

# New NIGERIAN

"The Greatest Weapon is Truth"

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Shawwal 12, 1445 AH

Over 1,000  
Kano APC  
Members  
Dump Party  
For NNPP

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Bandits Attack, Kills  
One, Recovers Military  
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\*Incident occurred along portion of unmotorable Makurdi-Otukpo highway  
\*35 arrested for illegal revenue collection

## Nothing Must Happen To Yahaya Bello, Ebira Youth Coalition Cautions FG

- Says humiliation by EFCC slap on sensibility of Kogi State
- Frowns against withdrawal of security details
- AYCF says, stop Harassing Yahaya Bello



By: ADAMA JOHN,  
Lokoja & ISSAC ODEH,  
Kaduna

As the manhunt for the immediate past governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello intensifies over alleged money laundering, youth of Ebiraland under the aegis of Ebiraland Youths Coalition has called on the federal government of Nigeria to ensure that nothing sinister happens to him. The youth in a statement yesterday signed by its coordinator, Mr Fache Moses, said that some people in high places

conniving with other ethnic bigots from Kogi state are working tirelessly not only to put the former governor's life on line but also to ridicule the entire people of Ebiraland land. They said the simultaneous actions of the DSS and Police to withdraw the security guards of the former governor, not minding the subsisting Court order restraining EFCC from arresting him is clear indication of connivance of powerful people who possibly want Bello eliminated by all means. "The action of the Police

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Third from right, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, with him from right to left are, Consul General of the Republic of South Africa to Nigeria, Prof. Bobby Moroe. Osun State Head of Service Mr. Ayanleye Aina, Vice Consul General Ms Busisiwe Dlamini, Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals and Inter Governmental Relations, Hon. Bankole Omisore, and Spokesperson to the Osun State Governor Mallam Olawale Rasheed during a courtesy visit to the Osun State Governor by the Consul General of South Africa @ the Government House, Okefia, Osogbo Osun State. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

NDLEA Busts Multinational  
Illicit Drug Cartel, Apprehends  
3 Fleeing Traffickers, 10 Others  
In Ondo, Bayelsa, Imo **P.6**

Return Our Property,  
Documents In Your  
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Return To Court For  
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Dangote Mulls Investment In  
Gombe State, As Governor  
Inuwa Yahaya Woos Africa's  
Richest Man **P.13**

\*Aliko Dangote Praises Gombe's investment environment, pragmatic leadership; plans cement manufacturing venture

Kano APC: Another  
Ward Exco Emerges,  
Issues Fresh Suspension  
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## Governor Eno Condoles Family Of Slain CEO Of Emem Farms Limited

\*Offers scholarship to deceased daughter, automatic employment to widow

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno on Friday, paid a condolence visit to the family of late Sylvanus Ukpong, the Chief Executive Officer of Emem Farms Limited and Emem & Sons Limited, who was killed by unknown gunmen two weeks ago, while returning from his farm along Oron Road, Uyo. Governor Eno, who was touched by the incident as he consoled the bereaved family, showed compassion to them. "Honestly, this is not the kind of visit I will like to be doing. This is the second time within one week that I am doing this, and I am heartbroken. "I have come here today, on behalf of the Government and people of our dear State, to show our compassion and to console the family.

"I want to assure you that government will rally round the family at this time of your bereavement. "I am made to understand that the late Sylvanus Ukpong has a daughter, Emem Sylvanus Ukpong who is an SS1 Student. "We will quickly institute a scholarship scheme up to the University level for her. The Secretary to the State Government will handle this. The funds will be managed by her mother. "I also understand her mother, the widow, is currently unemployed and is a trained teacher. We need more trained teachers, so we are offering her an automatic employment into the State Civil Service." The Governor also used the opportunity to assure the people that the state is continually safe and peaceful. "For every criminal that operates or intends to operate in this State, I

