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2027: Akpabio Meets APC South South Chairmen, Urges Them To Grow Party In Region



Senator Godswil Akpabio with APC Chairmen in South South region

By; BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

At the head of the party's fortunes in 2027, President of the Senate, Godswil Akpabio, yesterday, charged the All Progressives Congress (APC), in the South South geo-political zone, to work harder to grow the party in the zone. Senator Akpabio who gave the charge while receiving in courtesy, APC chairmen from the South South region, in Abuja said there is the need for the visibility of the party in the region to grow from one state to more states.

The Senate President emphasized that he understands the challenges being faced by the chairmen and that, "in the days ahead, a meeting of critical stakeholders comprising State chairmen, National Assembly members, Ministers and other Appointees from the region would be convened to work out modalities to support the party at various state chapters, as a way of engendering unity and understanding, amongst all party members to foster social cohesion between the party and elected/

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Ensure Safe, Immediate Release Of Kidnapped Channels TV Reporter, NUJ urges Rivers Govt, Security Agencies

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) on Friday, demanded immediate release of the Channels TV reporter Joshua Rogers who was abducted from his residence in Rumuosi, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, on Thursday night.

NUJ in a statement by its National President, Dr Chris Isiguzo, urged the Rivers State Government and security agencies to prioritize efforts towards securing the safe and immediate release of the kidnapped reporter.

According to NUJ in the statement, "Rogers was taken by unknown gunmen around 9 p.m. as he returned from an official assignment at the government house", adding, "The assailants intercepted him and forcefully took him away in a Channels Television-branded vehicle". "It is distressing that individuals involved in the vital work of informing the public have become targets of criminal activities. The NUJ appeals to the Rivers State

Government and relevant security agencies to prioritize efforts towards securing the safe and immediate release of Joshua Rogers", it said.

NUJ added, "We emphasize the importance of ensuring his well-being and safety during this critical time. The NUJ underscores the gravity of the situation and stresses the need for concerted action to address the rising threats against journalists across Nigeria".

"We urge swift and effective measures to be taken to secure Joshua Rogers' freedom and bring an end to this distressing ordeal.

The NUJ stands in solidarity with Joshua Rogers and his family, and we demand immediate action to secure his safe return.

The union stressed, "Following the abduction, the kidnappers contacted his wife, demanding a ransom of N30 million for his release", saying, "The NUJ is deeply concerned about the escalating insecurity faced by journalists and media practitioners in the country".

Kingmakers Appoint Olakulehin As 43rd Olubadan

*To forward name to Gov Makinde for consent

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Balogun Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Owolabi Akinloye Olakulehin was on Friday, appointed as the New Olubadan of Ibadanland by the Olubadan in Council and Kingmakers in Ibadan.

Oba Olakulehin was selected as the 43rd Olubadan of Ibadan by the kingmakers at a meeting attended by 10 of the kingmakers held at the Olubadan palace, Ojaba area of Ibadan.

It all started at about 9am with the arrival of the kingmakers as well as some prominent Ibadan indigenes to grace the official ratification and announcement of the new Olubadan.

Oba Olakulehin arrived the venue of the meeting around 10am amidst shouts of joy and loud ovation from Ibadan sons and daughters that arrived

venue of the meeting to catch a glimpse of the new Olubadan

At the Ibadan kingmakers meeting which started around 11.25am, the new Olubadan was nominated by the Osi Balogun of Ibadanland, Oba Lateef Adebimpe with the Otun Olubadan of Ibadanland, High Chief Rashidi Ladoja as the Chairman of the Kingmakers.

Speaking with journalists at the end of the Olubadan-in-council meeting, the Otun Olubadan of Ibadanland a High Chief Rashidi Ladoja said with the meeting, appointment of the new Olubadan of Ibadanland, the kingmakers have concluded their part of the nomination exercise.

High Chief Ladoja stressed that what is left is the consent of Gov Seyi Makinde

The Otun Olubadan of Ibadanland stressed that a letter will be prepared by the local government and



The new Olubadan

send to the governor as soon as possible for consent

"As soon as the governor give consent to the letter, a date for coronation will be pick," he said

The meeting was attended by the Otun Olubadan of Ibadanland, High Chief Rashidi Ladoja; the Osi Olubadan, Oba Eddy Oyewole; the Ashipa

Olubadan, Oba Abiodun Kola-Daisi; the Ekerin Olubadan, Oba Hamidu Ajibade; the Ekarun Olubadan, Oba Adebayo Akande; the Osi Balogun, Oba Lateef Adebimpe; the Ashipa Balogun, Oba Kola Adegbola; Ekerin Balogun, Oba Dada Isioye and the Ekarun Balogun, Oba Abiodun Azeez.

ANAMMCO Urges Govts To Prioritise Patronage Of Locally-Made Vehicles

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

ANAMMCO, a Nigerian Commercial Vehicle Company, has urged governments at all levels and corporate organisations to prioritise patronage of locally made vehicles to create employment and boost nation's economy.

General Manager of ANAMMCO, Ms Chinelo Igwe, made the call while addressing newsmen Thursday, at the ongoing 35th Enugu International Trade Fair.

The fair, which began on Friday, April 5, is themed: "Promoting made in Nigeria products for global competitiveness."

Igwe noted that patronage of locally made vehicles would boost production and massive employment that would further reduce crime especially for youths.

She noted that ANAMMCO is partner with Dongfeng to produce light duty, medium duty and heavy duty trucks built rugged to withstand Nigerian roads and convey tonnes of

goods within the length and breath of the country.

The general manager said that ANAMMCO gives three years service warranty to its trucks, adding that through a synergy with GUO Motors the company had opened service workshops in the 36 states of the country and had readily available parts of all the trucks.

"Our trucks are made with Nigerian roads, fuel supply and economy in mind as our trucks are highly durable and rugged; with simple engines for lower fuel consumption as well as highly affordable by all.

"The trucks are 100 per cent manufactured in the country with locally sourced materials and seasoned professional plant workers and time tested technicians give sound after sales servicing and repairs.

"These trucks are our own. We want massive patronage for all our trucks that would make our plant facility perform optimally and employ additional thousands of youths," she said.

Speaking, the Director General



of Enugu Chamber of Commerce, Mr Uche Uba, said that ANAMMCO had been known for producing vehicles that are durable and outstanding

quality for ages.

Mbah also said that ANAMMCO vehicles remained a clear testament of a Nigeria vehicle company that offers high

international standard at home.

"These trucks displayed are the best both in terms management, pocket price and serviceability," he said.

NDLEA Apprehends Pregnant Woman, Widow, 12 Others Over N3.2 Counterfeit Cash, Large Quantities Of Illicit Drugs

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least a pregnant woman, a widow and 12 others have been nabbed by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in connection with N3.2 million fake cash and large quantities of illicit drugs in Kano, Kogi, Imo, Edo, Ondo and Ekiti states.

While the pregnant woman and two others were arrested in connection of the counterfeit cash at Jabi park, Abuja, the widow and others were apprehended over alleged possession of 900,000 opiod pills and 1,347.4kg of cannabis in Kogi, Kano, Imo, Edo, Ogun, Ondo and Ekiti States during raids.

The eight-month pregnant woman, identified as Favour Peter, 24, was said to have been arrested along side one Esther Adukwu, 27, and Ochigbo Michael, 39, at Jabi park in Abuja in a follow up operation on Tuesday 9th April following the seizure of the fake naira notes in Lokoja, Kogi State.

The Director Media and Advocacy of NDLEA Femi Babafemi who made the disclosure in a statement yesterday, said this happened just as

NDLEA officers in collaboration with men of the Nigerian Navy Ship Lugard base, Lokoja intercepted 37-year-old Aliyu Lawal along Lokoja-Abuja road on Monday 8th April and recovered 620 blocks of cannabis weighing 310kg from him.

He also disclosed that 10 sacks of the same psychoactive substance weighing 98kg were seized along Okene-Lokoja-Abuja express way by NDLEA operatives from one Jama Obodo, 44, in a commercial bus coming from Ilesha, Osun state enroute Taraba state on Wednesday 10th April.

On the widow, Babafemi identified her as one Mrs. Theodora Ita, 40, mother of two and was arrested on Monday 8th April at Bassey Edom, Calabar, by NDLEA operatives for producing and selling a lethal new psychoactive substance, NPS, locally called 'Combine', which is a mixture of different strains of cannabis and opioids soaked in raw gin.

As at the time of her arrest, according to the release, she was in possession of 18 litres of the dangerous substance in used paint drums were recovered from her.

It added that the woman her statement claimed she started the illicit drug production and distribution in October 2023.

The NDLEA spokesperson while speaking on the others suspects said, "Another suspect, Godwin Okon Samuel, 48, was apprehended at Essit Ebum area of Calabar with 39.4kg of cannabis sativa on Tuesday 9th April.

"While two suspects: Sani Mohammed, 43, and Christopher Eze, 64, were arrested in Sabon Gari area of Kano on Tuesday 9th April with 900,000 pills of opioid recovered from them, NDLEA operatives on patrol along Owerri-Onitsha road, Imo state on Friday 12th April intercepted a logistics truck with registration number JGB 403XB and recovered 230 blocks of cannabis sativa weighing 119kg hidden under household items after a thorough search.

"At least 252 kilograms of cannabis were seized during a raid at Ijesa Isu forest, Ekiti state on Saturday 13th April while four suspects: Adamu Umar, 39; Abdullahi A Gimba, 27; Julius Uduakhomu, 28; and Micheal Sunday, 24, were nabbed loading 40kg of same substance to the engine compartment of a

gas truck at Agho village, Owan East, Edo state.

"Two motorcycles used in conveying the consignment to where the gas truck heading to the North was parked, were also recovered.

"In Ogun state, a suspect, Ismaila Ogun was arrested on Friday 12th April with 79kg cannabis at Imeko, while 18-year-old Friday Abah was nabbed with 410kg of the same substance when NDLEA operatives raided Obatedo camp, Itaogbolu forest, Akure North LGA, Ondo state."

"With the same zeal, the various commands of the Agency across the country continued with the War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy campaign in the past week. Some of them include: WADA sensitisation lecture for students and staff of Gboko Polytechnic, Gboko, Benue state; officers and men of 15 Engineering Field Regiment Nigerian Army, Topo, Badagry Lagos; meat butchers at Odo Eran abattoir, Osogbo, Osun State and WADA advocacy visit to Kogi state Governor, Ahmed Usman



The arrested pregnant woman

Ododo, among others.

"While commending the officers and men of the Kogi, Cross River, Ondo, Ekiti, Ogun, Imo, Kano, and Edo Commands of the Agency for their outstanding feats in drug supply reduction, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) equally applauded them and their counterparts in all the commands across the country for intensifying their WADA advocacy lectures, aimed at drug demand reduction."

2027: Akpabio Meets APC South South Chairmen, Urges Them To Grow Party In Region

appointed officials in government."

Commending the APC Chairmen for their visit, Senator

Akpabio and used the opportunity to intimate them of the plans of the Tinubu-led Government towards the economic prosperity agenda for Nigeria as a whole and South South in particular.



Senator Godswil Akpabio with APC Chairmen in South South region

Thanking President Tinubu for the Lagos/Calabar coastal road which he described "as very visionary", he inform the Chairmen that he personally inspected the on going construction of the project with the Minister of works in Lagos before returning to Abuja.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, the

APC Cross River State Chairman, Barrister Alphonsus Ogar, commended the harmonious working relationship between the Senate President and the only Governor from the zone, Senator Bassey Otu and their spouses.

Barrister Ogar while expressing solidarity with the President of the Senate, he said the South South geo political zone last had the seat of Senate President in 1979, 45 years ago.

Declaring their total support for Akpabio's commitment towards the infrastructural development of the area especially the on going Lagos - Calabar Coastal road and railway line being embarked upon by the Tinubu administration, the Chairmen said "the completion of this project within record time would immortalize President Tinubu in the hearts of the people of the region.

