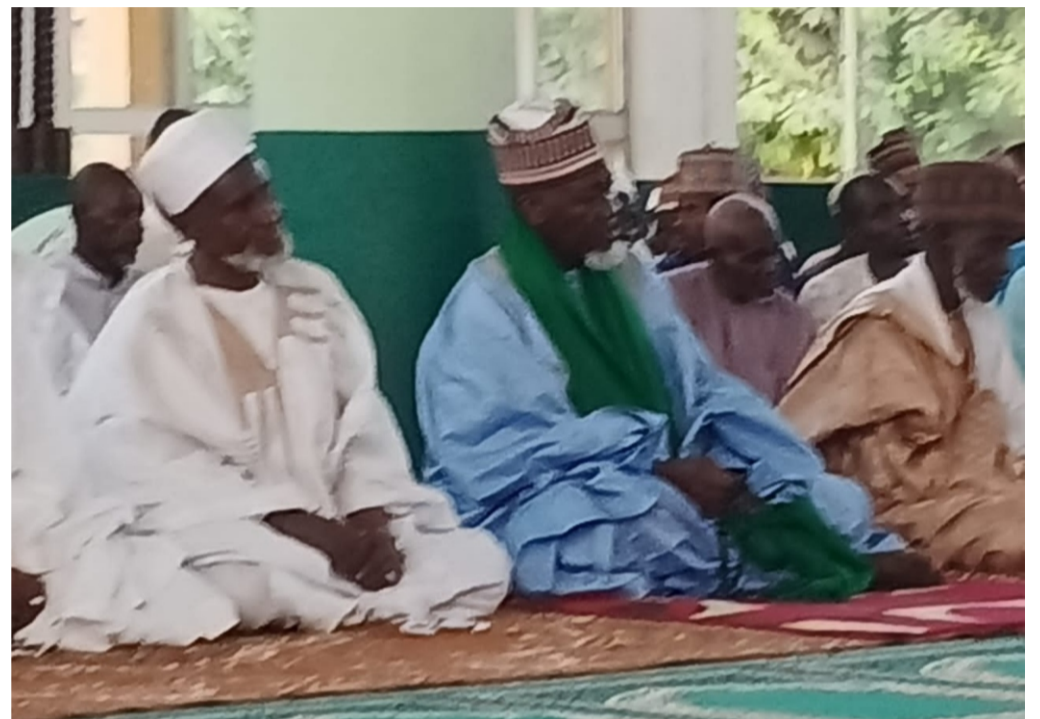
Mr Ogbona expressing dismay that rights to life was being violated in various ways and manner because four deaths were recorded in Nassarawa State during sharing of palliative, he called for restraint on both State and Private Actors adding that

Continued on Page 6



# Closing Of Ramadan Tafsir: Islamic Clerics Pray For Peace, Unity, Stability Of Nigeria

- \*Task Nigerian leaders on good governance
- \*Declare doom, total destruction for enemies of Nigeria

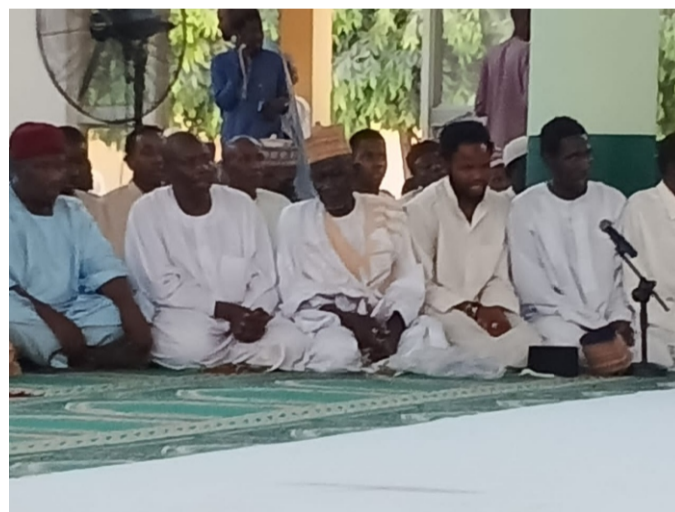


**By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri**  
 An Islamic Cleric, Khalifa Ali Abulfatihi has appealed to Nigerian leaders at the corridors of power at all levels of government, to have the feelings of their people at heart and come to their aid by assisting and supporting the poor masses of the country. He also called on Nigerians, irrespective of religion, tribe, origin, status, rank, position and political affiliation, to continue to pray for the peace, survival, progress and development of the country. Khalifa stated this on Friday evening at the Maulana Sheikh Ahmad Abulfatihi Central Mosque located at Madinatu, Old Maiduguri during the closing ceremony of month of Ramadan Tafsir special prayer (Haram), congregational zikiri (Zikirin Jummaa).

He said the dua which is an annual event to mark the closing of the annual Quranic Tafsir on the 26th day of Ramadan which will be followed by closing ceremony of the Annual Special prayer/Dua {Tarawih} and Tahajud special prayer making the end of the Ramadan Fast with Eid el Fitri Sallah festival the next day, as a long standing tradition, asserting that Nigeria as a country, will never fall apart or be divided by the will of God. The Islamic Scholar added that, Nigeria will continue to remain and stand firm, in unity and progress, despite its present socio economic challenges, while appreciating the efforts and support of government leaders at the national, state and local levels to the people, urging the leaders for more poverty alleviation and empowerment schemes to be provided to the ordinary people who are jobless and

idle, roaming the streets helplessly. He however, charged Nigerian citizens to continue to be loyal and law abiding to their leaders and traditional rulers as well as support and cooperate with the security operatives for peace to reign in all parts of the country, while declaring doom and total destruction to enemies of progress of Nigeria anywhere they may be. Khalifa further applauded the significant efforts and sacrifices of the security agents in restoring peace and ensuring safety of lives and property of the citizenry across the country while praying for the return of permanent peace and stability to all parts of the country. He prayed God to continue to guide and protect Nigerian leaders in steering the affairs of the country with fear of God, empathy for Nigerians and prudence while thanking all those that supported

and assisted Abulfatihi Foundation annually to hold its activities in the general interest of all and sundry as well as humanity. In another development, Sheikh Adamu Madibbo Gidado who is also the Shettima' Malamai of Emir of Ngazergamu, Yobe State has closed his annual Quranic Tafsiri on Saturday evening at Sheikh Madibbo Gidado Zawiya Central Jummaa Mosque, Pompomari, Falatari, off Kano road amidst mammoth crowd with special prayers for peace, unity, progress, development and stability of the nation, Nigeria and other parts of the world. He also recognized and appreciated the support and assistance of all those that contributed in one way or the other to the successful annual Tafsiri and Iftar among others while assuring regular special





## Hajj: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Approves N500,000 Subsidy For Gombe State Intending Muslim Pilgrims

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has approved 500,000 Naira subsidy for each of the 1373 State's intending Muslim Pilgrims for the upcoming Hajj exercise. This was contained in a statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated April 5, 2024.

It informed that this decision comes in response to the recent

announcement by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) regarding adjustments to the 2024 Hajj fare.

The approval is to mitigate the financial strain on the Gombe State pilgrims in the face of current economic challenges. Governor Inuwa Yahaya hopes that this intervention will contribute to a seamless and spiritually enriching Hajj exercise for all pilgrims from Gombe State as well as facilitate a conducive environment for religious activities despite prevailing



Gov Inuwa

## Human Rights Violations In Nigeria Surge, 1,580 Incidents Recorded In March - NHRC

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\*Police, Military, DSS responsible for 94 rights violations cases

reprisal attacks contributed to the recorded rights violations as well as appealing to police and military to always conduct their investigations in compliance with the rules of engagement and rule of laws as provided for in the national and international laws.

Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mr Ojukwu in his remarks reaffirmed

the commitment of the commission to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

He promised to partner with other stakeholders including government in the bid to step up efforts to protect lives and properties and in ensuring downward size in the violations of human rights.

## Kaduna Debts: Uba Sani's Revelation, Scratch On Surface - PDP

\*Says party warned el-Rufai against improper use of funds, sale of government property

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Kaduna State Chapter, has frowned at the revelations of Kaduna State Governor, Sen. Uba Sani, about the state of finances and misappropriation of funds of the State, by the former Governor of the State, Nasir el-Rufai, during a Town Hall meeting held on the 30th March, 2024.

This was expressed in a statement signed by the PDP Kaduna State Publicity Secretary, Abraham Alberah Cato, dated Friday April 5, 2024. "Though it did not come to us as a surprise, we believed that these revelation is just a scratch

on the surface on the real issues, therein; we encourage him to go full fledged in this show of transparency!

"We, as opposition party, are in full support of any plan by the government that would bring development to our dear State, bearing in mind that we shall always kick against anything short of that," PDP said.

The party recalled that, "in 2018 and 2022, the PDP in Kaduna State drew the attention of the Nasir el-Rufai-led government and the citizens of Kaduna State about the improper use of public funds, the criminal sale of landed properties belonging to the people of state and the unconstitutional mass

sacked of qualified teachers and replacement of same with unqualified ones that have even deserted most of their duty posts; the PDP has been vindicated".

The PDP therefore, urged Governor Uba Sani to set up and mandate a Judicial Commission of Inquiry for full investigation into all the allegations to unravel the state of affairs of the \$587 million foreign loans, N85 billion local loans and N115 billion contractual liabilities of unpaid abandoned contracts inherited from the Nasir el-Rufai government.

"The judicial Commission of inquiry should also look into the sale of the state's landed properties in the

last 8 years of the failed administration of Nasir el-Rufai in Kaduna State and those found guilty should be made to refund their stolen monies to the state coffers and also face the wrath of the law.

"And to also set up another High Powered Civil Service Reforms Commission of Inquiry, to review and ascertain the modalities used in sacking the over 27,000 workers from the State Civil Service without payment of their entitlements and the bastardization of the civil service, during the dark days of the administration of Nasir el-Rufai, with the view to doing justice to all and sundry," it further suggested.

## Kogi: I Was Not In Disputed Areas During Election, SDP Witness Tells Tribunal

By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) on Thursday, presented one witness at the Kogi State Election Petitions Tribunal, who admitted that the SDP had agents across the polling units in the state.

The witness, Benjamin Ikani Okolo, from Dekina Local Government Area (Kogi East), tendered an inspection report and also adopted his deposition on oath before the three-member panel of justices, led by Justice Ado Birmin-Kudu.

His confirmation that the SDP had agents across the polling units in the state, was of interest, considering the fact that only one polling agent, who said he couldn't produce an evidence of his role, had been presented by the SDP as witness in the ongoing hearing.

The Respondents' counsel had, in earlier sittings, asked why the polling agents were not

complaining, while random voters were being produced as witnesses.

When he was being cross-examined, Respondents' Counsel, Kanu Agabi SAN, said the witness, a former local government chairman of Dekina, should tell the Tribunal how many polling units were being challenged in the petition, but he said he did not know.

He was shown INEC manuals, regulation exhibits, BVAS screenshots and other Electoral documents as earlier tendered by the petitioners, and he identified them, but admitted that he didn't "make" any of them.