promise you that you will be caught and dealt with according to the law. We will make this State exceeding uncomfortable for them to operate. "Let me say this, soon, I will be signing an Executive Order wherein any house that secretly harbors criminals will be demolished and the owners prosecuted." Responding, Mr Cletus Ukpong, a South South Regional Editor of the Premium Times, an online news publication, lauded Governor Eno for his show of love. "Your Excellency, on behalf of the family, we sincerely thank you for this visit. It goes to show the passion and compassion you have for the people of this State. "You could have sent a delegation to come and see us, but you have dedicated your life to comforting the

afflicted and this is a great testimony to your love for this State and the people. Thank you so very much for this visit, Your Excellency, we deeply and profoundly appreciate you." Those who accompanied the Governor on the visit among other stakeholders, were the Secretary to the State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, the Director General of Government Business, Chief Assam Assam, SAN, Commissioner for Works and Fire Service, Prof. Eno Ibanga, Commissioner for Lands, Captain Iniobong Ekong (rtd) and Commissioner for Internal Security and Waterways, Brigadier-General Koko Essien (rtd), the CEO of Hensek Integrated Services, Engr. Uwem Okoko, and the Commander of Ibom Community Watch, Isantim Kenneth Okon

## Newly Posted PPRO, ASP Timfon John Assumes Duty In Akwa Ibom



New Akwa Ibom PPRO

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The newly posted Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Timfon John has assumed duty in Akwa Ibom State Police Headquarters, Ikot Akpan Abia, Uyo. ASP John takes over from Odiko Macdon, who was recently promoted to the higher rank of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP). The Police PRO holds an LL.B, (Hons) Degree in Law from the prestigious Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano State. She is a member of the Regular course 2. The new image maker of the Command hails from Akwa Ibom State and was until her recent posting, the Head of Programmes for Nigeria Police Radio 99.1FM, Abuja.

She has assumed duty as the 24th Police Public Relations Officer, Akwa Ibom State. In a press release from the command dated April 19, 2024, the new PPRO expressed her gratitude to the Inspector General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun and the Commissioner of Police, CP Waheed Ayilara for the opportunity to serve and pledges to discharge her duties professionally. ASP Timfon John appealed to members of the public for their support and cooperation towards the discharge of her responsibilities in the State. She also reminded the public to report any suspicious activity, persons and movement in their environment to the nearest police station.



Rivers State Governor, Sir Siminalayi Fubara left and Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke @ the 98th PDP NEC Meeting held @ the PDP National Secretariat, Wadata, Abuja on Thursday. Photo: AKINOLA AARIYO

## Kaduna Indebtedness: Thank God For Revealing Truth - Shehu Sani

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna  
Former Senator representing Kaduna Central Senatorial Zone, Shehu Sani has thanked the Almighty God for revealing the truth between himself and the immediate past governor of the state, Nasir el-Rufai on the \$350 million loan. Addressing newsmen recently, the Senator explained that he did all he could to stop the

immediate past governor from placing the state in undue indebtedness. He revealed that el-Rufai had insulted and cursed him publicly for that to the extent that he told him that time would reveal who actually truly loves the people of Kaduna State. He explained, "What more would I tell them? I have said all I needed to say. While in office, I warned the Kaduna State

Government against taking loans and even blocked access to such loans." He added, "Former Governor Nasir el-Rufai fought me on this, insulted me because of this and even cursed me. I told him then that time would reveal who truly loves the people of Kaduna between myself and him. "Today he is no more in power and those he put in place are now condemning his funds

misappropriation as well as the loans they secured." Shehu Sani thanked and praised the Almighty God for clearing him. The Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani had complained of his inability to pay workers salaries due to the debt burden of \$350 million, second only to Lagos state in Nigeria, left behind by his predecessor Nasir el-Rufai. The Kaduna State House of

Assembly has since initiated a probe into the funds misappropriation by the Nasir el-Rufai-led administration. Sani had called for an independent probe of the former state administration as well as the contractors by auditors and accountants in order to reveal the truth about the funds misappropriation by the el-Rufai led administration.