He then urged the President of the Senate, not to be distracted by the antics of the opposition as the Lagos/Calabar coastal road project is the most ambitious and laudable project, ever to have been embarked upon as a reward for a region that is contributing blood and oxygen to the economic survival.

20 Arrested Over Attempt By Suspected Yoruba Nation Agitators To Take Over Oyo Govt Secretariat

***Police recovers 3 Pump Action Guns, 291 live cartridges, other dangerous weapons**

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Twenty persons suspected to be members of Yoruba Nation Agitators were on Saturday, arrested by the Police after a failed attempt to take over the Oyo State Government Secretariat at Agodi Ibadan.

It was learnt that trouble started when the Yoruba Nation Agitators invaded the state secretariat with charms and other dangerous weapons to allegedly declare a Yoruba Nation and reportedly hoisted Yoruba Nation flag at the secretariat.

Oyo State Police Command in a statement on the invasion by the Yoruba Nation Agitators, said hoodlums suspected to be members of the "Yoruba Nation Agitation Group" driven by a separatist agenda, in an attempt to forcefully takeover the Oyo State Government Secretariat, Agodi-Ibadan, stormed the secretariat at about 9.15am.

In the statement by its Public Relations Officer (PPRO) SP Adewale Osifeso for the state Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat, it stressed that the Yoruba Nation agitators, "who were on Military Camouflages came heavily armed in an unregistered Silver Coloured Nissan Urban Caravan Bus containing Cutlasses, Pump Action Rifles, Cartridges, assorted charms and an O'dua Nation Agitation Flag'.

According to Oyo Police command, "In all, (20) Twenty Suspects have been arrested in possession of; (3) Three Pump Action Guns, (291)Two Hundred and Ninety - One life Cartridges, (2) Two Expanded Cartridges, (67) Sixty-Seven Cutlasses, (5) Five Bullet Proof Vest, (6) Six Pair of Boots, (10) Ten Megaphone (Public Address System), (3) Three Oodua Styles Beret Caps, (7) Seven Belts, (11) Eleven Oodua Nation

Army Camouflage Uniforms, (1) One Unregistered Nissan Urban Caravan Bus and (3) Three TVS Motor Motorcycles", it said.

The Police command stressed, "Thankfully, they were overpowered and completely suppressed by Officers and Men of the Command on concert with sister security agencies who acted in swift response to intelligence gathered in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the situation'

While declaring this act as criminal, unpatriotic and a clear case of treasonable felony and terrorism which would be melted with adequate sanctions under the laws of the land, the Command assures the good citizens of Oyo State that it remains unwavering to the protection of their lives and property".

* Today Saturday 13/04/2024 at about 0915hrs the valiant and eagle eyed operatives of the Oyo State Police Command in concert with

some members of its sister agencies, successfully thwarted an attempt by hoodlums suspected to be members of the "Yoruba Nation Agitation Group" driven by a separatist agenda, in an attempt to forcefully takeover the Oyo State Government Secretariat, Agodi-Ibadan. *Sequel to the above, the Commissioner of Police has detailed a highly powered investigation team led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department to demystify circumstances surrounding the incident and as well expand the network of arrests through painstaking intelligence driven investigation.

* The Oyo State Police Command enjoins residents to be generous with information and cooperate with the Command in a bid to rid the State of Criminal elements whose intent is to propagate their separatist agenda.

Junior Pope: Enugu Govt Opens Condolence Register For Late Nollywood Star

***To liaise with family for befitting burial**

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

The Enugu State Government has opened a condolence register for Nigerians to pay their tributes to the talented Nollywood Star, Obumneme Odonwodo fondly called junior pope who recently lost his life in a boat mishap which occurred at the River Niger. Governor, Peter Mbah of the state who expressed deep shock over the untimely demise of the Nollywood icon, who hails from Enugu state, described the death as 'heart wrenching'.

A statement by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Aka Eze Aka weekend said the condolence register would be opened at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Information and Communication, State Secretariat, Enugu effective Monday, April 15, 2024.

He said: "Those who may not get to the office of the Honorable Commissioner for Information and Communication, may use the following email address condolencejuniorpope@gmail.com to express their condolences.

Governor, Mbah, said the state has lost one of its most talented sons.

The Actor's Guild of Nigeria confirmed the death on Thursday, leaving the Nollywood community in deep sorrow as they recall and honour his contributions to the industry.

Junior Pope, who hailed from Ukehe in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu state alongside

three of his colleagues, lost their lives in the tragic boat accident last Wednesday while returning from a movie location in Anambra Community.

The statement read thus: "Indeed, the death of (Jnr) Pope came at a time Enugu state is working so hard to develop the creative potential of its youths for self reliance, employers of labour and export of their talents outside the shores of Nigeria.

Mbah however, expressed deep regrets that such talented, young Nigerians could lose their lives in such unfortunate circumstance.

The governor commiserated with the bereaved families, Actors Guild of Nigeria (AGN) and the entire Nollywood industry on the painful loss of their members in the said ill fated boat accident.

He promised that the state shall work in concert with the family to ensure a befitting burial for the late movie icon.

Junior Pope began his Nollywood career in 2006, working his way up from supporting roles to global fame.

Owing to his versatility, he effectively switched between roles, playing characters ranging from bodyguards to villains, earning accolades such as the Nollywood Most Promising Actor in Nigeria award in 2010.

Junior Pope demonstrated his exceptional talent in over 150 films, gaining recognition at prestigious events such as the Africa Magic Viewer's Choice (AMVC) Awards and the Africa Movie Academy (AMA) Awards. He left behind his wife and three kids.



Policemen at the Oyo Government secretariat on Saturday.

Shehu Of Borno Calls For Prayers, Peace, Unity

*Organizes Durbar to mark Eid Fitri Sallah Festival

*Commends FG support to the state, Zulum's leadership

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
 The Shehu of Borno, His Eminence, Alhaji Abubakar Umar Ibn Garbai El Kanemi has appealed to the people to intensify prayers for peace, unity and stability of the country against lingering security challenges bedeviling the state, region and country at large. He also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima for their continuous support and assistance to Borno State people and government to bring succour to the citizens, despite the challenges. The royal father who expressed this on his Eid Fitr Sallah festival address to the

people immediately after the two congregation prayer and durbar at his palace on Wednesday, further appreciated and commended the untiring efforts and good leadership of Governor Babagana Umara Zulum, while thanking them for making Borno proud through its challenges. He assured that all the traditional councils across the state will be mobilized to impress on their people to join other Nigerians in prayers for peace, unity and stability of the state and country at large while praying God to accept our worships and Ramadan Fast as well forgive our shortcomings.

Shehu of Borno also commended the efforts and sacrifices of security agents in the state, including the vigilante CJTF and hunters in the fight against the insurgents which informed the peaceful celebration of the Eid el Fitr Sallah festival across the state. Earlier, the Imam Idaini, Sheikh Shettima Mamman Shettima' Sale led the Wednesday first day of Shawwal 1445 AH Eid Fitri sallah two rakats congregational prayer at the Ramat Square Maiduguri, marking the end of the 30 days or one Month Ramadan Fast. In his sermon immediately after the

prayer, he urged Muslims to continue to be prayerful and observe the six days of Shawwal popularly known as, Shitta Shawwal, while calling on people to continue to pray in the subsequent months as it was done during the Ramadan fast. Imam Idaini further appealed to wealthy individuals and organizations to continue to support and assist the poor and less privileged in the society by way of alleviating their poverty and creating job opportunities for the unemployed to make them self reliant as government alone cannot provide everything to everybody.



Security Has Improved Tremendously In Katsina - Governor Dikko Radda

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has said that, security of lives and properties in the state in recent days has improved tremendously. "This proved that our prayers during the month of Ramadan were answered," Governor Radda disclosed while addressing Newsmen after he attended the Eidl Fitr Congregational prayer in Batagarawa town, headquarters of Batagarawa Local Government Area of the state.

Governor Dikko Radda thanked people of Katsina state for their prayers on peace and economic prosperity across the 34 local government areas in the state and the country in

general.

He pleaded for more prayers and cooperation towards building the state and ending the menace of security challenges, reassuring his administration's commitment towards development of the state.

Governor

Dikko Umaru

Radda

congratulated President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the entire Muslims in the country for the important day marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan and great celebration of Eidl Fitr." May Almighty



Gov Radda

ALLAH restore peace in Katsina state and Nigeria," he added.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda was in company of his Deputy Faruq Lawal Jobe, Secretary to the Government of the state, Barrister Abdullahi Garba

Faskari, Chief of Staff Government House and with some members of the state executive council.

The two rakaat Eid prayer which attracted large turn out of Muslims was led Imam Adam Husain.

Gov Uba Sani Reiterates Commitment Towards Improving Security Situation In State

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has reiterated his administration's commitment towards improving security situation in the state.

He expressed this at the traditional Hawan Bariki as part of Sallah celebration held at Zaria Polo Club on Thursday.

Represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, he said, the security challenges in the state have affected farming activities.

The governor assured the good people of Kaduna State that they are collaborating with all the security agencies in the state on how best they can bring to an end banditry and kidnapping in the state.

According to the governor,

the people of Kaduna State are assured that they will do everything humanly possible to make the state free from security challenges and other criminals activities.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli expressed concern over the deteriorating peaceful coexistence among people as well as the security challenges.

He said, on daily basis, the emirate receives different reports on banditry and kidnapping as well as cattle rustling, while lamenting the loss of lives of innocent people.

The emir was optimistic that the security agencies will overcome the situation and people will continue to enjoy peace and happiness.

Sambisa Marriage Between Chibok Girls, Ex Boko Haram Terrorists Shouldn't Stand - CSWN

*Insists criminals shouldn't benefit from criminal activities

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

A humanitarian group, Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria (CSWN) has described as shocking, realization that some of the abducted girls from a secondary school in Chibok, Borno State about ten years ago, are still living as husbands and wives, after the former terrorists who married them illegally, repented and we're pardoned and integrated into the society.

This was expressed in a statement that was signed by the CSWN Research and Press Officer, Reuben Buhari, made available to newsmen in Kaduna yesterday.

"Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria (CSWN) came across an article written by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) titled: Nigeria's Chibok Girls: Parent of Kidnapped Children Heartbroken – Again, dated April 1, 2024. There was also an Arise News programme on April 3rd, 2024, on the morning show, titled: Freed Chibok Girls Wed Captors in Borno. The Arise news program dwells on the BBC article but expands it with more insight.

"What the two media outlets were saying is that some of the freed/rescued Chibok secondary school girls, abducted on April 14, 2014, by Boko Haram, have chosen to remain with their de-radicalized, former insurgent husbands at an accommodation provided by the Borno State government under its de-radicalisation programme," it said.

According to CSWN, the BBC article added that seven of such girls are staying in the government-provided accommodation with their de-radicalised insurgent husbands, while other girls are engaged to former fighters they met at the de-radicalisation camp.

"One among them is Jinkai Yama, who was among the 276 girls abducted but recently freed. She is now staying

with a former insurgent who married her while she was in captivity.

"Her father thought his daughter was living with other freed Chibok captives in a special welfare programme, not knowing his daughter was continuing in the marriage initiated while in Boko Haram captivity," it said.

The statement stressed that while trying to justify the marriage, the Borno State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon Zuwaira Gambo, said, "The women were in no way coerced into staying with their spouses in the housing estate".

It said she added that, "the freed girls usually insist that without their husbands, they would not stay in Maiduguri."

The statement lamented the development, saying, "CSWN worryingly notes that this is a case of Stockholm Syndrome, which occurs mostly among victims of kidnapping, domestic abuse, or human trafficking. Experts describe it as the psychological condition of a victim who identifies with and empathises with their captors or abusers. It's a coping and defensive mechanism victims develop over time to stay alive, which they continue with even when freed.

"However, CSWN insists that criminals should never benefit from their criminal activities. These girls were forcefully taken from their school and married off while in captivity to the same people who masterminded their abduction.