He noted that he only saw the result sheets and other documents he identified in court during inspection, adding that he did not also make any input to the BVAS devices.

When asked where he was during the governorship election in the state, he said he was in Kogi East, that he was not in Okene, Okehi, Adavi or Lokoja,

where the results were being challenged.

According to him, there was no signature of INEC staff on the inspection report that he tendered.

The Respondents' counsel pointed out one of the scores of the APC as indicated in the witness statement on oath, which was different from the one in the inspection report, in addition to other discrepancies found between the report and figures said to have been gotten from the BVAS.

While responding, the witness said he would not agree that a large portion of the report was not correct in view of the discrepancies found.

He agreed that some polling units were not stated in the inspection report even though they were stated in the petition but noted that this was because there was no over-voting in those polling units.

The Respondents' counsel also asked, "Are you aware that INEC staff had come to show the figures

in the BVAS to the Tribunal, and that the figures in the BVAS contradict what is in your deposition?"

He responded that he could not confirm that the figures in the BVAS were contradictory to what was in the deposition on oath because he didn't see the figures in the BVAS.

It was also observed that the accreditation figures quoted in his witness deposition were at variance with what was contained in the BVAS as presented in earlier sittings.

The sitting was adjourned to April 5 2024 for continuation of hearing.

While Pius Akubo SAN represented the petitioners, Kanu Agabi SAN appeared for INEC.

A.M. Aliu SAN represented Gov. Usman Ododo and E.C. Ukala SAN represented APC.

The SDP is challenging the victory of Gov Ododo in the November 2023 governorship poll in the state.



# Indian Bound Drug Trafficker Excretes 80 Wraps Of Illicit Drugs At Lagos Airport

## \*NDLEA uncovers other concealed in bag's false bottom

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

An Indian bound passenger, arrested at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja Lagos, has reportedly excreted 80 wraps of a substance suspected to be cocaine, New Nigerian Newspaper has learnt.

Identified as Freeman Charles Ogbonna, the Delhi, Indian bound drug trafficker was said to have been apprehended by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the screening point of terminal 2 of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA Ikeja Lagos.

Similarly, NDLEA officers at the Lagos Airport also intercepted a drug mule identified as Imran Taofeek Olalekan at Gate C departure of terminal 1 travelling to Oman with a check-in luggage and a backpack with a false bottom where hard drugs were concealed.

The Director Media and Advocacy of the Agency Femi Babafemi made the disclosure in a release made available to journalists yesterday.

According to Babafemi, Ogbonna was arrested on Sunday March 31, while attempting to board a flight to Delhi, India via Doha on Qatar Airways, with a Liberian international passport, bearing the name: Carr Bismark.

He was taken for body scan, which tested positive for ingestion of illicit drugs.

Babafemi said, "preliminary checks revealed his real identity as Freeman Charles Ogbonna and was subsequently placed under observation in NDLEA custody where he started to manifest signs of discomfort.

"Obviously choked by the volume of illicit drugs in his stomach and another substance taken to hold back excretion, the suspect soon began to retch before starting to vomit and excrete wraps of cocaine he ingested almost simultaneously.

"The suspect who claimed he was recruited into drug trafficking by one of his relatives eventually passed out a total of 80 wraps of cocaine weighing 889 grams through his mouth and anus over a period of four days.

"The great risk that almost took his life notwithstanding, Ogbonna said he was given the drugs to swallow at a hotel in Ipodo area of Ikeja with a promise to reward him with ₦300,000 cash if he successfully delivers the consignment in India".

"In the same vein, NDLEA officers at the Lagos airport on Wednesday 3rd April intercepted a drug mule, Imran Taofeek Olalekan at Gate C departure of terminal 1 travelling to Oman with a check-in luggage and a backpack.

"When his check-in bag and backpack were subjected to thorough search, the operatives discovered a false bottom concealment of drugs in the check-in luggage and in the walls of the backpack.

"The NDLEA officers swiftly moved in on a man who accompanied the suspect to the airport. He was later identified as Ishola Isiaka Olalekan who recruited the trafficker.

"Imran Taofeek Olalekan said he returned from Dubai some years ago but still has a valid residence permit on his old passport. He claimed he was promised ₦1,500,000 if he successfully delivers the consignment in Oman, while his recruiter, Ishola was to be paid ₦200,000.

"Curiously, when the two bags were completely unpacked at the NDLEA office, a charm was found in one of the bags while another one was found on the drug mule who confessed that he traveled to Ibadan, Oyo state to meet with an 'Alfa' that prepared the charm for him to ensure he was not caught during the trip.

"Another charm was also found on the intermediary, Ishola Isiaka Olalekan who accompanied Taofeek to the departure

area of the airport. Ishola claimed he procured the charms for the sum of ₦70,000."

The NDLEA spokesperson, who also revealed other breakthroughs of the agency hinted that "At the Tincan seaport in Lagos, NDLEA operatives also on Wednesday 3rd April, intercepted 2,144 parcels of Colorado, a synthetic strain of cannabis weighing of 1,072kg.

"The seizure was made during a joint examination with Customs Service and other stakeholders of a container marked GAOU 6699215 coming from Montreal, but originated from Toronto, Canada.

"The drugs packed in 46 jumbo bags were found concealed in used 2009 Lexus RX 350, 2011 Toyota Sienna, and 2009 Lexus ES 350 as well as used engines, automobile doors, tyres, and used household goods as well as big drums loaded into the container.

"In Kano, a 48-year-old suspect, Gidado Sani who jumped the bail granted him by a Federal High Court in Kano on drug offence charges, was on Friday 5th April re-arrested in Sharada area of the state with 85 blocks of cannabis weighing 50.1kg, while NDLEA operatives in Ogun state on Thursday 4th April, arrested another suspect Wasiu Jimoh, during a raid operation at Ilese Awo, with 84 parcels (62kg) of cannabis sativa.

"Operatives in Lagos on Wednesday 3rd April intercepted a suspect, Emeka Umeh with 506.2kg cannabis at Igbede, Ojo area of the state, while another suspect, Victor Okeke was nabbed on Friday 5th April at Igbo Elerin, Ojo, with 142grams of cannabis sativa and 175 litres of skuchies recovered from him. Attempt by 35-year-old Ifeanyi Udogwu to smuggle 1.5kg cocaine concealed in music speakers from Lagos through Aba, Abia state to his uncle, Ifeanyi Udogwu based in Cameroon was thwarted on Wednesday 3rd April when NDLEA officers working



The Indian bound passenger

in collaboration with transport company, Young Shall Grow Motors, arrested him." He stated that the Commands across the country balanced their drug supply reduction operations with War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaigns to schools, markets, motor parks, worship centres and communities.

"Some of these include: WADA sensitisation lecture for commercial drivers at the Osun State Transport Management System Complex, Osogbo; youths of Assembly of God Church, Ibereko, Badagry, Lagos; and drivers at Sunny Motor Park, Aroma, Awka, Anambra state, among others.

"While commending the efforts of the MMIA, Tincan, Ogun, Kano and Lagos Commands of the Agency, for jobs well done in the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) urged them and their compatriots across the country to remain vigilant and intensify their offensive action against drug cartels and their WADA advocacy campaign in every community nationwide", Babafemi said.

## Akwa Ibom Gov Terminates Nsit Atai/Okobo/Oron Road Contract

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno has announced the termination of contract for the construction of Nsit Atai/Okobo/Oron Road to pave way for it to be re-awarded and delivered in record time.

Governor Eno made this known in his remarks during the funeral ceremony and thanksgiving service in honour of late Mrs. Deborah Ekaette Imaikop Enoidem at St. John U-N-A Primary School grounds, Ikot Ekpen Udo, Nsit Ubium Local Government Area.

The deceased was a mother-in-law to the immediate past Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Emmanuel Ekuwem.

Governor Eno on the occasion, reeled out projects undertaken by his administration in the Oron Federal Constituency, to include, 2.1km Ukpong Street, 2.1km Essang Street, Orukim-Uyenge Universal

Energy Road, Okopedi Road, by East West road, Secretariat Oruko Eweme Road, and re-modernization of Oron Bridge, assuring that he is bent on executing more projects in Oron Nation, and indeed, the entire state.

He explained that each local government area has at least two projects currently ongoing, throughout the state.

The governor assured that government under his watch was judiciously spending government resources in projects for the benefit of Akwa Ibom citizens, and warned people to desist from obstructing projects with illegal structures, in expectation of being paid compensation.

The State Chief Executive maintained that transparency remains the watch word.

In his words, "There is no local government in the state which at least two projects are not ongoing. By the grace of God, we will continue to do more. We are

spending money on projects and people are working and making a living from those projects.

"We will continue to use the state money for this state. We will create jobs, and government will support hardworking people who are ready to work. Our administration will continue to touch rural people. During our campaign, I promised to serve you, and I will continue to serve you." He added.

Governor Eno also disclosed that despite approving funds for lots for projects, the state government has not taken any loan facility.

"All the projects we have been doing, we are proud to say, we have not taken one loan from any bank in the last 10 months. I believe that we can use the resources we have in this State to work for the our people.

"I thank the Oro people, our in-laws. I'm working for you, as I do with the entire state, and I will continue to work for you. I will serve you in Oro Nation by building on the foundation of my predecessor. We will do much more," he added.

He appreciated the sympathisers for making out time to attend the burial ceremony and recounted his past memories and relationship with the Ekuwem family.

Governor Eno spoke glowingly about the life and times of Late Mrs Deborah Ekaette Enoidem, describing her as a caring and loving mother who ensured that everyone that came her way was comfortable and urged the family to take solace knowing that they are not alone and their mother was transiting to a much better place.



## Reps Member Ahmed Munir Sworn-in As Legislator Of 6th ECOWAS Parliament, Pledges To Tackle Insecurity

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

A member of Nigeria's House of Representatives, Hon. Ahmed Munir was among West African sub-region lawmakers sworn in as legislators of 6th ECOWAS Parliament.

In a speech shortly after the swearing in ceremony, Hon. Munir pledged to, in collaboration with other legislatures across the West African Sub-region, tackle issues of common importance to member states, such as; insecurity, agriculture, climate change and quality and affordable healthcare delivery.

He advocated a regional force to tackle banditry, insurgency and other forms of insecurity across the block.

The member representing Lere Federal

Constituency, also made case for a single and common currency for trade across the region.

"I want to deeply appreciate President Ahmed Bola Tinubu for the genuine love he has for my family and also for his kind words of wisdom and encouragement granted to me today as a father to a son.

"Words cannot accurately describe my gratitude to the Speaker House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, Iyan Zazzau, for his bounteous nomination and I am duty bound to deliver on the mandate he has entrusted me with.

"I am thankful to the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, as we are from the same family tree, as my affinity to my senior brother is an inheritance that I keep in trust.

"Congratulations to HE the Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin for being duly elected as the First Deputy Speaker of the parliament. There is no doubt that his vast legislative experience will be a plus for the organization.