## Yahaya Bello: Respect Court Order, Ohanaeze Youth Tell EFCC

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

**A**pex Igbo socio-cultural Organisation, Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Council has urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to respect the subsisting court order with respect to the planned arrest of former Kogi State governor, Yahaya Bello.

It would be recalled that the EFCC had in the last few days, made an attempt to arrest the governor.

However, the Bello's media handlers said this was against an order of the Kogi State High Court, which granted injunction against the commission.

The planned arrest is said to be contrary to a subsisting court order granted February 9, 2024 by the Kogi State High Court of Justice, Lokoja Division, in Suit No. HCL/68M/2024 between Alhaji Yahaya Bello Vs. EFCC, restraining the Commission either by itself or its agents from harassing, arresting, detaining or prosecuting him, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive fundamental rights enforcement action. The EFCC is said to have appealed the order in Appeal No. : CA/ABJ/CV/175/2024, with the matter adjourned to 22nd day of April 2024. In a statement made available to the media on



Friday, the Public Relations Officer of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Council, Mr Chimaobi Ezeji for said it was curious that the EFCC could not wait to exhaust the legal opportunities before clamping down on Bello.

Ezeji for said government agencies should be at the forefront of respect to the rule of law, stressing that "having submitted itself to the courts by filing an appeal as well a stay of execution, one had expected that the EFCC

should respect the res, but in this case it chose to be take laws into its hands.

"This should not be heard of any government agency, as it is suggestive of desperation and ill-motivensness."

The group urged the commission to respect the sanctity of the courts by allowing the Appeal Court to determine the case one way or the other.

He said, "it is trite in law that once a matter is in court, both parties should maintain status quo until it is decided one way or the

other. This is what we expect from the EFCC as an agency of government.

"The current action is tantamount to an assault on the rule of law and goes to show this could be a witch-hunt of some sort.

"Also, declaring the former governor wanted at this point over a matter that is before the Court of Appeal is not the right step to take.

"We, therefore, urge the Commission to enable the law to run its course and not be in haste to the extent of offending the laws."

## Federal University Lokoja Honoured With Lecture Theatre

By; ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

**A**s the Federal University Lokoja marked the second memorial lecture of Dr. Joseph Oyeyani Makoju on Wednesday, his family has promised to build a large lecture theatre for the ivory tower and give scholarship to outstanding students.

An indigene of Kogi State, Engineer Joseph Makoju, was Special Adviser to three Nigerian Presidents on Electricity and Power and held various positions in defunct National Electricity Power Authority.

At the second memorial lecture of the Federal University, Lokoja, the late Makoju was variously praised for his notable intellectual prowess, diligence, hard work, profound humility and his service to the nation.

He was reputed to have successfully midwived the reforms that ushered in the private sector in the generation and distribution of electricity power in Nigeria and was the immediate past group managing director of Dangote Cement PLC.

Makoju was described as a man who dedicated his entire life to providing the necessary infrastructure for economic development for the nation in addition to providing selfless services to mankind.

In her response to various goodwill messages, the elated wife of the deceased, Dr Gladys Makoju described her husband as a gentle, caring and disciplined man who served the nation selflessly without any record of misdeed and promised to keep the legacy of the late sage.

While thanking Federal University Lokoja for organising the memorial lecture, she disclosed that the family will build a large lecture theatre for the school and give scholarship to outstanding PHD students in engineering.

In his opening remarks earlier, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Olayemi Akinwumi extolled the sterling qualities, saying that the late Dr. Makoju has done so much to serve his father land and positively impacted on several lives seamlessly.

Accordingly to the Vice Chancellor, Engineer Makoju's passion for quality education and pursuit for excellence was remarkable, adding that the university has decided to organise the annual lecture to honour him and to encourage students in the country that there's honour in hard work and honesty.