"They are now freed, but staying together, in a government-supplied accommodation, as husband and wife based on the marriage conducted while they were in Sambisa forest.

"Their husbands, though de-radicalised now, were responsible for the trauma their parents went through and are further traumatised by the fact that the same people

who stole their daughters are now being referred to as their husbands in a civilised setting. This means these former insurgents have been allowed to enjoy the fruit of their crime.

"Even though the excuse could be given that the girls are now adults to make their own decisions, but a traumatised child in an adult body can never make a rational decision. Their childhood was stolen from them, and adulthood imposed on them – without their approval. There is no justification for the Borno State government to allow a marriage conducted in the forest to remain valid.

"Like, one of the panellists queried in the Arise interview: were these girls subjected to trauma counselling when brought back? Did they go through physiological health treatment? Were they taken to qualified therapists who could expertly walk them back from the orientation/indoctrination they were subjected to while in captivity?

"The freed girls, after going through all the necessary trauma counselling, should first be allowed to go and live with their parents and then let the de-radicalised insurgent go to the parents to formally ask for their hands in marriage; that is after the girls have been subjected to trauma counselling with experts," it pointed out.

"The excuse by the Borno State Government looks like a tactical support for the forceful marriage these girls have gone through. That the traumatic condition their parents have been in is not put into consideration by the government is appalling. We urge the government to retrace its steps and make sure these freed girls get the necessary psychosocial support and be reunited with their families for holistic healing," said the Chief Executive Officer of CSWN, Reverend Yunusa Nmadu.

APC-IGG President Calls For More Prayers For Nigeria

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The national president, APC Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG) Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken has while congratulating Muslim Umma on the occasion of Eid-el Fitr, called for more prayers for the progress of Nigeria. Ambassador Musa Tsoken who made the remarks in his Salah message, assured that Nigeria would overcome its challenges because of prayers as the present administration is working selflessly to ensure that all hands remain on deck to restore the country's greatness.

He emphasized that, "I am sure that from what is going nowadays, our fatherland would become more stable and a challenge free nation that would guarantee excellent livelihood at all sectors. I am optimistic that in the near future, Nigeria would be well under the leadership of our dynamic president, His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his able vice, Senator Kashim Shettima". Ambassador Musa Tsoken on behalf of the national executive of the initiative, the zonal coordinators, states directors and the wards and local government leaders, therefore, wished Nigeria more progress.



Ambassador Tsoken

Nigerians Must Embrace Peace, Tolerance - Engr Alao

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

As Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Engr Oyedele Hakeem Alao on Wednesday, tasked Muslim Ummah and Nigerians in general to embrace peace and tolerance among themselves.

The APC Chieftain gave the task in a Sallah message by his Media Office to felicitate with Muslim faithful on successfully completing this year's Eid-el-fitr.

Engr Alao enjoined Muslims to live in love, compassion and sacrifice which are major demands of Allah from all Muslim Ummah by imbibing and practice the virtues that entail kindness, love, tolerance, peace, good neighbourliness, compassion as exemplified by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

While charging Nigerians to have faith in the renew hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Asiwaju of Irokoland stated that the present administration of the former governor of Lagos State has all it takes to make life better for all Nigerians irrespective of tribe or religion.

The APC Chieftain

stressed that the Tinubu-led administration cannot do it alone but with the support of all Nigerians, adding, it is important for Nigerians to love one another and the reason while traders in the country need to reduce the price of their commodities most especially with the naira gaining in value against the dollar and other foreign currencies.

"I want to sincerely congratulate my fellow Muslims in our dear state and all over Nigeria for successfully witnessing the end of this year's Ramadan fasting period, a period that came with tough spiritual challenges that were designed to strengthen our Iman", he said.

Engr Alao added, "At the heart of our faith and a major demand on all faithful is the requirement to commit ourselves to wholesome living. This entails love for one another, love for fellow humans regardless of creed, region and ethnicity, love for our state



Engineer Alao

and love for country".

"It is important that we continue to live with the spirit of love, peace, sacrifices, holiness and harmony which Ramadan requires and it is important that Nigerians must become better citizens in line with the teachings of Prophet Muhammed by supporting the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to succeed."

The APC Chieftain while

praying for the peace, blessings, and favour of Allah be with everyone, Oyo State and our great nation, Nigeria during this festive season and beyond, he congratulated Muslims on successfully completing this demanding spiritual obligation, thanked Almighty Allah (SWT) for the grace to witness this year's Eid-el-fitr celebration after the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Katsina Governor Reaffirms Support To Orphans, Less Privileged

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has reaffirmed his administration's commitment of continuous support to orphans and vulnerable groups in the state for prosperity.

Governor Dikko Radda stated this while hosting children of Katsina

Orphanage Home on a Sallah homage in his office at General Muhammadu Buhari (Government) House, Katsina where he urged them to brace up and pay more attention on the pursue of both Islamic and western education

Governor Radda reiterated that, his government under All Progressives Congress (APC) would continue to give children desired care

and protection. noting that, "hosting you at government house would make you feel the sense of belonging.

"Orphans are the best children expected to be hosted by all concerned citizens to make them happy and feel like all other children," the Governor emphasized.

Speaking earlier the special Adviser to the Governor on Girl Child Education and

Development, Hajiya Jamila Abdu Mani said the katsina orphanage home has about forty one children with some in Daura.

She expressed her gratitude to Governor Radda for his concern on the children at the orphanage home by providing four sets of clothes to each of the children, stressing that, "the gesture is unique in the history of Katsina State."

Desist From Wrongdoing, Selfishness, Wickedness, All Acts Of Evil - Hon Peller

*Says good deeds must continue after Ramadan

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

A former member of the House of Representatives, Hon Shina Peller on Wednesday, urged Nigerians to desist from wrongdoing, selfishness, wickedness, backbiting and all acts of evil.

Hon Peller stated this in a congratulatory message to Muslims on the successful completion of this year's Ramadan fasting shared on his social media platforms and with the

media on Wednesday.

Specifically, the former lawmaker emphasized the need for Muslim faithful to continue to stand for upright and goodness against wrongdoing.

The Ayedero of Yorubaland maintained that the faithful should also stand against any act of selfishness, callousness, wickedness, backbiting, evil and others.

"I congratulate fellow Muslim brothers and sisters on the successful

completion of Ramadan fast and on the occasion of the 2024 Eid-ul-Fitri being celebrated globally at the moment", he said.

Hon Peller added, "As Muslims, the last one month has been soul-purifying for most of us, as we devoted most of our time to praying, seeking God's forgiveness, helping the needy, embracing and upholding good deeds at every slight opportunity".

"However, every good deed of us during the holy month of Ramadan should

be further strengthened even now that Ramadan is over. You must continue to stand for upright and goodness against wrongdoing and any act of selfishness, callousness, wickedness, backbiting, evil and others'.

Describing the last one month as a soul/purifying one, the Ayedero of Yorubaland urged all to keep standing for upright and goodness, showing love to fellow beings, particularly the needy, and helping them in any possible way.



Honourable Shina Peller at Umrah

Band A Feeders: Kaduna Electric Sets Up Rapid Response Teams

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Kaduna Electric has set up rapid response teams to respond to down time on Band A feeders in Kaduna.

It has also called on customers to contact the teams to report faults for prompt response.

A statement issued by the company's Head of Corporate Communication, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, said that the four member team set up to cover Doka, Zaria, Rigasa and Barnawa regions each in Kaduna State, saying that majority of the Band A feeders are to operate round the clock to ensure speedy clearance of faults and restoration of supply whenever there is a down time.

It said, "setting up the rapid response team is part of Kaduna Electric's efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the Band A customers whose tariff has just been adjusted."

According to the statement, details of the team members included their names and phone numbers could be found on the company's website at www.kadunaelectric.com and customers can contact them 24/7 to report down time for prompt response.

Kaduna Electric, according to the statement that it has been meeting up its obligations of providing up to 20 hours power supply daily on its Band

A feeders in compliance with the stipulations of the Service Based Tariff regime.

It added that it has earned commendation from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission at the daily service review meetings that holds between the regulator and all distribution companies.

The statement said efforts are ongoing to upgrade more lower Band feeders to higher bands for Improved power supply. It warned customers to desist from indulging in all forms of energy theft and meter tampering as it has taken measures to apprehend and prosecute perpetrators.

Gwajo-Gwajo Commends Katsina Govt For Distributing Ramadan Assistance

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Special Adviser to the Governor Dikko Umar Radda on Political Affairs, Rt. Hon. Ya'u Umar Gwajo-Gwajo, has commended the state government under the leadership of Malam Dikko Umar Radda for the distribution of food assistance to the people of the state during month of Ramadan.

He described the assistance as timely, considering the hardship faced due to inflation and rising cost of food items in the country. Gwajo-Gwajo noted that the food assistance helped in bringing down the price of food items in

the state, while making food available to less privileged persons.

He said the gesture demonstrated the sympathy which Governor Dikko Radda has for the people of the state which is in line with his campaign promise of catering for the welfare of his people. The Political Adviser urged the people of Katsina State to use the to pray for Governor Dikko Radda and President Bola to succeed in fulfilling their campaign promises.

He also urged them to pray for peace and security in parts of the state that are suffering from armed banditry attacks.



Gwajo-Gwajo

Uba Sani Calls For Peace, Security To End Violent Crime

By ; F U N M I ADERINTO, Kaduna
The Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani on Wednesday, called on residents of the state for prayers for peace, security, and an end to violent crimes in the state and the country at large. Governor Uba Sani accompanied by the Minister of Environment, Malam Balarabe Abbas, alongside other senior government officials, joined the Emir of Zazzau

to perform the Eid el Fitr prayer in Zaria. The governor extended his warmest congratulations to Muslims on Eid el Fitr and urged them to practice self-control, discipline, sacrifice, and devotion to Allah. The governor also called for prayers for peace, security, and an end to violent crimes. Furthermore, he requested guidance and strength for leaders to lead towards progress and development.



It's Too Early To Threaten Nigerians With 2027 Elections, Hayab Cautions Northern Elders Forum

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The immediate past Chairman of the Kaduna state chapter of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. John Joseph Hayab, has noted with concern that it is too early for Northern Elders Forum (NEF) to threaten Nigerians with the 2027 election.

He expressed this in a statement on Friday saying, "It is sad to read that some members of NEF are saying North will not vote for Tinubu in the next election in 2027."

He added, "As a stakeholder, I find this call coming at the wrong time and it lacks good reasoning. The speed at which our Naira is improving against dollars, shows Tinubu is doing better than our almighty Buhari."

He further explained that the speed at which Nigerians got the Kuriga school children from Kaduna State back is a huge progress in handling insecurity compared to how

innocent parents suffer when Bethel Baptist school children and others were kidnapped and it took a long time before affected parents after paying millions of naira as ransom for the children to regained their freedom.

He advised, "NEF should instead seek ways to collaborate with this government to find solutions to insecurity, hunger, improved economy and making our currency add value for the overall progress and development of the country."

"Threatening the government with no vote in 2027 shows they may not have a good heart for the progress of the country but are only interested in what they will benefit."

He challenged groups like NEF to use their groups to support and challenge their leaders or government authorities to make the country great and a better place for all Nigerians.

"Let us not bring issues that



have no basics at this time for the progress of our land. We need elders that will help unite the country, offer useful advice that will help the nation not coming up with provocative statements that will only provoke other regions to start making

statements that will further bring division and confusion in the country," he further advised.

According to Hayab, what the country needs now is uniting the people to find concrete solutions to the many problems confronting the

country Nigeria and put good effort to proffering solutions and consolidate on the gains so far made not politics of voting in 2027 since none of us knows how and who will be alive to context or vote in 2027.

Aladja/Ogbe-Ijoh Boundary Dispute Hasn't Been Resolved, Group

By: UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

A group, Aladja People's Movement for Peace have said that the land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh Communities in Udu and Warri South-West Local Government Areas, Delta State has not been resolved just as it kicked against an alleged "forceful acquisition" of Aladja Community land by the Governor Sheriff Oborevwori-led Delta State Government.