"My sincere appreciation to our amiable host and landlord in Abuja, as Mr. President fondly calls HE Nyesom Wike, the FCT Minister, as well as his counterpart, Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"I look forward to working harmoniously with each of you to tackle crucial issues of security, establishing a revamped regional force to stem terrorism and banditry, climate change mitigation, provision of quality and affordable education for all.

"Youth empowerment to stem dangerous migration,

keeping our future leaders productive here at home, gender inequality within communities, mechanized agriculture, power generation, harnessing our mineral resources, industrialization, boosting exports with emphasis on value addition, robust transportation network, seamless exchange of goods and services, affordable healthcare delivery, launching a single currency and entrenching democracy and human rights.

"The task ahead of us is enormous but not insurmountable, with political will, proper planning and sincere commitment, we shall chart a new course that will propel the region and in extension the entire African continent to greater heights," he assured.

## Adamawa Labour Party LG Chairmen Pass Vote Of No Confidence On State Chairman

\*Accuse him of anti-party activities, others

By; TINA PHINEAS, YOLA

The Forum of Local Government Chairmen of the Labour Party in Adamawa State has passed a vote of no confidence against the state chairman, Christopher Nicholas. Eighteen out of the 21 LGA chairmen, who met in Yola, the state capital, accused the party chairman of anti-party activities, financial mismanagement, incompetence and a host of other offences.

The LG chairmen, led by Rev Iliya Mathias, said they decided to sack Christopher Nicholas and all his executive committee members because he is incapable of steering the affairs of the party.

According to the angry LP LG chairmen, Nicholas lacks communication skills and ability to coordinate the party, which they blamed for the poor performance of the party in the 2023 governorship election.

"While awaiting the appropriate action of the National Working Committee, we the local government chairmen of Labour Party, Adamawa

State, hereby recognize the following as our new caretaker committee," they said.

They named Hon Theman Jonah as the Caretaker Chairman, with Apwanokona Azmaveth as Secretary; Aliyu Mohammed Abubakar as Treasurer; Henry Kwataden as PRO; Hajiya Zainab Ahmed as Woman Leader; Kamalludeen Aliyu as Youth Leader; and Auwal Chiroma as member.

Reacting however, a member of the Christopher Nicholas' executive committee, Apostle Ezra Kwaya, said the move against the state party leadership came as a surprise because the local government chairmen never made any written complaint against the state chairman or any member of the exco.

Mr. Kwaya, the State Organizing Secretary of the Labour Party, maintained that the LG chairmen have no constitutional backing for their action as their tenure has already elapsed.

He maintained that the vote of no confidence against the state chairman of the party will not stand.

## We Say No To Any Increase Of Tariffs At This Very Difficult Time In Life Of Masses - CUPP

*\*Says this is one increase too many, government is meant to service the interest of people, not other way round*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) has strongly condemned the increase in electricity tariff.

This was expressed in a statement signed by General Secretary CUPP, High Chief Ameh Peter Yakubu, made available to our correspondent at the weekend.

"This government is very insensitive. They have no economic plans for the growth of the economy. They do not think about the effect of a lazy policy

of solving immediate downstream sectors.

"Now the cost of production by local manufacturers is inevitably going to increase, some factories will close up or relocate. Which will further worsen the dollar-Naira ratio that Tinubu is using the romance economy to solve," it said.

CUPP said that the government, through National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), introduced, "the increase to anti people, anti small businesses and anti social welfare

measures which will further push our people into multi-dimensional poverty.

"Remember that earlier in the year, the World Bank and IMF came out to ask the Nigerian government to end subsidy on electricity.

"The introduction of Band A, which covers about 15% of all consumers in Nigeria and which in reality does not exist (because no area or part of Nigeria enjoys anything close to 20 hours of electricity) might not even end there.

"As time goes on, the

government, through NERC will extend the increase to the non Band A customers, the more increasing the burden to the already worsening situation of the masses.

"This may not be at the rate of 240%, but definitely, there will be an increase on the groaning low income earners. This astronomical increase is unexpected and will likely continue to unleash harsh economic effects on our people.

"The effects of the 240% tariff increase on Band A consumers is that it will trigger a cost push inflation whereby the cost of the tariff imposed on the producers of goods and services will be pushed to consumers," it lamented.

CUPP said it wonders if Tinubu has economic councils and if he does, "are they made up of seasoned Political economist and market strategist? They appear to lack sensitivity and foresight when it comes to economic planning for the nation's growth and the people's welfare."



**COALITION OF UNITED POLITICAL PARTIES (CUPP)**





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By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW,  
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"The task ahead of us is enormous but not insurmountable, with political will, proper planning and sincere commitment, we shall chart a new course that will propel the region and in extension the entire African continent to greater heights," he assured.





# 2027: NNPP Will Wrestle Power From APC, PDP In Nigeria - New Ogun Chairman

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The new chairmen of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Ogun State, Barrister John Aina has declared that the party will wrestle power from the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2027.

Barrister Aina said this on Thursday, while speaking after the election of new Ogun State Executive of the party, held during the NNPP state congress in Abeokuta.

The international solicitor and NNPP Senatorial candidate for Ogun West, stressed that his election will mark a new beginning for the party in Ogun State as the party has become formidable to contend with in any contest both within the state and nationwide.

Emphasizing that the era of APC and the PDP dominating the political sphere will become the things of past as NNPP is waxing stronger day by day in Ogun State and Nigeria in general.

"I want members to know that it is going to be a new beginning. There is going to be a new NNPP in Ogun state. That is why I have made a covenant with our members that since they have elected me as the new Chairman of this party, I am going to deliver", he said

Barrister Aina added, "I will ensure that whoever that is going to contest election in Ogun state, under any political party will have NNPP to compete with.

"I am very grateful to all the members of our party for their great decision to choose me as the new Chairman of the NNPP in Ogun state".

Speaking on the way forward for NNPP, Barrister Aina said, "the starting point is



New Ogun state NNPP Executive

this, we are going to engage in a serious mobilisation of new members".

National representative and Chairman Ogun State Congress Committee, who is from Kano state, Malam Dogodama lauded the peaceful and successful nature of the Congress, saying, "We have done the Wards and Local Governments Congresses.

"The process is quite successful because at the Wards and Local Governments Congresses, we had consensus. I am grateful to our members for their peaceful nature. NNPP will remain stronger and stronger in this state. NNPP is the only party now being love by

Nigerians", he said.

Malam Dogodawa added, " PDP has failed, APC has failed. There is only one way and that is the NNPP. Nigerians are thinking of only NNPP now because, the party has a clear objective for a new Nigeria. All the problems we have in Nigeria is what the NNPP is trying to solve.

The other two parties have had their time and they have failed. So it is better for Nigerians to look the other way, and that other way is NNPP."

Other elected executive members are, Prince Ibrahim Adekunle as Deputy Chairman, Alhaja Sakirat Idris Arowolo

as Secretary, Hon (Comrade) Olayemi Omokehinde Olowu as Public Relations Officer (PRO), Sefiu Musa as Treasurer and Comrade Oluwatoyin Afuye as Financial Secretary.

Others are, Comrade Oyegbemi Kehinde as Liason Officer, El-Hark Abdullahi Adeniyi as Deputy Treasurer, Alfa Sheriffdeen as Deputy PRO, Hon Gboga Moses as Ex-officio 1, Samuel Abiodun as Welfare Officer, Hon Akingbala Semiu, Hon Folusho Adekunle and Hon Atele Jeremiah as Chairman Ogun Central, Ogun East and Ogun West respectively.

## More Troubles For Abure, Ajaero As Veteran Labour Leaders, Trade Unionists Call For Their Resignation

### *\*Demand forensic examination of LP finances*

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

There seems no end in sight into the crisis confronting the embattled national chairman of the Labour Party (LP) Barrister Julius Abure and the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) President, Comrade Joe Ajaero, as veteran labour leaders and trade unionists have called for their resignation from office.

The group under the aegis of Assembly of Labour Veterans and Trade Unionists specifically demanded the thorough forensic examination and investigation of the Labour Party's (LP) finances with immediate effect.

Making the call at a press conference in Lagos on Friday, the group asserted that there is overwhelming evidence and

array of well established cases of financial recklessness against the LP national chairman and woeful failure of Comrade Ajaero to rise to the challenge demanded by his office, which has made him to score below average in

leadership performance.

" Given the overwhelming evidence assiduously marshalled and the array of well established cases of financial recklessness brought forward by the treasurer of the Party against the Party's

chairman and in full cognisance of the woeful failure of Comrade Joe Ajaero to rise to the challenge demanded by his office, thereby scoring below average in leadership performance, we, the Assembly

of Labour Veterans and Trade Unionists strongly lend our voice to the open call for both Barrister Julius Abure and Comrade Joe Ajaero to resign forthwith.

"Beyond this humane angle of looking at any personal tragedy, our Assembly shall remain ever resolute in demanding that thorough forensic examination and investigation of the party's finances must be instituted without further delay.", it posited.

Speaking on behalf of the group at the conference held at the Primol Hotel, GRA, Ikeja, a former Vice President of NLC, Comrade Isah Tijjani posited that the unfolding crisis rocking the Labour Party at the apex of its



Comrade Isah Tijjani, mni (in white agbada) and other veteran labour leaders at the press conference in Lagos.

Continued on Page 15



# Security: Do More On Economy To Alleviate Sufferings, Fast Track Release Of Kidnap Victims, HEKAN President Tells FG

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**P**resident of the United Church of Christ in Nigeria, popularly known as HEKAN, Reverend Amos Kiri wants President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to do more in the economic sector to alleviate the suffering many Nigerians are currently passing through.

Dr. Kiri stated this at the opening ceremony of the HEKAN Annual National convention, 2024.

He said that the cost of living is unbearable as prices of goods and other commodities continue to mount pressure on ordinary Nigerians.

On security, the HEKAN President noted that the SECURITY situation characterized by the rising cases of banditry, kidnapping for ransom is alarming, nothing that there's need for the government to fast track the release of those in bandits den across the country.

"The poor state of Nigeria's economy has been a major concern for all and sundry but mostly affected are the masses among

us who are in the majority.

"The cost of living is unbearable as prices of goods and commodities continue to mount pressure on ordinary Nigerians, may the Lord enrage the government of the day with wisdom to enable them set the Right policies that will ameliorate this situation in Jesus name" He added.

According to him, "The insecurity situation characterized by rising cases of kidnapping is alarming and must be addressed immediately".

He also commend the efforts of President Tinubu in curtailing criminal activities.

"We appreciate the efforts of the government towards improving the situation but a lot still has to be done to ensure we are all safe and we can settle on our jobs, farms and businesses daily without fear of insurgencies by enemies of the state." Dr. Kiri maintained.

"I decree that no one shall be victimized amongs us in Jesus name" He prayed.

HEKAN also frowned at the recent abduction of schoolchildren in Kuriga

village in Kaduna and called on government to investigate the root cause of incident

"The kidnapping of children at Kuriga school and other places is horrifying and calls for a concerted efforts by the government and all to nib on the board the root cause of banditry in our society today."

He said that it is the responsibility of every government to provide security for its citizens.