In his message, Governor Usman Ododo who was represented by the Commissioner of Education, Wemi Jones described Engineer Makoju as a man of great accomplishments, who made the state proud during his life time.

He said that it is in appreciation of his hard work that the state government established a university of science and technology in his home town to train the youth that will make the state proud in future, just as the late Makoju did in his chosen profession.

The second memorial lecture titled, "the challenges of infrastructure development in Nigeria- the need for adequate Engineering capacity " was delivered by the former Registrar, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) Dr. Felix Atume.

Dr Atume in his paper, said that infrastructure provides the basis for the development of any nation adding that where adequate infrastructure is available, society is productive and can sustain a high standard of living.

The lecturer expressed the urgent need for federal government to include indigenous Engineers in all its infrastructural development endeavours which are currently being handled by foreign expatriates as he warned that no nation develops while neglecting its own locally trained experts.

He believes that any nation that ignores its university research works will be in limbo, asserting that there's no problem in the country that Professors in our various universities have not proffered solutions to, but for lack of political will of leadership in the country.

While calling on the federal government to embark on Public Private Partnership in the construction and maintenance of some of its road infrastructure in the country, he opined that government alone can not do it even as he frowned at the huge foreign debts incurred with little development to show for it.

## World Bank: Adamawa Schools Get N296m For Expansion/Rehabilitation

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

**E**ight primary schools in Adamawa State have receive N296 million grant as intervention for expansion under the Global Partner for Education (GPE), a world bank assisted programme in collaboration with the state government.

Speaking at the disbursement flag-off in Yola, Deputy Governor,

Professor Kaletapwa Farauta said each school got N37 million for its expansion/rehabilitation project

Farauta stressed that, the gesture is to provide good atmosphere for learning in public schools.

She charged School Based Management Committee (SBMCs) to ensure ownership of the project as well as judicious utilization of the funds.

Speaking at the occasion,

Dr Umar Garba, Commissioner for Education, commended GPE/World Bank for its timely intervention

He maintained that, transparent, timely and good execution of the projects leads to another rewards by the GPE.

New Nigerian reports that primary schools in Madagali, Lamurde Jada, Shelleng, Song, Toungo and Yola-South benefited in the expansion category.

While in the rehabilitation category, schools in Ganye Girei, Madagali, Mayo-Belwa Michika, Demsa, Gombi, Jada, Song Yola+South Numan, Lamurde, Maiha, Guyuk and Fufore were selected Chairman state SBMC, Galadima Isa, who spoke on behalf of the benefiting schools promised quality job at the end of the projects.

## Return To Court For Prosecution, Reps Order Doctor, Others Facing Charges Of Organ Harvesting



By ; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

In a significant show of support for the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in the ongoing case between the Federal Government of Nigeria and Alliance Hospital & Services involving Dr. Christopher Otor, CEO of Alliance Hospital and three others over an alleged organ harvest, the House of Representative Committee on Public Petitions, has ordered the defendants to go back to Court and defend themselves.

It would be recalled that NAPTIP had arraigned the 51-year-old, Dr. Christopher Otor, and three others before a High Court of the FCT sitting at Zuba, presided over by Hon. Justice Ogbonnaya, for alleged organ (Kidney) harvest on March 18, 2024.

Arraigned with him are Emmanuel Muiyiwa Olorunlaye, male (36 years), Chikaodili Ugochukwu, Female (37 years), and Dr. Aremu Abayomi, male (43 years). Currently on court bail the defendants have been ordered to report to NAPTIP Headquarters in Abuja daily and surrender their travel documents to the court.

Their arraignment followed months of thorough investigation during when a prima facie case was established against the defendants, implicating them in varying degrees of culpability for offences related to organ harvesting, as stipulated

under section 20 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015.

The aggrieved Medical Doctor, Christopher Otor had sought redress at the National Assembly, challenging his detention by the Agency during the investigative process through a petition to the House Committee on Public Petitions.