The group threatened to fight and secure Aladja Community land with all legal instruments available to them.

This is contrary to claims by the Governor Sheriff Oborevwori's led Delta State Government that the boundary dispute between the two communities has been resolved.

The group's coordinator,

Comrade Simon Sibitor and Comrade Ejowwo Tietie made the assertion during a chat with our correspondent in Warri.

The group expressed shock over the claims by the government saying, "it has only played into the hands of the Ijaw nation through the Aladja/Ogbe-Ijoh crisis."

It insisted that the land in dispute belongs to Aladja Community and the government should be ready to kill all Aladja citizens if it wants to acquire their land forcefully.

"The land in dispute belongs to Aladja and if the government wants to acquire the land by force, the government must be ready to kill everybody."

It would be recalled that the office of the Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Kingsley Emu had announced that the

boundary dispute between the Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh Communities in Udu and Warri South-West local areas have been resolved.

In a reaction to the announcement purportedly made by the Secretary to the State Government, group said, "The Government by that pronouncement by Dr. Kingsley Emu is invariably giving to the Ogbe-Ijoh people and by extension the Ijaw nation what they could not forcefully take from Aladja through the barrels of the gun."

The group explained that a meeting was convened by the Delta State Government headed by the Secretary to the State Government to discuss the way forward of peace between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh Communities.

"But representatives of Aladja

Community were shocked to see that there was already a prepared resolution by Emu for the people of both communities to sign using the minority report of Ogbe-Ijoh in the Professor Abednego Ekoku Panel Report instead of the Majority report that was adopted by the then Government of Okowa."

According to the group, "from the foregoing, it will not be out of place if we say Kingsley Emu has been compromised and he is doing the biddings of his paymasters."

"We the people of Aladja say No to the acquisition of Aladja land by Government."

The group noted that, "Since the outbreak of the crisis, the Ijaws have been clamouring for the acquisition of the land in dispute but the position of Aladja people has always been that the

government must as a matter of necessity, tell the whole world who owns the land."

The group said the administration of former Governor Emmanuel Ewetan Uduaghan did not accede to the demands of the Ijaws on that ground from acquiring the land from Aladja people by force neither did the government of former Governor Arthur Ifeanyi Okowa did same.

"These two governors passed, must have seen that the land does not belong to Ogbe-Ijoh hence, they did not accede to the demands of the Ijaws."

"But surprisingly, the government of Sheriff Oborevwori which has not deemed it fit to visit the area in dispute has acceded to that dangerous demands by the Ijaws to acquire the land by the Ijaws."

ABU Signs Agreement For Construction Of 1600-bed Space Student Hostels Under PPP

*TETFund to pay 25% of project cost, while APPNL to provide 75% of counterpart funding

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), has signed an agreement with the Student Housing Company Limited for the development of 1600-bed space hostels in the institution under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

This was contained in a statement made available by the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, dated Sunday, April 14, 2024.

It explained that the pact was jointly signed by the university and the development holding company at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on Monday, 8th April, 2024.

It followed a proposal for the "Development of Student Housing in Ahmadu Bello University" by Africa Plus Partners Nigeria Limited (APPNL), an infrastructure fund manager duly licensed and accredited by the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

On financing structure, the project cost is agreed to be funded by a collaborative effort of both TETFund and APPNL.

For example, TETFund shall provide counterpart funding of 25% of the project cost under a Special Intervention framework to Ahmadu Bello University, while APPNL shall provide 75% of the total cost.

The funds, under the agreement, shall be used by APPNL to undertake the construction of the project.

And, upon completion of the facility, APPNL shall appoint a facility management entity to manage the structure for a period of 21 years after which control shall revert to Ahmadu Bello University.



The parties involved in the agreement signed four legal documents in fulfillment of the project. They included Stakeholders' Agreement, Deed of Lease, ESCROW Agreement, and Concession Agreement.

The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Kabiru Bala; and the institution's Registrar, Malam Rabiu Samaila, signed on behalf of the University, while Head, Deal Origination and Investment, Dipo Lawore, signed for Africa Plus Partners Nigeria Limited.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Raymond B. Bako; the Director, University Legal Services, Dr. Ishaq Abubakar; the Head, University Public Private Partnership Unit, Dr. Mu'awiya Abubakar; and the Head, Department of Building, Ahmadu Bello University, Dr. Mansir Dodo, attended the agreement signing ceremony.

Others present at the brief event included the Managing Director,

Ahmadu Bello University Consultancy Services (ABUCONS), Dr. Faruk Yaya; the Director, Public Affairs Directorate, Malam Auwal Umar; and the Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Malam Auwal Yusuf Mohammed.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, expressed delight over the development and assured that the project would greatly help stem the huge shortfall in the availability of good accommodation for students of the institution.

Earlier in his remarks on the scope of the project, the Head, Public Private Partnership Unit, Ahmadu Bello University, Dr. Mu'awiya Abubakar, explained that the project was facilitated by TETFund.

Dr. Abubakar also explained that ABU is one of the six public universities across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria that will benefit from the national student housing project.

Also speaking, the Head, Deal Origination and Investment, Africa Plus Partners Nigeria Limited, Dipo Lawore, pointed out that the development of the 1600-bed space student hostels for Ahmadu Bello University would be completed in 12 months time.

The Africa Plus Partners Nigeria Limited is a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) licensed specialist infrastructure asset management company with a mandate to invest an optional mix of debt and equity in strategic infrastructure projects within Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa.

The company has established and currently manages Nigeria's first two equity-based Naira-dominated infrastructure funds – the Africa Infrastructure Plus Funds 1 (AIPF1) and Africa Infra Plus Fund 2 (AIPFII). The funds currently have a financing capacity in excess of N220 billion sourced majorly from Nigerian Pensions Fund Administrators and other institutional investors.

As a fund manager, the Africa Plus Partners Nigeria Limited has originated and successfully developed various projects in Nigerian infrastructure space executing various projects in student housing, transportation, renewable energy, power and a host of others.

It was the company that financed and developed the Windsworth Hostel at the University of Calabar, Cross River State. It is a 1600-bed space hostel accommodation with a range of services that comprised uninterrupted water supply, laundry services, safety and security, Wi-Fi access, access card entry system, as well as restaurant and discount shops.



Union Across River Niger: New Nigerian Editor Brother's Wedding Grounds Makurdi

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Makurdi the capital of Benue State was agog all through the weekend, as activities related to tying of nuptial knots between Solomon Okala Dickson, younger brother to the Online Editor of New Nigerian Newspapers, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson and his sweetheart, Nneoma Igwe grounded the city.

The activities spanning several days, reached its climax at the Presbyterian Church Makurdi, where the lovebirds exchanged marital vows on Saturday

April 13, 2024.

Nine men of God, led by Rt. Reverend Uma Uma Okorie (JP), were on ground to shower their blessings on the new couple. Rt. Reverend Okorie was assisted by The Reverend Blessing A. Abuja, Reverend Gideon Anawo Egwu, Reverend Godswill Agbai, Bishop David Poyi and Pastor Peter Oduma.

Others are Pastor Ifeanyi Ndubuisi and Pastor Oloche Odihi.

A day earlier, all roads led to the Makurdi residence of late Engineer Isong Igwe and Mrs. Theresa Igwe of Ndiabago

Compound, Ozu Abam of Arochuku LGA Abia State, where the soon to be groom's family of late Chief Dickson Abodu and late Mrs. Cecilia Dickson of Agboke Oglewu, Ohimini LGA of Benue State, went to complete traditional marriage rites, in a colourful atmosphere of cultural display, showing two cultures from Northern and Southern Nigeria.

The traditional marriage, attracted family members from all over Nigeria and abroad, with merriment that was second to none.

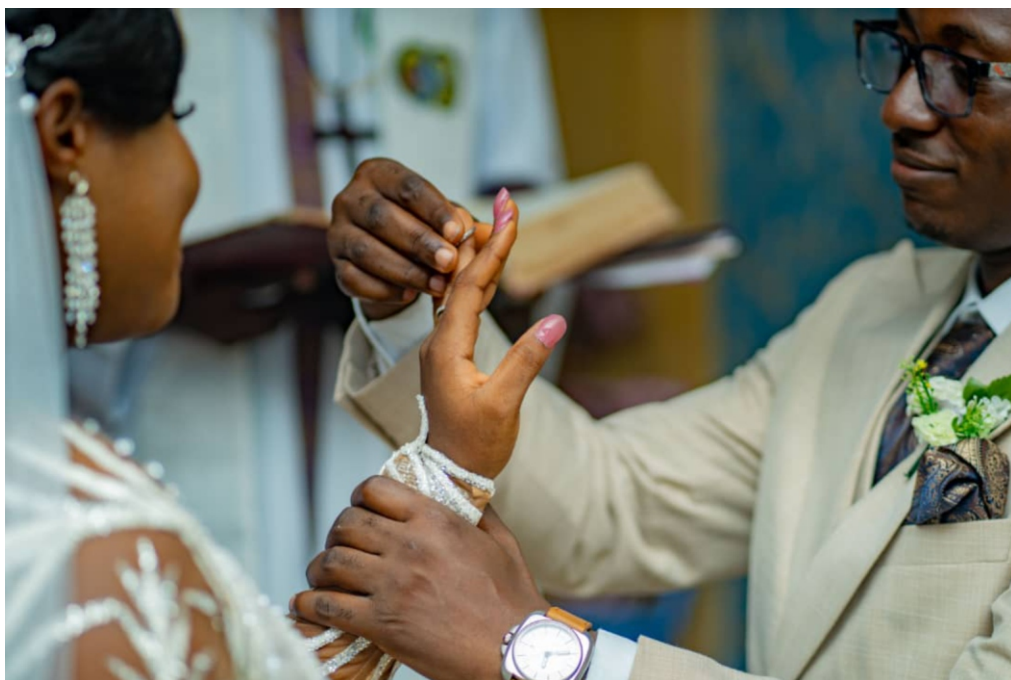
However, the highpoint of the four days of

the wedding, ended at the Sheraton Hotel Makurdi, where the reception was yet graced by several dignitaries, including the President of Northern States Christian Elders Forum (NOSCEF), Engineer Oyinehi Ejoga Inalegwu, who was the chairman of the occasion.

The wedding reception venue was thrown into wild jubilation midway, when the patriarch of the late Chief Dickson family, Isaac, stormed the venue unexpectedly after flying into Nigeria after living abroad for over 14 years.



Union Across River Niger: New Nigerian Editor Brother's Wedding Grounds Makurdi



We'll Sustain Military Onslaught Against Bandits In Zamfara, Tinubu Assures



President Tinubu with Gov Dauda Lawal of Zamfara

By; **IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna**

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has reiterated his administration's commitment to end banditry in Zamfara State. The president ordered the deployment of troops and a sustained military onslaught against bandits in Zamfara.

In a statement signed by the spokesperson to the

Zamfara Governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, that made available to newsmen revealed that.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu received some state governors and the leadership of the National Assembly in his Lagos residence.

According to the statement, the delegation, led by Vice President Kashim Shettima, paid a Sallah homage to

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Friday.

"During a conversation with Governor Dauda Lawal, President Tinubu asked about the security situation in Zamfara State. "Governor Lawal informed the President of the progress made and the ongoing military operations against bandits in the state.

"President Tinubu assured

the governor that he is committed to ending the menace of banditry in the state, adding that he had ordered a sustained military onslaught and deployment of more troops to Zamfara State.

"He requested regular updates from Governor Lawal regarding the state's security situation for effective collaboration in the fight against banditry."

Health Sciences University Otukpo On Mission To Unlock Secrets Of Lassa Fever

By; **ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi**

The Federal University of Health Sciences Otukpo (FUHSO) is on a ground breaking research to unlock the secrets of Lassa Fever, New Nigerian reports.