"The duty of the government is the welfare and security of its citizenry, for this reason, the government must do something urgently to curtail kidnapping in our society. Unless the government takes a firm position on terrorism and banditry, these might overrun the nation".

Reverend Kiri further spoke on the HEKAN Theme, 2024, "HEKAN theme of the year, 2024, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, is, "Pressing Towards the Goal" (Philippians 3:13-14). It is obligatory for every Christian to press on towards the

goal. Every Christian must put away confidence in the flesh and make heaven their primary goal.

"This way, we are convinced of eternal life with Jesus Christ in Heaven, However, the race we have started is lifelong and it originates with the referee which is the Lord Jesus Christ And important to note is that the Bible (Heb.12:1) says we are in a race and we should run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

"The race we are already into is not just any race; it is a race Marked out for us. For any of us [Christians] in this marked-out race to win the prize, we must run according to the set rules. The rules of the game are not man-made but divinely penned down for all to obey. 2 Tim. 2:5 says, If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. So it must be run on Jesus terms and not ours."

The HEKAN President appealed to Nigerians to support government at all levels and be law abiding for the interest of the country.





# Palliatives: Governor Uba Sani Support Group Distributes 5 Thousand Bags Of Grains To Kaduna North Women

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

As part of efforts to alleviate the hardship faced by people in the country, Governor Uba Sani Support Group under the leadership of the Commissioner of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos has distributed over five thousand bags of grains to women in Kaduna North. The distribution was overseen by the commissioner with support from former

Governor of Kaduna State, His Excellency, Mukhtar Ramadan Yero, among others.

Speaking during the flagging off, His Excellency, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero, said the purpose of the palliatives is to address the economic hardship faced by the people in the country at the moment.

According to him, the government of Uba Sani has done very well by this singular gesture by tackling challenges of food shortage and to put smiles on the faces of people, during the sacred month of

Ramadan.

The former governor called on the good people of the state to support the present administration as it has a lot of developmental programmes to carry out in the state.

He also advised the beneficiaries of the grains not to sell them as they will go a long way in their various homes.

Speaking earlier, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos, said the country is going through a lot right now as there's no better time than to come up with this palliatives program

to ease the suffering been faced by the citizens of the state.

He said, Kaduna State Government is concerned about the hardship and is currently working to make life better for everyone.

Mamman Lagos added that the gesture is in line with Governor Uba Sani's commitment towards ensuring that every resident of Kaduna State is adequately supported by the government as an encouragement for better opportunities to come.





# Palliatives: Governor Uba Sani Support Group Distributes 5 Thousand Bags Of Grains To Kaduna North Women







IGP Egbetokun

## IGP Egbetokun Approves Elevation Of 10,581 Inspectors, Others

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

No fewer than 10,581 police personnel of the ranks of Inspectorate cadre and below would soon be promoted to their next ranks, following authorization by the Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun. Consequently, the IGP has directed the Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of the Department of Finance and Administration (DIG DFA) and the Commissioner of Police (Welfare) to quickly commence the promotion process for the deserving junior officers.

The Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi in a statement on Friday, gave the breakdown of the promotions to include 9,831 Police Constables to be promoted to the rank of Corporal, 81 Corporals to the rank of Sergeant and 669 officers from the rank of Sergeants to Inspectors. The statement reads, "The Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, Ph.D., NPM, has authorized the promotion of ten thousand, five hundred and eighty-one (10,581) deserving junior officers of the Inspectorate Cadre, and the Rank and File.

"In line with this directive, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police overseeing the Department of Finance and

Administration (DIG DFA) has been tasked with coordinating efforts alongside the Commissioner of Police (Welfare) to commence the promotion process promptly.

"The breakdown of promotions includes nine thousand, eight hundred and thirty-one (9,831) Police Constables slated to be promoted to the rank of Corporal; eighty-one (81) Corporals to advance to the rank of Sergeant; and six hundred and sixty-nine (669) officers set to progress from the rank of Sergeants to Inspectors.

"The Inspector General of Police while emphasizing the zeal of the Force leadership to fostering a culture of meritocracy and career advancement, reiterates the pivotal role of timely promotions in enhancing the morale of officers and bolstering the overall effectiveness of the Force.

"Noting that it serves as cornerstones in sustaining the ongoing manpower development initiatives of the Nigeria Police Force, Egbetokun however, reassured that promotions in the Force will be solely on merit.

"The Nigeria Police Force extends its heartfelt congratulations to all officers slated for promotion and urges them to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and service to the nation."

## Kano State Polytechnic Promoting Self-Reliance Through Sciences- Director

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

Kano State Polytechnic would continue to promote vocational and skills acquisition programmes to facilitate self-reliance with optimum results.

This was announced by the Director, School of Sciences, Gwamai Dawakin Tofa, Malam Muktar Dankaka while acknowledging

educational support from well meaning citizens of the school's catchment area for sponsoring students into the academic session. He disclosed that the school would become an exemplary academy of learning, because the host communities in the area are ready to support the government's determination towards providing quality education.

Muktar Dankaka added that with the people participation in the educational development, there would be collective efforts towards the successful implementation of policies regarding the sector, where the young generations tend to benefit from the collective responsibility as a community. He commended Alhaji Arab Iliyasu Tsaure for

sponsoring 200 students to study at the school, and called on well meaning citizens to contribute to education sector in order to promote peace and progress in the society. Those who spoke at the ceremony include, Alhaji Sabo Iliyasu Saye the Senior legislative aide to Bichi lawmaker and Alhaji Arab Iliyasu Tsaure, as well as some remarks from the students.



## Mama Led Impactful Life, Governor AbdulRazaq Mourns Mother Of Deputy, Alabi

By BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has joined the family of the Deputy Governor, Mr. Kayode Alabi to mourn the glorious exit of his mother, Mama Ena Maud Alabi (née Aljoe). A Jamaican by birth and Nigerian by citizenship and marriage, the matriarch of the Alabi family went home in the early hours of Friday, April 5, 2024, at the age of 98.

She retired as a senior matron at Maternity (Amilegbe) Ilorin in 1980, ending decades of impactful professional



Mama Ena Maud Alabi

service to God and humanity as a health

worker and caregiver. The governor said,

Mama Ena was a humanist per excellence who served God and her community with her talents and rich network.

"On behalf of the AbdulRazaqs, the government and people of Kwara State, the Governor sends his heartfelt condolences to the Deputy Governor and his siblings on this huge loss of a faithful mother," he said.

He asked God to repose her soul and help the family to stay strong and united through the mourning period and after.



# Enormity Of Killings In Kogi Community, Agojeju-Odo Unsettles Gov Ododo

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja  
Kogi State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo has expressed deep shock over the recent wanton killings by bandits in Agojeju-Odo Community in Omala Local Government Area of the state.

A statement issued on Saturday by Special Adviser to the Governor on Media, Ismaila Isah said that the governor was bemused by the ugly dimension that the communal clashes between people in the area have assumed startling dimension over time as he promised immediate intervention by his administration to forestall a reoccurrence of the unfortunate incident.

Governor Ododo assured that the perpetrators of the dastardly act will not go unpunished, adding that security agencies are on the trail of the assailants whose acts of mindless cowardice resulted

in the destruction of lives and property in the area.

Disturbed by the spate of wanton destruction of lives and property, the governor who has since sent a delegation led by his deputy, Elder Joel Oyibo Salifu on a condolence visit to the area, further assured that kinetic and non-kinetic measures deployed by the state government have led to relative stability in Omala Local Government Area until the recent escalation of the conflict.

Governor Ododo further said that the state will deploy a detachment of the recently established Metropolitan Quick Response to the area to reinforce the existing security architecture in the Omala Local Government Area.

The governor commiserated relatives of those killed in the crisis and promised that the government would provide support for those injured and

others whose houses were razed by the marauding beasts.

It would be recalled that unknown gunmen believed to be bandits on Thursday, invaded Agojeju Odo in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State and killed staggering number of people while many houses were set ablaze.

According to reports gathered, about 34 people were killed last Thursday, while another 15 bodies were recovered from the bush on Friday morning as the search for more bodies continues.

The armed men encircled the community and launched a violent assault, resulting in fatalities and the destruction of homes.

A community leader, who narrowly escaped the attack, said that the sudden onslaught caught the residents off guard.

News of a potential invasion had

been circulating for the past three weeks, and the newly appointed Local Government Council Caretaker Chairman, Mark Edibo, had been notified, despite assurances of safety and security. According to a source, the violence stemmed from a disagreement between a young man in Agojeju-Odo and a herder whose cattle damaged the farmer's farm. Despite intervention by the caretaker chairman, tensions escalated.

Meanwhile, the Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Williams Aya, confirmed the incident, stating that the Commissioner of Police had deployed a tactical squad comprising Mobile Police, Soldiers, and Vigilante men to restore order in response to a distress call.

SP Aya could not provide an exact casualty figure, but assured that he would gather information

from the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Omala Local Government Council and provide an update.

"As for the figure of dead persons, I can't confirm now. I will call you after I have spoken with the DPO in charge of Omala, but I know that so many people sustained gunshot injuries," he said.

He stated that the Commissioner of Police Kogi State Police Command, CP Bethrand Onuoha had deployed more policemen to the communities, assuring that the perpetrators of the heinous act would be apprehended.

The community appealed to Kogi State Governor, Usman Ododo and security agencies to come to their aid by deploying more personnel to the area, as the police in the local government council have been overwhelmed by the attackers.

# Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns, As Gombe Elder Statesman, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu Passes On At 94

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has received with heavy hearts, the news of the demise of a remarkable elder statesman and renowned educationist, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu (Santurakin Yamaltu) who died yesterday in Abuja.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, April 7, 2024.

Reacting to the sad event. Governor Inuwa Yahaya said, "today, we mourn the loss of a distinguished personality,

renowned educationist, respected leader, and cherished father figure whose legacy will forever remain etched in our hearts".

"The late Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu's life was a shining example of dignity, integrity, and selflessness. As an educationist, he dedicated himself to building a brighter future for generations to come. His contributions to education were profound and his philanthropic endeavours touched countless lives, providing hope and opportunity to those in need as evidenced by the Islamiyya schools he established, which continue to serve our communities", the Governor said.

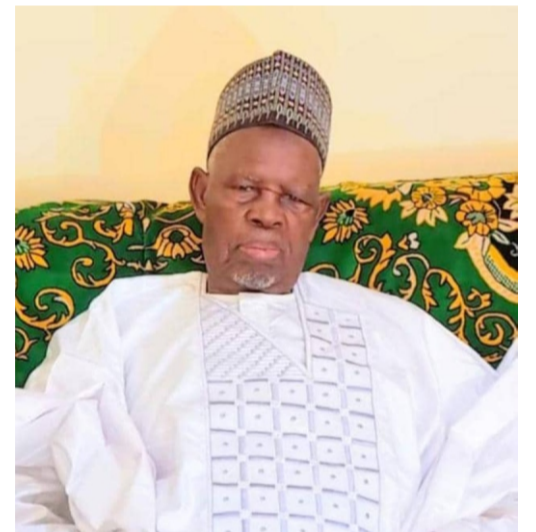
Governor Inuwa described the death of the

nonagenarian as a great loss, not only for Gombe State but the nation at large.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hon. Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Alhaji Nasiru Muhammad Aliyu, mni (Magajin Garin Gwani) and his siblings, including Major General Abdurashid Muhammad Aliyu RTD (Sarkin Kudun Gombe); President of ZAVATI Group, Alhaji Abdulrahman Muhammad Aliyu (Majen Gombe) and other members of the bereaved family".

Governor Inuwa urged the entire Muhammadu Aliyu's family members to take solace in the knowledge that their late

Continued on Page 16



Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu

# More Troubles For Abure, Ajaero As Veteran Labour Leaders, Trade Unionists Call For Their Resignation

*\*Demand forensic examination of LP finances*

leadership structure and the endless ongoing tussle for the control of the party between the party's embattled chairman Barrister Abure and the president of NLC, Comrade Ajaero has become a source of worries to the group.

He argued that the needles crisis has resulted in the complete abandonment of the constitutional duties and core responsibilities duly bestowed upon the two leaders.

The crisis, Tijjani noted has been optimally exploited by governments at all levels to introduce unpalatable economic measures aimed at keeping the workers and their poor families in a permanent state of abominable penury and social

deprivation.

"On the contrary, Nigerian workers have been abandoned to their fate, consigned to face gloomy future, totally devoid of delightful hopes and cheering promises.

"As the prospect to thus escape from the grip of multi-dimensional poverty dims for the masses of our people, space to impose more burdens in the working class continue to be fully occupied by harsher economic policies.

"With the leadership of both the Labour Party and the apex Labour Center, the NLC, now focusing their full attention on petty squabbles, these rift were optimally exploited by governments at all levels, to

introduce unpalatable economic measures aimed at keeping the workers and their poor families in a permanent state of abominable penury and social deprivation." Tijjani a former National Deputy President NUPENG and former Labour Party Presidential Aspirant stressed.

While justifying the call for the resignation of both Ajaero and Abure, the veteran labour leader maintained that the failure of the leaders of the Labour Unions and the Labour Party to provide credible challenge to the anti-people policies of the Federal Government are indeed sufficient basis for Nigerian workers to demand their resignation.

"From the FG's sudden and abrupt withdrawal of petroleum subsidy, to the drastic devaluation of the national currency and the newly announced insensitive hikes in the costs of electricity tariff, the abysmal failure of the leaders of the Labour Unions and the Labour Party to provide credible challenge to these anti-people policies are sufficient basis, for Nigerian workers to demand their resignation without any further delay.

"When you devote adequate time to examine the perfunctory manner with which the Ajaero's NLC, is handling the ongoing Award and the Minimum Wage negotiations, it would be crystal clear to you, that not much

should be expected to come out from these razzmatazz labour haggles.

"It is a sad commentary that many years after the adoption of the current N30, 000 minimum wage, more than 10 states governor's, fully aware of the endemic weakness of the union officials, have against all entreaties refused to pay the agreed amount.

"On top of this disconcerting labour leadership ineptitude, our Assembly of Labour Veterans and Trade Unionists, is pained to admit that, what is going on in the Labour Party under the watch of power drunk Barrister Julius Abure, is a rape on democracy.", the veteran labour leader emphasised.



## Defence Minister Matawalle Is Tinubu's Most Reliable Northern Political Ally - Ohanaeze Ndigbo

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

**A**pex Igbo socio-cultural organisation, Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Council Worldwide has described Defence Minister, Bello Matawalle as President Bola Tinubu's most reliable political ally from Northern Nigeria today.

The group said this while condemning what it called a gang-up against Tinubu by some Northern elements.

It however, said Matawalle has proved to be a reliable ally to Tinubu, stressing that with some politicians already scheming ahead of 2027 general elections, Matawalle was well positioned to protect the president's interest.

A statement signed by the National President of the group, Mazi Okwu Nnabuike, urged the President not to be deceived by some political enemies who were desperately working to scuttle the relationship between him and the Minister.

Okwu said, "these desperate politicians tend to cause disaffection between the President and

the Defence Minister, having realised that he would be very strategic to the president's interest in the North ahead of the 2027 general election.

"They are the same people creating an atmosphere of disunity and insecurity in the North, all in a bid to discredit Mr President and make the security architecture look weak.

"They are determined to ensure that Mr President's allies are displaced ahead of the election, which would in turn weaken his political base."

The Ohanaeze group further said that all the plans of the said detractors is to ensure that, "the gains made by the current administration in the areas of security and welfare of the masses are scuttled.

"We however, urge the President not to let them have their way, but to continue reposing his confidence on the Defence Minister, who we are sure of his capacity and commitment towards the progress and success of the government.

"He will no doubt be a good rallying point ahead of the 2027 election," the Igbo youth stressed.

## Tuggar Foundation Distributes Food Items To Bauchi Residents, Traditional Rulers

By; ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi

**T**he Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar has distributed food items worth millions of Naira to Muslims faithfuls across 20 local government areas of Bauchi State.

Tuggar Foundation distributed the items to residents of Bauchi State, including traditional rulers and less privileged in the society.

The Director General of the foundation, Alhaji Muhammadu Bello Tukura, explained that the items were donated by friends and associates of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar.

He said the items distributed, include, bags of rice and sugar as well as cartons of spaghetti, macaroni and talia and vegetable oil for people in

the state irrespective of political party affiliation in the spirit of the ongoing Ramadan fast by Muslims.

"The items are meant to alleviate the tough situation people are going through presently, due to the harsh economic downturn across the country. At least, it will take care of the immediate need for food.

"These items are for Muslims because this is Ramadan month of Muslim fasting, the items are meant to enable them have means of breaking their fast for the period."

Tukura said that businessmen and marketers in Bauchi State were the ones who procured and supplied the items in an efforts to boost their outlets and promote local business development.

He further explained that during the last Christmas and New Year

celebrations, the foundation extended similar gesture to Christians across the state in the spirit of the Season.

Tukura added that the foundation also considered the traditional institution as major key players in the peaceful coexistence of the people of the state so they have been included in the distribution.

The DG assured that the exercise has no political undertone as it is purely service to humanity as a means of support to the less privileged members of the public.

In his remarks, the Personal Assistant to the Minister, Mohammed Tilde commended the DG of Tuggar Foundation, Bello Tukura for being a dependable ally to Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, saying such people are very rare to find.

The PA corroborated the DG that the exercise does not have any political inclination but rather, an avenue to support citizens to live a better life in the midst of the economic recession in the country.

He assured that the foundation will continue to be supportive of the Minister in seeing that people are empowered to have source of livelihood. Some of the LGA Coordinators of the Tuggar Foundation who spoke to journalists, expressed happiness that they can confidently go back to their respective areas to meet the people and deliver the items.

They assured that the targeted people will be reached and given the items as directed, stressing that the distribution will be free and fair devoid of any political attachment.

## Ondo 2024: Funmilayo Is First To Obtain, First To Submit Forms, Says I Mean Business

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

**A** female gubernatorial aspirant of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ondo State, Engr. Funmilayo Waheed-Adekojo, has submitted her expression of interest and nomination forms to contest the governorship primary election of the party.

Waheed-Adekojo, who was the first aspirant to obtain the forms last week, is also the first to submit on Thursday at the party's headquarters in Abuja.

While submitting the forms, the leading aspirant disclosed that her swift actions was a totem that she meant business, expressing optimism that she will emerge as the candidate of the party.

She said, "I was the first to acquire and submit the forms, signifying my unwavering commitment and readiness to represent



the party. This proactive approach underscores my seriousness, indicating my firm resolve to advance the party's interests.

"With a strong sense of optimism, I firmly believe in my ability to secure the party's candidacy. My dedication and

preparedness to fly the party's flag are unwavering, and I am determined to earn the trust and support of both party members and constituents alike.

"As I embark on this journey, I call upon fellow party members to join me in this endeavor. Together,

we can strengthen the All Progressives Congress and propel it towards greater success.

"I humbly urge the collective support of the party members as we work towards achieving victory and securing the party's nomination."

## Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns, As Gombe Elder Statesman, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu Passes On At 94

father's legacy will endure through the lives he touched and the disciplined children he left behind, praying that his memory will continue to inspire them to strive for excellence and compassion that he exemplified.

The Governor prayed Almighty Allah to forgive the shortcomings of the deceased and reward his good deeds with Aljannat Firdaus.

Born in 1930 in Gombe, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu's educational journey took him from Gombe Elementary School to Teachers College Toro. He furthered his studies at the University of Bristol, UK, where he obtained a Diploma in Primary Education, and later at the University of Cardiff Wales, where he earned a Degree in Education Administration. Throughout his career, he served in various capacities, including as Head Master in several schools across and as Inspector of Education.

Alhaji Aliyu was a permanent member of the Bauchi State Primary Education Board and later played a great role in the early management of the Gombe State Civil Service Commission following the state's creation in 1996. His commitment to public service and his dedication to the advancement of education earned him respect and admiration throughout his career and beyond. As announced by the family, the funeral prayer (Janazah) for the deceased elder statesman will take place tomorrow, Monday by 4:30pm at the Emir's Palace, Gombe.



# When Governor Abba, Deputy Hosted Groups, Individuals To Ramadan Iftar In Kano

By: IBRAHIM GARBASHUAIBU

In the bustling city of Kano, as the sun dipped below the horizon, marking the end of another day of fasting during Ramadan, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf gathered with various groups and individuals to celebrate the month with iftar.

The aroma of traditional dishes filled the air as people eagerly awaited the call to prayer signaling the time to break their fast.

Governor Abba Kabir and his deputy, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo arrived and were greeted by cheers and warm smiles, embracing the spirit of unity and community that Ramadan fosters. Together, they sat down to share a meal, reflecting on the blessings of the holy month and the importance of coming together as one family.

The iftar gathering was a true representation of the diversity within Kano State, with people from different backgrounds, religions, and walks of life joining hands in solidarity.

From local artisans to religious leaders, from business owners to students, everyone found common grounds in the values of compassion, generosity, and empathy.

During the meal, Governor Abba took the opportunity to listen to the concerns and aspirations of the people, reaffirming his commitment to serving all citizens of Kano with fairness and dedication.

He pledged to continue fostering an inclusive and harmonious society where everyone has equal opportunities to thrive and contribute to the progress of the state. As the night deepened and the conversations flowed, the iftar gathering became more than just a meal—it became a symbol of unity, resilience, and hope for a brighter future. With hearts full of gratitude and spirits uplifted, the people of Kano rejoiced in the blessings of Ramadan and the bonds that held them together as a community.

As the evening came to a close, the Governor expressed his appreciation for the warmth and hospitality of the people of Kano, promising to continue working tirelessly to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met. With a renewed sense of purpose and solidarity, they parted ways, carrying the spirit of togetherness and compassion with them into the night.

The iftar events were held at the Government House, providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for guests to break their fast together.

The menu for the iftar gatherings featured a variety of traditional Ramadan dishes and refreshments, showcasing the rich culinary heritage of the state.