New Nigerian gathered that with the support of Tetfund's mega grant, FUHSO's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Management is spearheading a comprehensive study on Lassa fever across the North-Central region.

According to the Nigeria Centre For Disease Control (NCDC), 5,295 suspected cases, 806 confirmed cases and 150 deaths due to Lassa Fever have been recorded as at March 31, 2024.

FUHSO's Principal Investigator, Prof. Stephen Abah, says

Lassa fever, a viral hemorrhagic disease, is endemic in Nigeria and has long plagued communities in virtually all states of the Federation, posing a significant challenge to public health.

He said that FUHSO's initiative seeks to unravel the mysteries surrounding the incidence, zero prevalence, risk factors, and transmission dynamics.

Meanwhile, the FUHSO Vice Chancellor, Prof. Innocent Ujah, mni, OON, has expressed profound appreciation to Tetfund for their unwavering support and belief in the mission of FUHSO.

He said the research opportunity and funding provided by Tetfund is instrumental in advancing FUHSO's vital research efforts.

Northern Groups Blast NEF's Statement Regretting Voting Tinubu

By; **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

The Coalition of Concerned Northern Groups (CCNG), has expressed concerns over the statement made by the Northern Elders Forum (NEF) that the North will not vote for President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

CCNG described the statement, "as wrongly depicting the government of President Bola Tinubu".

The President of the group, Muhammad Ibrahim, in a statement issued on Saturday, said, "The Coalition of Concerned Northern Groups (CCNG) finds it pertinent to

respond to the recent ill-fated statement made public by the Northern Elders Forum (NEF) wrongly depicting the president Bola Ahmad Tinubu."

The spokesperson of the NEF had expressed the regret of the forum for supporting and voting for Tinubu without clearly stating why, saying that the group's spokesperson rattled that the North will not accept a second-term for Tinubu.

He drew the attention of the NEF that it is a very unwise move for it to engage in what he called, "such a slander", saying that now that the hard work of the President is seen by Nigerians to

be manifesting practically.

He lamented, "It baffles us that the NEF was silent when the former President Muhammadu Buhari's regime killed hundreds of innocent men, women and children when it clamped down on Shi'ites members in Kaduna in 2015. Were they not northerners that were murdered in an extrajudicial manner?"

"Was it not during the Buhari regime that the banditry became more prominent in the Northwest, a situation that has virtually killed the farming profession in the region and destroyed lives and property. Yet the NEF never rose against that."

Muhammad noted that the country is hardly two years into the regime that started on a very difficult footing with many things to be put aright after being detracted by the immediate past regime, lamenting it would be un-elderly of an elders' forum to demonize the regime instead of giving it the benefit of doubt.

"Reviewing the NEF claims that they mobilized the north in favour of President Tinubu, even as his major contender, Atiku Abubakar was a northerner, cannot be substantiated because they have no such influence over the electorate in the region," he

explained.

In comparison with the Buhari regime, he said that the NEF is not fair to President Tinubu who is currently enjoying the goodwill of Nigerians because of his commitment to national development and progress.

The group stated categorically that the CCNG, a coalition of concerned Northern Groups, is passing a vote of confidence on President Bola Ahmad Tinubu while calling on the NEF to reconsider its stance in the interest of the north and the northerners.

Nigerian Army To Investigate Personnel Alleged Involvement In Death Of Abia Hotel Manager

By; **KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu**

The Nigerian Army (NA) has expressed deep concerns over the alleged unprofessional conduct of some of its personnel in the tragic death of a hotel manager in Umuahia, Abia State, South East Nigeria. In response to the unfortunate incident, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) has promptly ordered a comprehensive investigation to ascertain the facts and bring to book, anyone found culpable. The NA extended its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased manager, Mr Achimugu James Etubi and the Nigerian Air Force Officer, Cadet Emmanuel Chidiebere Onyemereche, assuring members of the public that every effort will be made to ensure that

justice is served.

This was contained in statement issued yesterday by Major General Onyema Nwachukwu Director Army Public Relations.

He said, "The Army is committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and discipline, and therefore any personnel found culpable of wrongdoing will face appropriate legal sanctions.

Furthermore, the NA reaffirmed its unwavering dedication to safeguarding the security of all citizens. We remain steadfast in our mission to promote lasting peace and security throughout Nigeria.

"The Nigerian Army is resolute in its pursuit of truth and justice, and we will keep the public informed at

Katsina Govt Vows To Improve Welfare Of Citizens

By; **SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina**

Katsina State Government has reiterated its commitment to implement policies and initiatives to improve welfare of its citizens.

Speaking at the special Durbar popularly known as "Hawan Magajiya" in Daura, the State Governor, Dikko Umaru Radda emphasized the government's commitment to the well-being of the common man.

Governor Dikko Radda expressed gratitude for the support of the people and urged for continued prayers to ensure the success of his administration policies.

Governor Radda in a Statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mohammed Kaula highlighted recent achievements including the recruitment of teachers and the award of foreign scholarships to deserving indigenous students, which were conducted solely on merit-based criteria.

The Katsina State Governor emphasized the importance of transparent procedures in ensuring that targeted beneficiaries have access to opportunities.

He affirmed his government's adherence to established protocols in all its endeavors, underscoring its commitment to transparency and fairness.

In a bid to preserve cultural heritage and promote tourism, Governor Radda pledged increased investment in supporting emirate councils to position Katsina State as a premier tourist destination.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, "promised to make attending the annual Sallah Durbar in Daura a government tradition, akin to the practice in the Katsina Emirate."

The "Hawan Magajiya" Durbar witnessed the presence of notable dignitaries, including the state Deputy Governor, Faruq Lawal Jobe, Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Nasiru Yahya Daura, and Bulgarian Ambassador to Nigeria, Yanko Jordanov.

Others in attendance include, Secretary to the Government of the State, Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari, Chief of Staff of the Government House, Honourable Jabiru Tsauri and various members of the legislative and the state executive council.

ASUU ABU Calls For Ending Usurpation Of Powers Of University Council

By; **SANIALIYU, Zaria**

The Ahmadu Bello University branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU ABU) has noted, with apprehension, recent events bordering on the alleged usurpation of powers of University Governing Councils by the Minister of Education with the active collaboration of Vice Chancellors.

Addressing a press conference at the union secretariat in Samaru, the branch chairman, Professor Haruna M Jibrin said this illegality undermines the sacred university autonomy, being a product of a persistent and noble struggle for a better nigerian university system.

He said the autonomy is deeply embedded in extant laws among which is section 2 AAA of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2003.

"Specific ways adopted by Vice Chancellors to usurp the powers of university councils include, but are not limited to the creation

of the office of a Deputy Vice Chancellor (third Deputy Vice Chancellor in the case of Ahmadu Bello University).

"Confronted with a recent incident here at the Ahmadu Bello University, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) proactively engaged the University administration, demanding the immediate stoppage of the election of a third Deputy Vice Chancellor that had been scheduled to hold during the recently held 534" (Regular) meeting of the Senate".

According to him, ASUU ABU reports that, following a letter of protest from ASUU to the Vice Chancellor, the said creation of the office of a third Deputy Vice Chancellor in the absence of a Governing Council violates the laws governing the affairs of Ahmadu Bello University. The union also argued that at the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 199, 3 and the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2003 confer the power to create the office

of a Deputy Vice Chancellor solely on the Council of a University.

According to the ASUU, Section 2AAA of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2003, provides that "the powers of the Council, shall be exercised, as in the Law and Statutes of each University and to that extent, establishment circulars that are inconsistent with the laws shall not apply to the universities.

"By this section, approvals from the Minister of Education, especially on matters that do not threaten the ordinary cause of business of the University, but which conflict with extant laws have no binding force.

"We, at the Ahmadu Bello University Branch of ASUU, hold strongly that the sad developments that are currently being witnessed in the universities are exacerbated by the failure of the government to immediately reconstitute councils as section 2A of the Universities (Miscellaneous

Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2003 demands.

"Mindful of its far reaching positive impact, ASUU holds University autonomy in high regard and has, therefore, consistently clamoured for its actualization; something that can be entrenched only by allowing the various organs (including and especially Councils) of the University to carry out their exclusive statutory collegial functions".

The chairman noted that this clamour is reflected in the decades-long struggle embarked upon by the union; from the call for the empowerment of councils, to outright rejection of imposition of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS),

Against this background, ASUU called on the government to immediately appoint external members of the council so that an indispensable University organ, the Council, is properly constituted to carry out its vital functions.

The union also enjoined vice chancellors to rather insist on the appointment of external members of councils.



Niger Delta Region And NDDC's Agricultural Initiatives

By: JEROME-MARIO UTOMI

For over four decades, there was a veiled agreement that one of the perverse and unintended consequences of the discovery of oil in Nigeria are that governments have almost completely abandoned agriculture in the mad quest for petrol dollars.

The nation is a mono-economy, depending on the volatile fortunes of oil. Added to this governance failure is the further deterioration in agricultural fortunes caused by oil pollution. Thereby, oil pollution becomes an indirect violation of the right to life, even as it is a violation of the right to a safe and habitable environment.

In view of the above ecological challenge, many environmental analysts have in the past argued that It will be futile to hope that investment of inputs and skills into the sector will boost food supply in rural communities without first addressing adverse oil operation activities. Environmental regulations, they added, must be enforced in order to aid rural development.

To others, the first step is for the government to recognize that destruction of agricultural prospects in rural communities through irresponsible oil operations is an indirect violation of the right to life and the right to a safe environment, and also a negation of the policy of economic diversification.

In fact, greater chunk of concerned Niger Deltans were of the view that the federal and state governments should take practical steps to empower communities to protect their environment through policies and legislations that obligate oil companies to apply best practices and grant communities the right to determine how and when oil operations are compatible with human conditions in the communities. They concluded.

In the face of all these conflicting arguments and inordinate postulations, Niger Delta youths waited patiently for a leadership that will offer a sustainable road map for inventing the agricultural sector in the region, to create employment and guarantee food security for the people of the region and beyond.

The above understanding fully explains the perception by stakeholder, as a right step taken in the right direction, the recent decision by Barrister Chiedu Ebie leadership of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), to move beyond rhetoric via its project HOPE' initiative, and create youth employment opportunities, especially in agriculture through support to small-holder farmers in order to ensure operational growth while shifting from traditional to mechanized farming methods.

"The Niger Delta region because of the arable wetlands, rainfalls and other favourable ecological factors is in a better position to plant various crops and vegetables at least four times within a farming season. We are trying to move away from the oil economy and the sector which can accommodate our youths in large numbers is the agricultural sector."

Essentially in my view, aside from confirming as true the age long believe that every leadership of an institution develops a culture of their own and the success or failure of such an institution is closely tied to that culture, there are glaring reasons that characterizes the present move Barrister Chiedu Ebie led board and management, to support job creation for the youth through agricultural initiatives in the region, as not only welcoming but loaded with leadership lessons for other public office holders in the country to internalize.

For a better understanding of where this piece is headed, youth in every society, says a study report, has the potential to stimulate economic growth, social progress and our national development. The strategic role of youths in the development of different societies of the world such as Cuba, Libya, China, Russia and Israel are obvious. Youth unemployment is potentially dangerous as it sends a wrong signal to all segments of the Nigerian Society.

Here in Nigeria, the story is not different as rate of youth unemployment is equally high, even at the period of economic normalcy i.e. the oil boom of the 1970s (6.2%); 1980s (9.8%) and the 1990s (11.5%). Youth unemployment therefore is not a recent phenomenon.

But if what happened in the 1980s/90s were a challenge of sorts, what is happening presently, going by the latest report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), is a challenge.

Beyond the above sorry account of protracted youth unemployment in the country, there are also, vivid imageries of how successive government's neglect of agricultural sector not only set the stage for the galloping unemployment situation but engineered poverty among Nigerians.