Attendees of the iftar gatherings included government officials, security chiefs, religious leaders, community members, and representatives from various cultural and social organizations including members of the pen profession.

The Governor and his deputy Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo took the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations with their guests, fostering

bonds of friendship and collaboration across different segments of society.

The iftar gatherings served as a platform for discussing important issues facing the community and exploring ways to work together towards positive change and development.

Governor Abba and his deputy's commitment to hosting these iftar events demonstrated their dedication to promoting unity, inclusivity, and mutual understanding among all members of the community in the state.

Governor Abba and his deputy were known for their generosity and their commitment to bringing people from all walks of life together. They believed in the power of unity and the importance of community, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

Governor Abba and his deputy made sure to personally greet each guest, thanking them for attending and wishing them a blessed Ramadan. As the meal was served, they sat amongst the guests, engaging in conversations and listening to their stories.

The iftar gatherings continued throughout the month, with different groups and individuals being welcomed each night. From orphaned children to elderly widows, every guest was treated with dignity and respect, and no one was turned away.

The generosity of Governor Abba and his deputy caught the attention of the media, and soon their iftar gatherings became a symbol of unity and compassion in the state. People from all over came to join in the celebrations, creating a sense of camaraderie and solidarity that transcended any differences.

Also, the Governor hosted people with disabilities and residents of the Children's Home

Governor Yusuf has reaffirmed his administration's commitments to supporting the residents of the Kano children's home in achieving a higher quality of life even as they transition into adulthood. He reflects the administration's ongoing endeavor to provide social security and a prosperous existence for the children's home residents.

Governor Abba emphasized that, in light of his administration's concern for addressing the needs of vulnerable members of society, his government has expanded the mandate of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to encompass children and individuals with disabilities, aiming to enhance their quality of life through tailored policies.

He committed to addressing issues such as job creation, access to tertiary education,



Gov Yusuf

provision of scholarships, and support for the marriage of female residents of the children's home, in accordance with the government's principle of inclusivity in providing the benefits of democracy to all segments of society.

Furthermore, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf revealed plans to establish an agency dedicated to the welfare of individuals living with disabilities and pledged to appoint leaders from within the community to oversee the agency.

He expressed joy in acknowledging the contributions of the children's home residents and individuals living with disabilities to the peaceful coexistence and socio-economic advancement of Kano.

In her remarks, the Commissioner of Women Affairs, Children, and Persons with Disabilities, Hajiya Aisha Lawan Saji, expressed gratitude to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf for prioritizing women's development and enhancing the lives of individuals living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Engineer Musa Shaba, the State Chairman of the Joint Associations of People Living with Disabilities (JONAPLWD), expressed appreciation to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf for the renovation of Yadakunya General Hospital and the medical interventions provided to spinal

cord patients, among other initiatives.

However, Governor Abba spoke at length when hosted the twenty one unions at iftar on Tuesday, reaffirmed his commitments to modernizing the Civil Service in order to facilitate the timely implementation of policies and programs that directly impact the lives of the state's residents. Governor Yusuf emphasized the importance of the Civil Service as the operational core of any government. Governor Kabir promised to continuously support and enhance the Civil Service through training, re-training, and fostering a conducive work environment to optimize productivity and improve service quality. Governor Yusuf expressed gratitude for the leadership and camaraderie demonstrated by the union executives, highlighting the harmonious relationship between the State government and the unions.

In a remark, a university don, Professor Abdallah Uba Adamu, who spoke at the event, praised the governor for his efforts in advancing Kano State and urged the government to establish a framework for implementing research findings to generate policy recommendations that promote good governance.

Shuaibu is the Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor of Kano State.



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HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
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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
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QUARTER PAGE (BLACK AND WHITE)	111,692.74	8,376.96	120,069.70

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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



# el-Rufai And The Short Trek To Posterity

By: HASSAN GIMBA

The chickens, the saying goes, always come home to roost. But some people would prefer to be Shakespearean by quoting the insightful words uttered by Marc Antony in William Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar, "the evil that men do lives after them while the good is oft interred with their bones."

The first is a long-established English idiom that was used as early as 1390 AD in Chaucer's *The Parson's Tale*. It means that wicked deeds or words return to trouble their originator.

In the second, spoken at Julius Caesar's funeral, Mark Antony, referring to Brutus, Caesar's murderer, was saying that when someone dies, the bad things they did continue to afflict the living, but the good things they did often do not, and therefore are buried along with the corpse.

The first one tells us that the law of karma is for the living and that like Frankenstein's monster, every wrong and everything not done with good intention, especially against people, always turns around to torment the doer. The second has now been overtaken by events, as we can see in today's world. The bad ones do not wait for the leader's death before they begin to haunt the person, as we shall soon see. Likewise, the good things they do, they leave them behind and we see them everywhere. Posterity is now, no longer tomorrow or left to be regurgitated by future generations.

About four years ago, my friends from Kaduna started being ecstatic whenever we met, beating their chests and clapping wildly, sometimes with even their feet, and telling me that El-Rufai was doing wonders constructing roads and fly-overs, tunnels and bridges, even telling me that he constructed one fly-over with four roundabouts under it.

I always did my best to calm them down. I would ask, with which revenue are the constructions being executed: locally generated or from the federation account? They would say he collected a foreign loan of hundreds of millions of dollars. And being "smart", to get the loan, apart from local politics at the National Assembly, including ensuring that his lackey, now successor, was made chairman of a committee that could help facilitate the loan, he made someone from the loan givers an "honorary adviser" in his government. But this is for another day.

Then I would ask them simple but pointed questions like which construction companies are doing the work? Who owned them openly and who owned them through "blind trust" as with Obasanjo and Transcorp? I will then ask by how much the roads, bridges

and fly-overs would increase the state's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and service the loans collected. To all these questions, their faces looked blank.

I believe that if a state must take a loan, then it should not go into servicing a lifestyle or financing projects that cannot repay the loan or improve IGR, except in the health sector.

I told them that the way things were going, a time would come when the state would not be able to pay salaries and render basic services to the people, by which time the loan taker would have since left the stage. Those who do not know would start accusing the new government of incompetence, whereas it was the past government that made the state "ungovernable".

Fine, the roads and all have increased the value of houses and plots around them, and so what? In what way does that affect the poor man and his struggle to survive? The temporary appointments offered by the constructions are gone because the companies, not indigenous, have returned to base, boosting their areas of domicile.

Utilised differently, those loans could have been used to resuscitate moribund industries - and God knows Kaduna has a lot of them, build more, especially agro-allied ones. That would have offered direct and indirect employment to thousands of people who have dependents and eased the food insecurity in the land. The employed would pay taxes as that would have boosted the state's IGR from which it can now embark on road constructions to open up rural and industrial areas and upgrade the infrastructure in the towns out of necessity.

Without taking anything from the above, part of the loans can also go into building world-class hospitals that could turn the state into a medical tourist centre. Intra-town transport service, which may include light rails, could have been done.

With massive employment at every corner, the crime rate in the state would have reduced significantly and the insecurity, especially incessant kidnappings bedeviling the state, wouldn't be as it is now.

And so there is nothing wrong with Governor Uba Sani coming out to tell the citizens their situation: the state cannot pay salaries because out of its ₦10 billion share of the monthly dole outs, sadly, ₦7.5 billion goes into the payment of the debt of \$587 million, ₦85 billion, and 115 contractual liabilities it inherited from the government of Mr el-Rufai.

Tragically, one of his sons, firing from all cylinders, instead of denting Uba



**Hassan Gimba**

*Monday  
Column*

Sani, ended up further soiling his father's reputation. He claimed that the governor had "deflected" from his responsibilities and abandoned his duty as governor. "These guys have realised that they are wholly incompetent and the only way to mask the nonsense is to deflect. From a governor who is always sleeping in Abuja to a litany of incompetent aides who were only rewarded for foolish political reasons," he vituperated.

By accusing the governor of being incompetent and surrounded by incompetent aides, el-Rufa's son is only pointing at his father for picking and handing over to an incompetent lackey as well as foisting incompetent aides on it, right from the deputy governor down.

Many outgoing governors, or even presidents, go to extreme lengths to produce their successors, not necessarily because they are thinking of the continuation of any "good work" they are doing; they just to ensure that their flagrant abuse of the people's trust is buried, at least for the time being.

Now the people of Kaduna will feel the impact of the negative acts of selfish

leadership. Many of them allowed themselves to be used, thinking they were "fighting for Islam", while the "Chief Jihadist" was empowering himself, his family and friends.

It is on record that some far-sighted senators who fought to stop the loan were denied return tickets, to the accolades of those now feeling the heat. Even when the then-governor boasted that he had done more than the Sardauna who did what he did without collecting loans, the same characters were nodding their empty heads like agama lizards. And now a lot of these gullible empty-heads are thinking of such a character as president!

But this development, hopefully, will further entrench democracy in the country, as well as probity and accountability in governance.

As long as leaders do not work with the fear of God, good intentions and the welfare of their people in mind, they will be having altercations with their anointed, even if they are their biological children.

*Hassan Gimba is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Neptune Prime.*



# Electricity Tariff Increase And The Big Lie

By Jibrin Ibrahim

**W**ITHOUT warning, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) raised the electricity tariff for most urban households by 300% on the basis of a big lie.

According to the Vice Chairman of NERC, Musliu Oseni, Band A electricity consumers regularly get 20+ hours supply of electricity a day and should pay much more than other consumers who get much less.

The DISCOS, for example, have refused to provide metres for most consumers so that they can be charged what they have not been supplied to consume. In the years since 2012, rated or installed capacity was supposed to have increased to 12,522 MW in 2015 but this is fiction. The average generation has been between 3,500 and 4,000 MW.

These privileged Nigerians do not spend much money on fuel for their generators so have all the extra money that accrues to them to pay their DISCO. The problem is that everybody in this country knows this is a lie and no sector of society regularly gets a minimum of 20 hours of electricity a day. You cannot build a new policy on lies and such a huge increase in the middle of the most severe cost of living crisis in Nigerian history cannot stand. The new tariff is also aimed at eliminating the annual electricity subsidies of NGN1.14 trillion we are told.

Mr Oseni said that the federal government had indicated a transition in policy direction towards introducing a more targeted subsidy regime aimed at mitigating the impact of changes in macroeconomic parameters “while largely protecting vulnerable customers and fostering investments targeted at providing efficient service delivery in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).” The problem is that the sudden increase is so vast that every consumer is in reality vulnerable and such increases need to be spread over time to reduce the impact on consumers.

I seriously doubt the argument that the review process is a necessary part in achieving the objective of the commission in the creation of a financially sustainable electricity market providing adequate and reliable power supply to drive the Nigerian economy. It is fiction.

While the tariff applies currently to so-called Band A category which is about 15 per cent of the customer population, NERC has also announced a plan to extend it to other bands as soon as they reach the fake level of 20+ hours supply a day. Since the level is determined by DISCOS rather than reality, I expect a rapid extension based on fake declarations which is a tradition that Nigerians know and understand too well.