Take as an illustration, development professionals have in the past expressed concern that it is not right how state and federal governments of Nigeria created agencies that dole money to Nigerian youths with the aim of eradicating poverty, as such huge resources do not have economic value. They argued that considering the slow growing economy but scary unemployment levels in the country as at that time, such amount should have been invested in the agricultural sector or used to build industries and factories of production to assist in ending the economic life cycle of unemployment in the country.

Closely related to the above is the reality that in the past, managers of our nation's economy in their attempt to disengage governance from public sector control of the economy only played into the waiting hands of the profiteers of goods and services to the detriment of the Nigerian people.

Others were of the view that less emphasis on university education should be done. Technical and Commercial colleges should be established and funded to produce graduates that are technically fit. The state they argued should engage in agriculture and owning business and manufacturing outfits like what was obtainable in the 1970s-1990s in Nigeria. Companies and factories wholly owned by state governments under a new management system should be built to absorb graduates and skilled workers. It is still possible to operate profitable businesses by the state government using the Indian/Lebanese system of business model.

To the rest, Cooperate organizations and entrepreneurs should engage in production of domestic and industrial goods. And a long term goal of exporting such goods to West/African markets should be brought into focus. Commercial farming into such specialized areas of dairy farming, essential fruits such as apple, etc. will help to reduce unemployment. And a long term goal of exporting such goods to West/African markets should be brought into focus.

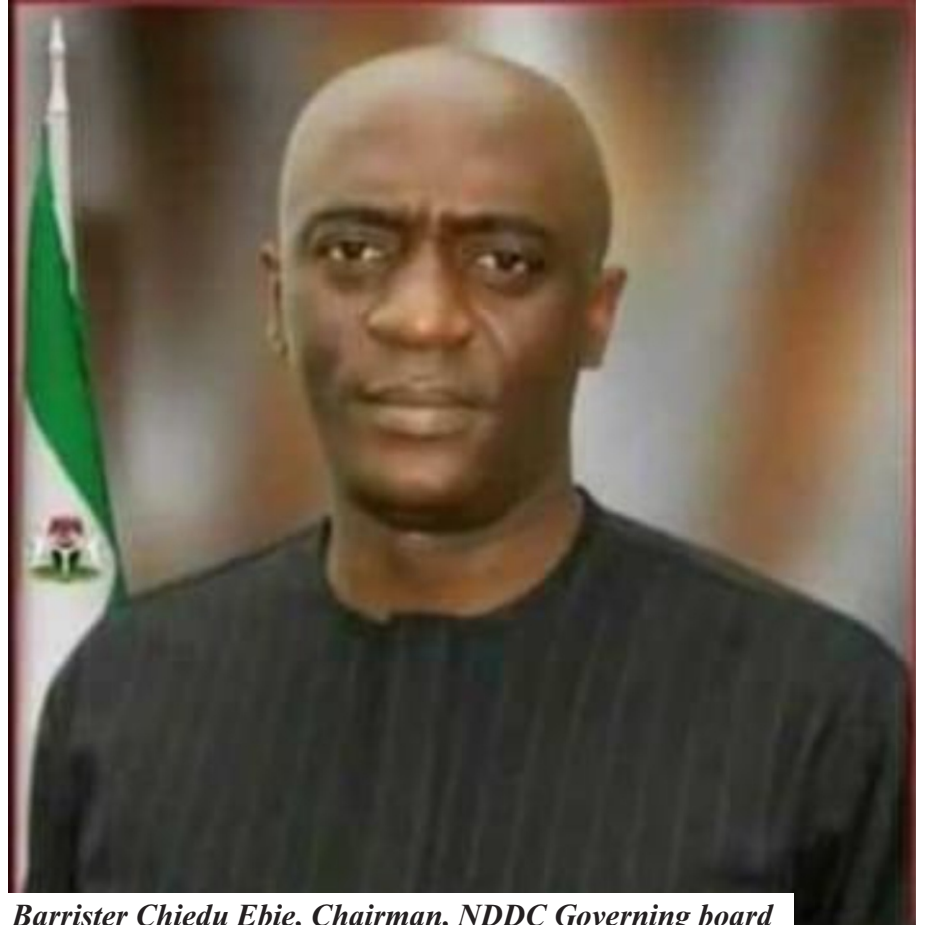
For me, there are even more reasons that go beyond job creation, why the present NDDC agricultural initiative should be applauded.

Separate from the worrying awareness that by 2050, global consumption of food and energy is expected to double as the world's population and incomes grow, while climate change is expected to have an adverse effect on both crop yields and the number of arable acres, we are in dire need of solution to this problem because unemployment has diverse implications.

Security wise, large unemployed youth population is a threat to the security of the few that are employed. Any transformation that does not have job creation at its main objective will not take us anywhere. An agricultural sector has that capacity to absorb the teeming unemployed youth in the country.

The second reason is that globally, there are dramatic shift from agriculture in preference for white collar jobs-a trend that urgently needs to be reversed.

Reports indicate that over the past century in the United



Barrister Chiedu Ebie, Chairman, NDDC Governing board

State of America (USA), study has it that there exists a shift in the locations and occupations of urban consumers. In 1900, about 40% of the total population was employed on the farm, and 60% lived in rural areas. Today, the respective figures are only about 1% and 20%. Over the past half century, the number of farms has fallen by a factor of three. As a result, the ratio of urban eaters to rural farmers has markedly risen, giving the food consumer a more prominent role in shaping the food and farming system. The changing dynamic has also played a role in public calls to reform federal policy to focus more on the consumer implications of the food supply chain.

In a similar vein, averting malnutrition which constitutes a serious setback to socio-economic development of any nation is another reason why Nigeria must embrace agriculture-a vehicle for food security and sustainable socio economic sector.

More specifically, it was noted recently that in Nigeria, governments over the years have come to realize that sustainable growth is achievable only under an environment in which the generality of the people are exposed to balanced diet, not just food. This explains why agriculture production should receive heightened attention. In Nigeria, an estimated 2.5 million children under-five suffer from severe acute malnutrition (sam) annually, exposing nearly 420,000 children within that age bracket to early death from common childhood illness such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria.

To therefore, achieve this objective in agriculture in the region that will guarantee food security as well as bring about development that is sustainable, this piece holds the opinion that the Federal Government should assist NDDC provide the needed support-funding, technical know how and other specialized training and good road infrastructure to aid distribution of such food products and other economic products from advantaged to less advantaged areas. Evidence abounds that such towns/cities referred to as disadvantaged often always hold the domestic trade and market prices of such commodities.

Good means of transportation, as we know, will contribute to lower food prices through its impact on the operation of the market, increase the welfare of households and improve food security, increase trade, lead to lower prices and lower price dispersion, and offer farmers incentives to commercialize while leading to a reduction in price competition.

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Power Minister Adelabu's Lies, Disrespect For Facts

By: MUSAILALLAH

While Nigerian Muslims were busy with the Rsmadan fast and making last minute arrangements to celebrate this year's Eid el Fitr with pomp and pageantry in the midst of scorching hard times brought about by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's withdrawal of fuel and energy subsidies, Nigeria's Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu was quoted by the ministry's spokesman as saying, "that there was no progress on the Siemens project since the death of the late Abba Kyari. The lie is in the claim that the death of Abba Kyari stalled the implementation of the Siemens project".

For the records, Abba Kyari died on April 17, 2020 and work on the Siemens project continued up to May 2023.

He further shamelessly, added that the pilot or first phase of the project "only progressed significantly when the Tinubu administration emerged."

The Minister also claimed that the "10 mobile substations and the mega transformers only arrived in Nigeria now."

Indeed all well meaning Nigerians and those keenly watching developments in the power sector, know that the statement by the minister which was widely published in the media, is full of lies, distortions and outright disregard for glaring facts and figures at the disposal of the public.

This deliberate mixing and juggling of facts with fiction for selfish reasons by Minister Adelabu is nothing short of a deliberate attempt to reap where his ministry did not sow.

The minister also claims that the Siemens project only continued after the visit of the German Chancellor to Nigeria in November 2023.

To say the least, the part of the minister's briefing about Siemens project is far from the truth and full of misleading narrations.

At this critical time in the history of Nigeria's power sector, what is expected from the minister, is to highlight the project's progress since 29th May last year towards improvement of the entire value chain of the power sector.

Instead of being innovative enough focusing on making things happen in



Adelabu

the power sector by building on the solid foundation laid by the previous administration, regrettably, the minister chose to indulge in desperate revisionism to score cheap political points and take credit for what was already done by the ex President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. The simple undeniable truth is that Siemens project was never stalled after the death of the late COS, Abba Kyari. The project moved on and made significant progress through timely funding and implementation of Nigeria's component of the agreement. Even though COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine affected the project's timelines, but former President Muhammadu Buhari kept

the project going.

One can vividly recall that in March 2022, then Minister of Power, Engineer Abubakar D. Aliyu, led a government delegation to Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany, where a meeting with the leadership of Siemens Energy fast-tracked the deliveries of the first phase of the project.

While delivering President Muhammadu Buhari administration's scorecard in January 2023, former Minister of Power's presentation included videos and images of the mega transformers and mobile power sub-stations delivered to Nigeria.

Progress report showed that as at January 2023, six of the 10 Mega Power Transformers had already

arrived on the shores of Nigeria and installation of the ones delivered was ongoing in various locations. However, the remaining four were onshore.

Indeed, as at that time, the first mega transformer was being installed in Ajah Lagos, while the second one being installed at Apo Abuja, was energized on May 15, 2023.

As official records released have shown that by 1st May 2023, the FGN Power Company had received delivery of 80 per cent of the equipment for the pilot projects, which were deployed to critical sites across the lengths and breadth of the country to improve power transmission capacity.

The progress recorded on the Siemens project could not have been possible without the commitment of President Muhammadu Buhari and the former minister of power's dedication to making sure that the project was successful.

The then Minister of Power, Aliyu secured the approval of the Federal Executive Council of €63m for the procurements under the Presidential Power Initiative, PPI.

One of the last official engagements of the PMB administration in the power sector was testing and commissioning of the 700 megawatts Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Station which is the biggest power

project delivered in recent times. Details of the testing of the project were widely in the news on May 15, 2023.

Since government is a continuous process, Nigerians expect nothing less than an improved power supply for the country by the Tinubu administration.

The recent withdrawal of subsidy in the energy sector and consequent increase of electricity tariff by as much as 300% should worry the Tinubu administration and take a closer look at their consequences on the economy and Nigerians.

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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

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

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

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

Needed: One Standard Hospital Per State (1)

By: HASSAN GIMBA

I never thought I could attend the Eid prayer held on 10th April, a day after I clocked the definitive age of 60: I have now joined the senior citizens' rank. Not being confident I could attend the Eid prayer seems an understatement; for actually, in February, the way I was feeling within me, it was looking to me that I would not witness Ramadan, not to talk of participating in the Eid marking its end.

I easily get exhausted from the littlest of tasks, making me always gasping for air to fill my lungs. It reached a stage where I could not walk ten metres without bending down, holding my knees and inhaling from both my mouth and nose.

It all came to a head when the news of the death of my mother reached me in the early hours of January, 8. I could not walk at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja which made the flight authorities move me in a wheelchair to the base of the plane, where I climbed the stairs with great effort, stopping at the plane's entrance to gather myself.

The same routine was enacted when our plane landed at the Malam (don't know why they spelt it MALLAM with a double l) Aminu Kano International Airport, where I had to be wheeled to the vehicle that conveyed me to Potiskum. To ease my difficulty, I had to be injected intravenously with bronchodilators on the three-hour journey.

Throughout the week I was at Potiskum for her seven-day prayers, I was ensconced in my room and couldn't be at the family house where the main gathering took place. And I became dependent on my wives for many things a healthy person would do for himself.

And it is not as if I had not sought medical attention. God knows I had always advocated for our leaders to attend hospitals at home. I did the same. Some seven years ago I went to the Asokoro General Hospital where an x-ray was done for me. They said there was nothing wrong, but I knew something was wrong with me. Even then, I started feeling exhausted because I could not do what I normally did easily. And it had nothing to do with ageing.

I did some tests in some private laboratories, and the results were normal. Then I went to NISA Hospital in Abuja where I was looked after by a pulmonologist, Dr James Agada. It is not a run-of-the-mill hospital and not cheap, moreover, I paid for VIP treatment. Yet, my case kept deteriorating till I became almost an invalid.

Then I had an opportunity to visit my governor, Honourable Mai Mala Buni, over an issue that needed some clarifications and he saw

my condition. He became alarmed and sought to know what happened. I explained what I could to him, including my voyage to hospitals here that were quick to give me a clean bill of health that I knew was not true.

He undertook the process to reverse the ailment and give me back some lost health. He got in touch with an agent, Shettima Alkali, a kind-hearted professional, who got me a visa to Saudi Arabia. Buni, a man of faith, said: "To be there, drinking the holy Zamzam water and praying at the Ka'aba itself would do you wonders."

And so began my journey in search of health.

I left Nigeria on 12th February from the Malam Aminu Kano International Airport via Peace Air. I will talk about Air Peace and its wonderful, friendly crew another day.

As had become the norm, I was wheeled into the plane from Abuja to Kano to board the Saudi flight and at the Kano airport too I was wheeled into the plane. It was the same procedure at Jeddah Airport until I reached the apartment where I was to stay. Once there I found it easier and more convenient since I had my son, Abubakar Sadik, a big, strong fella to do the wheeling.

In Saudi Arabia, one goes through the healthcare system from the Primary Health Care Centres except if one wants to go straight to a private hospital. To conserve funds and also see how their system works, I started from the former despite my almost desperate condition.

However, if you are an Umrite (my coinage for one undergoing the Umrah), you have an inalienable right to be accepted and diagnosed in government hospitals free of charge, even though there are fee-paying options.

Relying on that right, I started by going to the Jeddah East General Hospital where various tests were carried out on me: blood tests, electrocardiogram (ECG), x-rays, computerised tomography (CT) scans, etc., and the results were good. With all health issues eliminated, everything pointed to problems to do with



Hassan Gimba *Monday Column*

pulmonology.

Still, I went to a Primary Health Centre this time around. Their primary health centres are as equipped as our general hospitals, if not better. Being the entry point to the health system, every General Hospital has a PHC that refers patients to it. And so this one referred me to King Abdul Aziz General Hospital, Jeddah, where the same tests conducted at Jeddah East were repeated with the same

conclusion.

With the certainty of what my ailment was, I left Jeddah for Madinah, arriving at Makkah the next day. I searched online for a good pulmonologist and each search result had one Egyptian, Dr Hebatullah Kamal Taha of Saudi-German Hospital, Makkah, coming up tops. She also comes a bit more expensive than the others. I then booked and paid for an appointment with her for the next day.

At exactly 10 am the next day, accompanied by my wife, Dr Aminat Zakari, and son wheeling me, I was ushered into Dr Heba's office. A petite, friendly, middle-aged woman. After analysing the results from the two General Hospitals we went to in Jeddah, she made us do a test to ascertain the level of oxygen in my blood and then prescribed some drugs, telling us to return after five days.

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

"In Saudi Arabia, one goes through the healthcare system from the Primary Health Care Centres except if one wants to go straight to a private hospital. To conserve funds and also see how their system works, I started from the former despite my almost desperate condition."

Governor Fintiri's Aide Holds Media Parley, Highlights Administration's Achievements In 1st Quarter Of 2024

By; TOM GARBA, Yola

A media parley which brought about stakeholders and press men in the media industry was organized in Yola the capital city of Adamawa State.

The event which took place at Command Guest House, was hosted by the Principal Special Assistant to the Governor of Adamawa State on Media and Communications, Mr George Kushi.

Kushi while delivering his speech, informed that the idea of

the parley was a way of keeping the press and the populace abreast with current activities of government.

He posited that contrary to the assumed notion that governors who have won elections for the second time renege on promises of embarking on projects, Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri has proved them wrong by continuing with the implementation of numerous life impacting projects.

He listed the construction of the superhighway, the road links at

Bajabure, payment of gratuities, the empowerment programmes, the remodelling of the shopping complex, payment of WAEC fees amongst many as ongoing projects that have direct bearing on the common man

Present at the event, was the Chief of Staff, Dr Edgar Amos, who was represented by Dr Adamu Babikoi, Special Adviser to the Governor on Good Governance, who further enumerated more achievements recorded by the Fintiri-led administration.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Hon Neido Geoffrey gave the assurance of open doors on the part of government to always provide answers to any questions the media and the public might need to know.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Communications and Strategy, Dr John Ngamsa explained government's role in tackling issues of climate change and the drive towards tackling insecurity as well as the efforts of the Fintiri led administration towards sustainable wealth

creation and good governance. The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr Humwashi Wonosikou highlighted more of the government's poised to achieve its eight points agenda.

He further revealed the intention of Governor Fintiri to maintain the pace in developing until every sector is touched where everyone in the state will benefit.

The parley which broke into an interactive session, saw journalists asking relevant question and seeking clarifications on so many aspects regarding the administration.



Gombe, UK Firm Explore Strategic Partnership To Unlock New Opportunities In Agriculture, Energy, Others

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a bid to tap into the vast economic potentials of Gombe State, the state government and Osprey Investment Group UK, a renowned British consultancy and investment firm, have initiated discussions aimed at unlocking new opportunities and propelling the state towards sustainable development and prosperity as envisioned by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

At a meeting, held earlier today at the Government House Gombe between the Gombe State Governor and Mr. David Winn, Chairman of Osprey Investment Group UK, both parties expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of collaboration across various sectors including Agriculture, Energy, and Trade.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said that Mr. Winn outlined his company's expertise in project management consultancy and transaction advisory services, emphasizing its ability to facilitate strategic partnerships and provide solutions aimed at enhancing the growth and development of Gombe State.

"Osprey Investment Group, with over 50 years of experience in Nigeria, specializes in consultancy, project management, and investment. The company boasts a track record of executing projects efficiently and professionally, in collaboration with world-class technical partners".

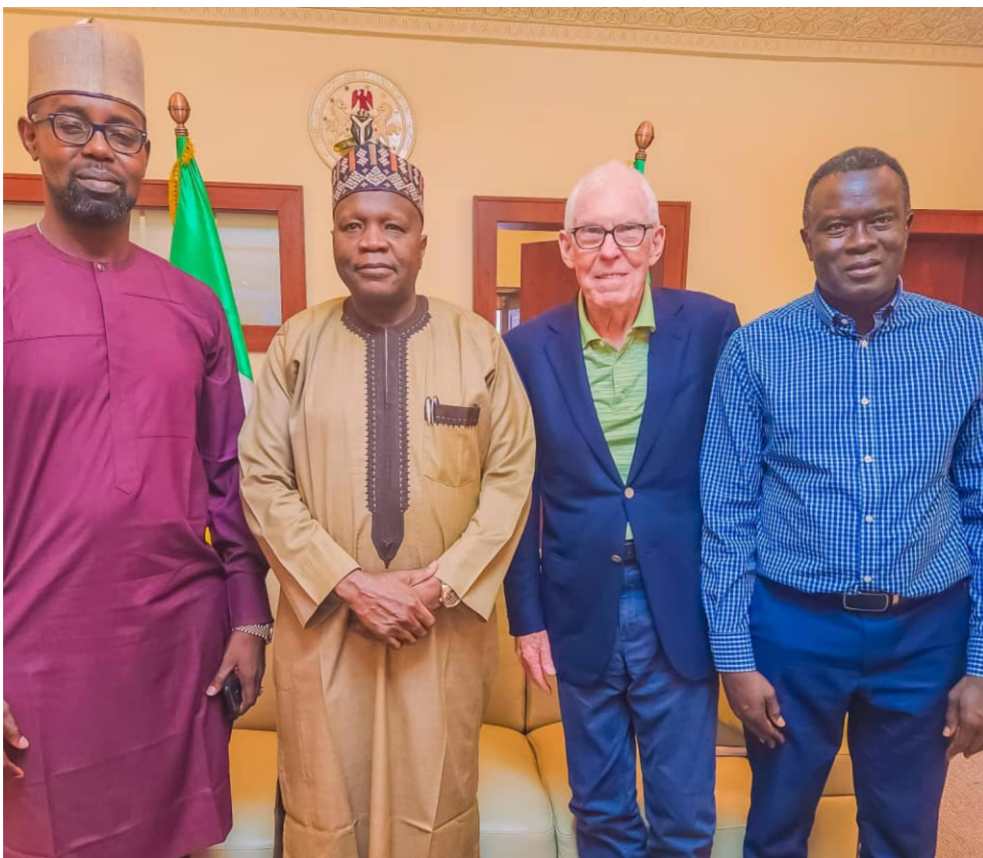
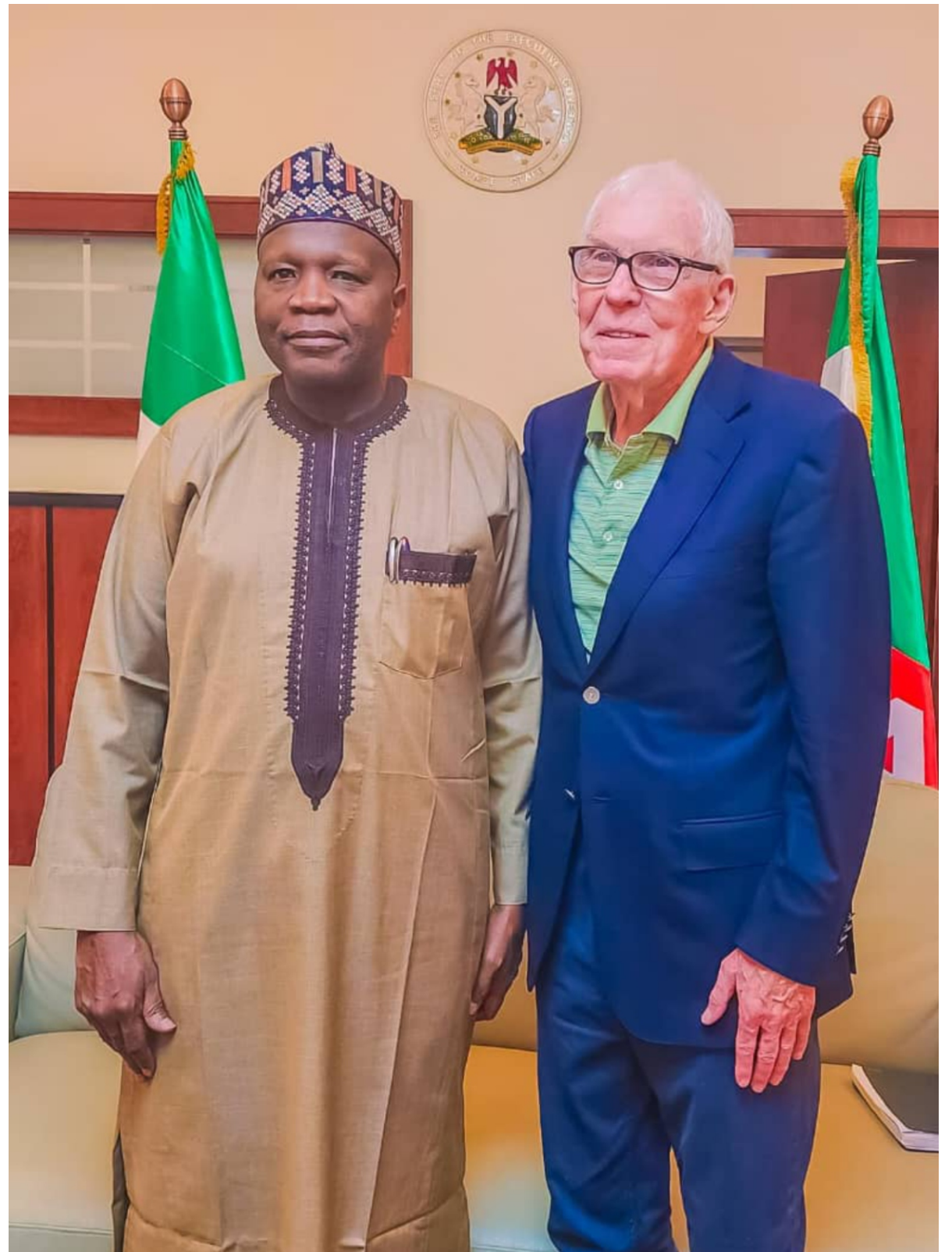
As part of their proposed partnership, Osprey Group intends to leverage its extensive network to link Gombe State to key development partners, including the Qatari and Saudi entities among other high profile international institutions and organisations.