The original sin was the mode of privatisation of the Nigerian electricity sector. It was a much-anticipated reform

exercise that created much hope for Nigerians. Launched in 2010, the exercise was intended to modernise the sector and cater to the country's growing demand for electricity. However, over a decade later, the desired outcomes have not materialised and the electricity available on the national grid to light homes and power the economy has stayed at an almost constant 4,500 megawatts (MW), well below the 8,400 MW projected for 2018. One reason for this is the technical inefficiency of the grid, beginning with inefficient gas supplies, the inability of the transmission system to deploy adequate electricity, and the lack of investment by production and distribution companies.

Such inefficiencies in the sector are compounded by 'legacy' corruption that has led to poor maintenance of the transmission network during state-ownership and to the presence of politically connected bidders in the privatisation process.

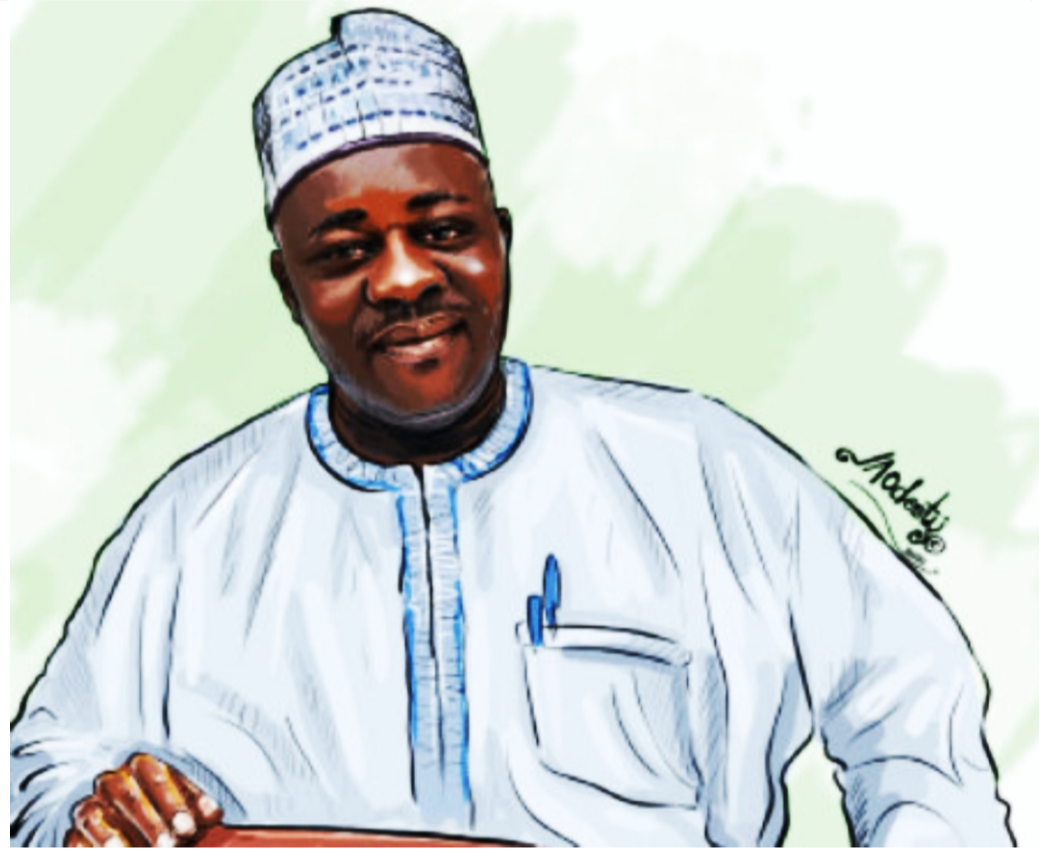
It is clear that Nigeria's power sector is unsustainable, which has repercussions for inclusive growth. The current crisis is a liquidity crisis as a result of deep structural distortions in the sector. The design of contracts post-privatisation has led to adverse selection with only politically connected bidders participating in the process rather than technically competent ones.

The design of contracts and lack of regulatory oversight has further deterred credible and technically competent investors during the bidding process. The politically connected nature of many of the acquisitions also mean the government is reluctant to take any tough decisions with regard to the sector. The conditions in which consumers lack supply and firms are unable to make profits have given rise to a host of interdependent corruption mechanisms. As the sector moves deeper into loss, the space for formal earnings becomes narrower, and the perverse incentives to be corrupt deepens. This has now pushed the sector into a state of low-level equilibrium, with significant restructuring needed in order to turn things around.

The DISCOS, for example, have refused to provide metres for most consumers so that they can be charged what they have not been supplied to consume. In the years since 2012, rated or installed capacity was supposed to have increased to 12,522 MW in 2015 but this is fiction. The average generation has been between 3,500 and 4,000 MW.

As a recent ACE-SOAS study of the Nigerian power sector reveal, the reality is that we Nigerian consumers spend more to purchase and maintain petrol and diesel generators than on electricity from the grid. The reform has been a total failure and for that reason, Nigerians are reluctant to pay more for a supply that is erratic and fails repeatedly.

It is clear that Nigeria's power sector is



*Jibrin Ibrahim*

unsustainable, which has repercussions for inclusive growth. The current crisis is a liquidity crisis as a result of deep structural distortions in the sector. The design of contracts post-privatisation has led to adverse selection with only politically connected bidders participating in the process rather than technically competent ones. These bidders used Nigerian banks for financing, which have ended up assuming much of the systemic risk. The financial health of the sector was based on tariffs and projections that could never be politically implemented.

'In a joint press conference organised by the 11 companies, the Chief Executive Officer of the Jos DisCo, Tukur Modibbo, announced that they were ready to give up their licence if the federal government could refund the money invested in the utility. He said: “We bought Jos DisCo for \$82 million. We are ready to give it away for \$72 million if we see buyers now. If government refunds the investors their money, we will quit the business.”'

Projections for the performance of the sector were based on distribution and generation companies (which are not publicly listed) reinvesting in the sector to build technical capacity. Instead, the companies started paying themselves. Dramatic increase in tariff leads to more corruption rather than improvement in power supply. The companies have no intention of investing to improve supply. The entire reform has to be reviewed because the dual goals of increasing efficiency and investment have failed dramatically.

In addition, the transmission sector wasn't privatised in 2012 and government has not invested to improve it. As a result, even if

Nigerian power stations were operating at full capacity, the transmission network would not be able to 'wheel' or transmit no more than 6,000 MW due to ailing infrastructure. For the past decade, the actual wheeling capacity is no more than 3,000 to 4,000 MW.

The Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trader (NBET) was meant to be a government-owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that pooled the electricity generated and acted as an institutional backstop. This agency was meant to inject confidence in the sector but has been facing liquidity challenges. Distribution companies are unable to provide enough power to meet demand.

The DisCos have openly admitted that their companies are not viable. The Punch newspaper reported some years ago: 'In a joint press conference organised by the 11 companies, the Chief Executive Officer of the Jos DisCo, Tukur Modibbo, announced that they were ready to give up their licence if the federal government could refund the money invested in the utility. He said: “We bought Jos DisCo for \$82 million. We are ready to give it away for \$72 million if we see buyers now. If government refunds the investors their money, we will quit the business.”'

We need to see a reform that would actually improve the system rather than sink more of our money into the mess.

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



# Consider Your Stay At Correctional Center As A Blessing, Emir Of Zazzau Consoles Inmates

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Chairman Kaduna State Council of Chiefs and the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli has urged inmates to consider their stay at the correctional facilities as a blessing to change their life styles in the society.

Emir Bamalli made the call when he paid a visit to the Medium Correctional Center Zaria where he offered prayers at the grave side of his Great Grand father late Emir Abubakar Dan Malam Musa who reigned between 1917 to 1927.

He reminded the inmates that they were detained because of the offences they committed, which are against the laws of the land.

The emir advised them to understand why they were at the correctional facilities, in order to effect changes in their activities. While expressing satisfaction with the level of infrastructural

development in the correctional center, Bamalli promised to renovate their mosque and also donated some books for them to learn more about religion.

He also acknowledged the skills acquisition training facilities at the center where the inmates learn various trades.

Earlier in his remarks, the Assistant Controller, Correctional Center, Ibrahim Isah Rambo told the emir that presently they have 325 inmates. Isah Rambo said, the support they are receiving from the emir is very encouraging and motivating.

He said, inmates are well trained in both academic and skills acquisition training during their stay after they were convicted of various terms.

The inmates presented some items they produced by themselves at the skills acquisition training center to the emir.



# Kaduna: Jaba LG Administrator Seeks Govt, Private Sector's Unwavering Support To Promote Nok Culture

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The Sole Administrator of the Jaba Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Honourable Nita Byack George, at the weekend, gave a hint that the Kaduna State Government could leverage on Nok culture to drive employment

and revenue generation of the state.

The only female LG Boss in the state, noted that after a six-year break, the 2024 edition of the popular Ham Week eventually held from March 25 to 31, 2024 at Kwai (Kwain) the headquarters of the Jaba Local

Government Area of Kaduna State.

Located in the Southern part of Kaduna State, the Ham people are the custodians of the world-renowned Nok Culture and famous Terracotta dating back to 500 BC.

That does not mean the history of

these unique people started in that century, but, as far back as the century, archeological findings show that they were well advanced in their civilisation. said.

Assessing the outcome of the well-attended cultural event by the Ham people and their well-wishers near and far, the Administrator believed that much could be achieved through the deliberate promotion of culture, tourism, and a creative economy.

To her, doing so would promote peace, and patriotism, encourage entrepreneurship, and create engagement for the creative industry thereby improving the revenue generation drive of the State and at the same time projecting Kaduna as the cultural hub of Northern Nigeria.

Nita, who is a civil society and Nollywood practitioner turned politician with vast experience in cultural promotion said she envisioned a great potential in the cultural tourism and hospitality sector.

She expressed her readiness to

support Mr. Governor in marketing the Nok culture since his administration is leaving no stone unturned in stimulating economic growth, creating jobs, and employing innovation to boost revenue generation across the sectors.

"I want to sincerely commend our amiable Governor Sen Uba Sani, our mother, the Deputy Governor Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, for their administration's unwavering effort towards restoring peace in the subregion and the state as a whole.

"Their efforts in peaceful Kaduna State made it possible for the Ham community to mark her cultural festival after six years of postponement", she said.

She however commended the illustrious sons and daughters of Hamland and the workaholic local organising committee, led by Ambassador Bulus Lolo for making the 2024 Tuk Ham Festival a very colourful event, urging them to sustain the momentum.