The investment Group also indicated willingness to assist in the formulation of comprehensive master plans for agriculture and energy sectors, tailored to unlock the state's untapped potential.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya emphasized his administration's commitment to the development of Gombe State, citing the 10-year development plan, known as DEVAGOM. This plan, meticulously crafted through extensive consultations with various stakeholders, aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aims to drive growth, development, peace, and prosperity for all residents of Gombe State.

Highlighting key initiatives such as the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park in Dadinkowa, Governor Inuwa Yahaya also stressed the state's focus on industrialization and job creation. He also pointed out the vast potential in sectors such as solid minerals and agriculture, where Gombe State holds significant resources and a large workforce.

Of particular interest is Gombe's abundant livestock and vast Wawa Zange grazing reserves, which he noted, with effective collaboration, could transform the state's agricultural landscape and stimulate economic growth along the value chain.



Coalcity United FC Crowned 2024 Enugu Federations Cup Champions

By; **KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu**

The Enugu State Football Association on Saturday, April 13, 2024, confirmed Coal City United Football Club champions of the State Federations Cup Final that took place between the NNL side and Rangers International on March 30, 2024.

Our sports correspondent writes that the match which was played at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium popularly known (The Cathedral) had ended 1-1 after 90 minutes and was to go straight to penalties, but Rangers International rejected the option of playing penalties after regulation time.

Presenting the giant trophy to COALCITY United, the state Commissioner for youth and

sports development, Barr. Lloyd Ike Ekweremadu described Coalcity United as the true champions.

"I will first apologize for not being able to attend all your matches but after watching what you played against Rangers you guys are deservedly true Champions of the state federations cup" he said.

According to Bar, Lloyd the state government will support the team to give a good representation at the national level, "we as a government will give you all the support you need to excel at the national level when hostilities begin".

Explaining the decision taken by the state FA to present the trophy to the NNL side, the state FA Chairman Bar, Tony Ugwu said, the association acted based on

the report of the match officials, hence Coal City FC were crowned champions.

Further confirming that the management of Rangers International are aware of the resolution, Ugwu revealed that, the match officials reported that the game was concluded on the final played on March 30.

According to him, there report confirmed that, one of the teams (Rangers) was not willing to go into the penalty shootout.

"That's exactly what we did, and am sure the management of Rangers are aware of the report from the match officials, so what the FA did was to act on the report on the match commissioner and that's why we made the presentation today".

"The rule said their must be a reason before a match is declared

inconclusive, but the match commissioner give us a report that the match was concluded, but one team (Rangers) just refused to continue, and when one team refuse to continue, all we need to do is act on the match officials report" The FA boss added.

Expressing his excitement over the outcome, Coal City FC coach, Starplus Anistar said winning the state Federations cup has always been his and the clubs dream.

Coach Starplus who supported that, the rule was clear after Rangers International objected to penalties after regulation time noted that, facing the flying Antelopes at the state final was an opportunity to make history.

"Definitely I feel excited to be crowned the champion of the

2024 Enugu state FA Cup, this is what we wanted; we told the boys before the game that, facing Rangers was an opportunity to make history, and that's why you saw them fighting with all their heart during the game".

"The rules are clear, there is no need for a replay; After 90 min Rangers didn't want to play the penalties and after 48 hours the FA declared us champions", he said.

Both Coal City FC and Rangers international will represent Enugu state in the knock out stages of this year Federations Cup.

It would be recalled that the Flying Antelope narrowly lost to Bendel Insurance by a lone goal in Asaba, Delta State last year.

Sports Made Me, No Reason Not To Give Back - MD/CEO New year Mega Lottery

By; **JIDE BODUNDE Kaduna**

MD/CEO of New Year Mega Lottery Limited and title sponsor of the Nation-wide League One (NLO), Chief Sunday Adeleye has stated that the reason why NewYear Mega Lottery has picked up the title sponsorship of the Third tier league for the next four years.

He made this statement, while speaking with newsmen at the opening ceremony of the NLO24 New Year Mega Lottery at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna.

"I've been all around sport and the language i understand is giving back to people and the youth. I championed that area where I believe I should give back to Nigerian youth because sport made me who I am today.

The former owner of Dynamic Sporting Solutions FC (DSS) further stated that the youths can be like him and even surpass his achievements through sport. "If the youth follow my footsteps and advise,

they can even do better than me. Giving back is not something I have to think or prepare about, it's something I have to do and I've been doing that".

When asked if the initial four year deal is renewable, he said, "It's a marriage we just got into and we are looking forward to bettering the marriage. New Year Mega Lottery is not just looking at football but athletics and other sports because sport

development is about funding and support to make it thrive and it's one sector other corporate bodies are not looking at but we are taking advantage of that because we are born into sport and will continue to do it better in the area of development".

Kaduna United lost 0-2 to Yoca Crocodiles in the opening fixture of the NLO24 New Year Mega Lottery.

Stay Away From Ibadanland, Oyo State, CCII, Olubadan In Council Tells Yoruba Nation Agitators

target of such barbaric offensive.

"One wondered whether we were in war!. One wondered why these disgruntled elements wanted to turn Ibadan to theatre of war. We even wondered, whether the tumultuous banditry being perpetrated in certain parts of the country was to be extended to Ibadan City. What an unprovoked and appalling insult. "How can that be possible in a manner that caught the people unawares? Was Ibadan part of their sinister motive?

Congratulating and appreciating Gov Makinde for being effectively and successfully proactive, CCII stressed, "We appreciate, congratulate and thank all the stakeholders in the security architecture of the state, the Military, the Police, Civil Defence, Amotekun and other paramilitary outfits involved are all acknowledged and appreciated



29 Teams Battle For Top Spot As President Beach V/Ball Cup Serves Off In Kaduna

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

No fewer than 29 beach volleyball teams have converged on Kaduna to battle for the various prizes in the 2024 edition of the President Beach Volleyball Cup Competition, which served off at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium,

Kaduna yesterday.

The eight days long competition is expected to see various team battling for superiority against one another.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening games, the Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) Technical Director, Martins Melandi confirmed that the

Presidents Beach Volleyball Cup Competition will also serve as preparation for the Continental championship for qualifiers for the Olympics coming up later in the year.

He said, Nigeria has reached the qualifiers finals twice, but could not make it, expressing confidence that Nigeria is optimistic of making it this time

around with the level of preparations in place.

Meanwhile, he disclosed that 11 female and 18 male teams are participating in the Presidents Cup.

In the junior category, he said, 8 Junior boys and 6 Junior girls are taking part, while in the Senior category, he said 10 Senior boys

and five Senior women are participating.

The competition which is being played during the day and under flood light, he assured that the players will bring out their talents while the competition last and winners will be rewarded with prizes at the end of the competition, he stressed.



29 Teams Battle For Top Spot As President Beach V/Ball Cup Serves Off In Kaduna

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Elders Forum: Northern Group Passes Vote Of Confidence On Tinubu's Administration

By: EMMANUEL AGBO, Kaduna

Coalition of Concerned Northern Groups (CCNG), has passed a vote of confidence on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's led administration.

The president, CCNG Muhammad Ibrahim, in a press statement made available to Journalists in Kaduna on Saturday, was responding to the statement attributed to Northern Elders Forum, (NEF) that the North will not vote for president Tinubu in 2027 presidential election.

It would be recalled that the immediate past chairman of the Kaduna state chapter of Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) Rev. Dr. John Joseph Hayab on Friday, also slammed the Northern Elders on the ground of misplaced priority.

The Coalition president lamented that the NEF was silent when the government of former president, Muhammadu Buhari murdered hundreds of innocent men, women and children when it clampdown on northerners who are Shi'ites members in Kaduna

in 2015, adding that it was during the same Buhari's administration that banditry became more prominent in the North.

"The Coalition of Concerned Northern Groups (CCNG) finds it pertinent to respond to the recent ill-fated statement made public by the Northern Elders Forum (NEF) wrongly depicting the president Bola Ahmad Tinubu.

"We wish to draw the attention of the NEF that it is a very unwise move for it to engage in such a slander especially now that the hard work of the President is seen by Nigerians to be manifesting practically.

"It baffles us that the NEF was silent when the former President Muhammadu Buhari regime killed hundreds of innocent men, women and children when it clampdown on Shi'ites Members in Kaduna in 2015. Were they not northerners that were murdered in an extrajudicial manner?

"Was it not during the Buhari regime that the banditry became more prominent in the Northwest, a situation that has virtually killed the farming



President Tinubu

profession in the region and destroyed lives and property. Yet the NEF never rose against that. "We are hardly two years into this regime which started on a very difficult footing with many things to be put aright after being detracted by the immediate past regime. Hence, it will be un-elderly of an elders' forum to demonize this regime instead of giving it the benefit of doubt.

"Reviewing the NEF claims that they mobilized the north in favour of President Tinubu, even as his major contender, Atiku Abubakar was a northerner, cannot be substantiated because they have no such influence over the electorate in the region.

"In comparison with the Buhari regime, the NEF is not fair to President Tinubu who is currently enjoying the goodwill

of Nigerians because of his commitment to national development and progress.

"We wish to state categorically that the CCNG, a coalition of concerned Northern Groups, is passing a vote of confidence on President Bola Ahmad Tinubu while calling on the NEF to reconsider its stance in the interest of the north and the northerners.

Stay Away From Ibadanland, Oyo State, CCII, Olubadan In Council Tells Yoruba Nation Agitators

By: BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

Ibadan sons and daughters under the umbrella of The Central Council Of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII), the Olubadan-in-Council, Obas, Ibadan elders, Mogajis and Baales yesterday, asked Yoruba Nation agitators to stay away from Ibadanland and Oyo State.

CCII and other stakeholders in Ibadanland in a statement by CCII President-General, Barr. Chief Niyi Ajewole warned that people of Ibadan will not condone any insult again from the Yoruba Nation agitators

Condemning the attack on Oyo State governor's office and Oyo State House of Assembly by the suspected agitators, CCII called for thorough investigation to unravel circumstances surrounding the unfortunate incident, and that whoever involved in the act directly or indirectly



Two of the Yoruba nation agitators

indigenes and residents generally are happy about. It was said that the invaders actually attempted to take over the Governor's office and the House Of Assembly, the two vital organs of government and instruments of governance".

The statement stressed, " It was a deliberate and daring attempt, targeted at seizing power. An attack of preponderance qualified of being described as localized mutiny, perhaps aimed to be expanded to the other parts of the country".

According to the statement, "It is not even out of place, to suspect that the hoodlums wanted to deliver a diabolical message of taking over Ibadan to be held hostage, or captured and kept in captivity.

"Information at the disposal of CCII was that the invasion was orchestrated and

sponsored, by yet to be identified individuals and groups. While the heinous onslaught lasted, there was serious apprehension, consternation and commotion in the whole of Ibadan City".

CCII maintained further "All the inhabitants were restless, putting calls across to one another to ensure each other's safety wherever they were. Economic and other activities were disrupted"

"Indigenes in diaspora too were not left out, calling their loved ones at home, to ascertain their safety. Of particular interest to all the residents of Oyo State, particularly the Ibadan sons and daughters was the whereabouts of His Excellency, the Governor of Oyo State Engineer Seyi Makinde, who ordinarily would be the

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