# Coach Felix Academic Sports Foundation Regrets Shift Of MTN Champs As Kaduna Sports Commissioner Visits



**By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**  
**T**he Kaduna State Commissioner for the Ministry of Sports Development Prof. Benjamin Kumai Gugong had a time with Coach Felix Academic and Sports Foundation Kaduna during his visit to the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna on Saturday. This is just as the Coach Felix Academic and Sports Foundation Kaduna which emerged the National 1st runner up and the champions of Abuja/Northern of the MTN Champs Season 1 December 2023, has regretted the shifting of the event. Speaking to our correspondent yesterday, Coach Felix Oseibe said that the

academics and sports foundation regrets the shift of the Kaduna leg of the MTN Champs to now Plateau State, due to some circumstances best known to the organisers. He explained that the foundation was also at the just concluded first leg of MTN Champs Season 2 held at Asaba Delta State. "The academics and sports foundation regrets the shift of the Kaduna leg of the MTN Champs to now Plateau State due to some circumstances best known to the organisers. "Multiple gold medalist and most decorated Kaduna School Girl of Coach

Felix Academic and Sports Foundation, Peace Lekwot emerged the long jump under 20 champion and also won the high jump of the women's heptathlon event. "Kaduna number one women's 400m runner, Temitope Olusesan also smashed her previous personal of 55.46s set while representing Kaduna State at the last National Sports Festival (NSF) held in Asaba Delta State in December 2022 to 55.94s. "The management of the foundation extends appreciation to making of champions and MTN Nigeria for organizing and financing this lofty

initiative, MTN champs does not only avail coaches and athletes with the opportunity for proper planning and testing the works done in course of the season, but will also create the discovery, developing and delivering of more coaches and athletes in the nearest that will reconnect the gaps between the elite and the grassroots," the foundation said. Coach Felix hailed the Kaduna State Commissioner of Sports for his dedication to grassroots sports development, while stressing that more needs to be done in that area.





# Olympics: Falcons Will Seal Qualifications In Pretoria, SESC Boss Assures

By; AYO OJEDOKUN  
Lagos

The founder and President of Super Eagles Supporters Club (SESC) Prince Vincent Okumagba has expressed optimism that Super Falcons will seal the qualifications in the second leg in Pretoria on Tuesday April 9.

Reacting after the game played at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja, on Friday, Okumagba who led his members to cheer the girls to a slim victory, assured that Falcons will successfully preserve their advantage in the second leg.

Captain, Rasheed Ajibade's 43rd minute goal handed the Super Falcons of Nigeria a narrow 1-0 win over

continental rivals, South Africa, in the first leg of qualifiers for football event of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

"Any of our tie with Bayana Bayana these days is not expected to be easy, but the zeal and determination I noticed in Falcons will definitely see us through in the second leg as we all know that the winner of this tie will qualify for the Olympic Games in Paris." SESC boss noted.

The Vice President of African Supporters Association however commended the Randy Waldrum's ladies for keeping their slender lead through the second half despite the South Africans efforts to get back in the game.



## NNPP South West Rejects Party's New Logo

\*Says Kwankwassiya red colour unacceptable

\*Reject alleged moves to hijack party

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

The South West chapter of the New Nigeria People's Party, (NNPP) on Sunday, rejected the new logo adopted by the party.

NNPP South West In a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Mr Kilamuwaye Badmus stressed that the question bordering NNPP members, stakeholders, and other party faithful in the country and in the diaspora is why changing the logo the party has adorned for over 20 years.

According to the party, the plan to change the NNPP's logo was an overnight move which is not acceptable to the members of the party in the South West.

"The plan to change the logo was not

officially passed to the members to seek their opinions and so it cannot stand the test of time", it said.

NNPP South West added, "What happened to over two decades logo of our great party, the NNPP, with a patriotic inscription of Nigeria map with basket of fruits, which connotes food security for the masses, it is when there is no hunger, that people can think of any other things.

"And why the changing so sudden to Kwankwassiya colour of red white red without exercising the party's internal mechanism? Enough of this political contractors that believe in party's trading and ideology of self imposition".

NNPP South West therefore called on

Governor Abba Yusuff, National Assembly members elected under NNPP to retain the victorious logo that gave them victory in the last election.

"The exclusive urgency of NEC meeting and National mini convention of our great party shows that the Kwankwasiya goroup led by Dr. Rabiun Musa Kwankwaso is working to hijack the party structure by announcing the trade mark of Kwankwasiya colour to finally commercialize and to have full control of the party structure in the country", Kilamuwaye said in the release.

The South West NNPP also queried the quick notification of the New logo by the National Leader Dr. Rabiun Musa Kwankwaso, Working Committee, (NWC) without seeking the opinions of the teeming members of the party across the country.

"We the leaders and members of the NNPP in the Southern Region were not consulted nor informed about the planned change of the party's logo and therefore the change is unacceptable to us and INEC should take note and reject such kangaroo decision of changing original NNPP Party Logo.

"We wish to state that changing of NNPP Logo is not the next line of action or method to put an end to the internal crisis rocking the party in the nation, but rather it will cause another damage to the party

because the adopted Kwankwassiya colour can't fly and the rational behind the idea is not acceptable to the Southwest Region of the New Nigeria People's Party.

"Dr. Rabiun Musa Kwankwaso is not the only leader of the New Nigeria People's Party, we have other formidable leaders across the country, we are not in the party to worship a single soul but rather to bring the party to a more reputable limelight collectively.

"NNPP is a national party in Nigeria though those elected as Governor, State House Of Assembly and the National Assembly members presently are from Kano State but it is not a yardstick or enough to take over the control of the party by the Kwankwasiya Movement.

"Politics is not a one man show. Kwankwaso is just only one of the leaders in the party. We have a lot of leaders and vibrant stakeholders in the party that the national working committee failed to carried along in its action to change the party's logo.

"We urge our only elected governor, Engr. Abba Yusuff to not to be ungrateful to God, the party members across the nation especially the Logo that gave him victory in the last election to be retained and maintained



NNPP South West PRO with supported party logo



**Olympics: Falcons Will Seal Qualifications In Pretoria, SESC Boss Assures**

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## Keep Praying For Nigeria, Leaders In Govt, NNPP Chieftain Ajadi, Sheu Urge Nigerians

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

**A**chieftain of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and Chairman of Bullion Records, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo has tasked Nigerians to continue praying for the country.

Ambassador Ajadi gave the task on Saturday, while speaking at the Ramadan Lecture (Season 2) organised by Bullion Records in Ibafo, Ogun State.

According to the Ogun State NNPP governorship candidate in the 2023 general elections, there is also the need for the leaders to focus more on the masses and that the constant prayer for leaders in government became necessary as their actions and inactions will definitely affect the people of the country.

"If we have the mindset of praying for our leaders, I am very sure God will touch their hearts and they will begin to know what the masses are clamouring for", he said.

Ambassador Ajadi added, "So I will urge the masses to keep praying purposely because of this season of Ramadan and I know God will answer our prayers. They have a lot of things to do for the masses because the masses are currently going



Ambassador Ajadi (left) at the lecture.

through excruciating suffering". The NNPP Chieftain then called on the Federal Government to create Vocational Centres across the 774 local government areas in the country for the youths to be engaged, saying, "On the 1st of January this year, you know I advised Nigerian leadership to go and make sure that they open Vocational Centres so that the citizens especially the youths will be empowered".

According to him, "This will really help because those that are

jobless will have something doing. If the government can do this in all the 774 local government areas in the country, it will help the government to secure a lot of jobs for the youths".

"With this in place, the youths will not be engaged in bad things. They will be engaged and be doing something to keep themselves busy instead of lazy around and becoming the willing tools in the hands of the devil.

"If governments fail to provide

jobs for the youths, they should not forget that 2027 is around the corner and everyone's eye is open now. The purpose of government is to provide jobs for the people. Government must therefore empower the youths", Ajadi said.

The Guest Speaker at the Lecture, the Chief Tofseer of Ilorin Emirate Al- Adaby, Alfa Usman Sannu Sheu emphasized that Nigeria leaders should do four things to succeed, saying, "One is that they should return to God. Invite God to guide their decisions.

" Secondly, is that the subsidy removed from the petroleum products should be used to assist the masses. Thirdly, they should continually think of the welfares of the governed. Giving huge money to the governors to supply palliatives to the citizens is not the solution.

"They should increase the pay of the civil servants, once the people working with governments are well paid, the country will be better. Fourthly, they should always seek the prayers of Nigerians.

Emphasizing that "We should be praying for the people in government", he said "Nobody should curse our leaders and the country. If we curse the people in government, it will come back to us. We should just be praying for our leaders and it shall be well for our country", Alfa Sheu said.

Delivering his lecture titled, "Submit Yourself To Who God Has Shown Mercy To", Alfa Sheu said God put people in position of leadership and the best thing is for everyone to accept God's decision

"Leadership is through God. It has nothing to do with age, place of birth or the position in the family. God chooses the leader and we don't have choice but to accept whoever God has put in position of leadership", Alfa Sheu said.

The lecture which was spiced with music saw musicians like Alhaji Kehinde Oriyomi, Alhaja Ashabi Modinat Barrytide, Femo Lancaster and Tope Indomie entertained the crowd with guests at the lecture including, Ogun NNPP Public Relations Officer, Kehinde Olowu, South West Publicity Secretary of the NNPP, Hon Kilamuwaye Badmus, Hon. Modawoni, Senator Teluwo among others.

## Afenifere Rejects Over 200% New Electricity Tariff Increase

\*Says it will frustrate businesses, ask Tinubu to compel Ministry of Power to reverse hike

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

**T**he Pan-Yoruba socio-cultural and political organization, Afenifere at the weekend rejected the over 200 per cent electricity tariff increase in the country as announced by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on Wednesday, April 4, 2024.

Afenifere in a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary Comrade Jare Ajayi on Saturday, said the electricity tariff increase will thwart the President Tinubu led administration's effort at boosting the economy as businesses will shrink.

In the statement, Afenifere maintained that businesses cannot flourish when the amount to be paid per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity jumped from N68 to

N225 just within 24 hours of its announcement.

Emphasizing that, "the sing-song virtually everywhere now is the poor supply of electricity and low quality of the commodity sometimes", Afenifere stressed "If the relevant government agencies are to be sincere with Nigerians, what they should do is to first ensure regular and efficient supply of electricity before acceding to increase in payment for services that are being poorly rendered.

" If the relevant government agencies are to be sincere with Nigerians, what they should do is to first ensure regular and efficient supply of electricity before acceding to increase in payment for services that are being poorly rendered", it said.

Afenifere added, "A rough calculation indicated that a person on Band A who was paying an average of N50,000 per month (on N68 per kWh) would now have to pay N170,000 for the same service.

" It is noteworthy that the Ministry and its agency, the NERC, are interested in the revenue that would be generated rather than first ensuring regular and efficient supply. This is in contradiction to the claim that the government agencies care about the pains of Nigerians".

Afenifere stressed further, "It is clear that rather than exploring ways to reduce the cost of producing energy thus reducing the pains of Nigerians, the relevant government agencies are passing the price of their own inefficiency on the people", saying, " For instance, increase in the cost

of gas was used as the reason for the hike in electricity tariff.

"Yet, it is clear that even the present cost of producing gas, and by implication electricity, can be made more efficient. In other words, both the price of gas as well as electricity would be far lower than what they are presently if the agencies concerned had gone into research and/or take advantage of available information on cost-efficient production of energies".

Afenifere then asked President Bola Tinubu to compel the Ministry of Power, to reverse the present hike, go into alternative energy sources like solar and wind, review the terms with which the 2013 exercise was carried out and be more innovative.