The Communication officer of NAPTIP Adekoye Vincent in a release on Sunday stated that the Committee in exercise of its legislative duties, subsequently invited the Management of NAPTIP to appear before it on Thursday 18th April, 2024.

In his brief submission, the Director, Legal and Prosecution Department of NAPTIP, Mr. Hassan Tahir, according to the release, informed the Committee that the matter was sub judice as the case was already pending before a Court of competent jurisdiction and all the defendants including the petitioner had already taken their plea.

The trial is scheduled to begin on May 6th, 2024. Ruling on the matter, the Chairman of the Committee, Honourable Mike Etaba, told the complainant to go back to the Court and face the charges before him ultimately dismissing the petition.

This decision reinforces the commitment to due process and legal proceedings in addressing serious allegations such as organ harvesting.

## Physical Exercise, Stress Management Enhances Productivity, Health Experts Tell Workers

\*Tasks civil servants on physical exercise, stress management

By ; M K P U M A ENYINNA, Abakaliki

In order to ensure healthy living and increase work productivity and community wellbeing, a team of health experts have x-rayed the strategic importance of healthy living and tasked civil servants in Nigeria on the imperativeness of physical exercise and stress management in order to be effective and efficient while discharging their official duties.

The team of health experts drawn from within and outside the country, disclosed this at a comprehensive 2 day workshop for senior civil servants organized by the International Institute of Sports Research Development and Rehabilitation (IISRD&R) at David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu, Ebonyi State.

The workshop which was attended by participants from within and outside the country, featured lectures on health screening & test, physical exercise and recreation practices, stress management and mental health promotion, workplace ergonomics and safety, basic first aid training, nutrition and food safety practices, as well as other aspects.

Delivering lecture on the

topic, "Promoting Active Lifestyle", Dr. Chidiebere Ojukwu from David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu, stated that physical activities are essential components of any strategy that aims to address sedentary lifestyle, noting that physical activities have so many benefits which include, improvement of muscular and cardiorespiratory fitness; blood circulation, preventing associated diseases, reduces the risk of metabolic diseases, improves born and functional health, among others.

Dr. Ojukwu urged civil servants to always engage in physical activities in order to live a healthy life and increased their work output.

Also, another Public Health Specialist, Dr. Patricia Ihuaku Otu (Mrs.) spoke on, "Promoting Mental Health in the Workspace".

Dr. Otu who underscored the importance of mental health in our workspace, stated that good health is a holistic concept that encompasses mental, social, environmental, spiritual, and financial stability.

She further categorized mental health state to include; emotional wellbeing, psychological

resilience, cognitive functioning, social connection, self esteem and self worth; stress management, among others.

She explained that balancing these aspects contributes to a better quality of life.

Other health experts like Prof. Eric C. Okoli delivered lectures on, "Food Safety Practices for Optimal Health" while Dr. Georgian Chiaka spoke on "Essentials of Hygiene Practices at Home and Workplace".

Addressing newsmen after the workshop, the Director International Institute of Sports Research Development and Rehabilitation, David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Prof. Sam Chidi Ibeneme stated that the workshop is an epoch-making occasion because it marks the first time the institute organized such an international workshop to brainstorm on critical health issues for the wellbeing of the society.

Prof. Ibeneme used the opportunity to appreciate the dogged efforts and exceptional initiative of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jesse Uneke towards the success of the workshop.

"In this workshop, we really want to impact the society and that is why we targeted the senior civil

servants, policy makers to educate them, create awareness, and education them on how to take care of their health to enhance productivity.

"So, it has been an interesting interaction and we are just starting. We have so much in stock for the local community, the civil service and other segments of the society to benefit from our wealth of knowledge and in that way, we contribute immensely to improve the wellbeing of the society as well as the wealth of the nation.

"We do appreciate the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Jesse Uneke who is at the helm of affairs of this university and who has driven these ideas to establish this institute and so many other institutes to come.

He has actually given us overwhelming support. We shall organize another one in the next three months, it will be a continuous interchange and a continuous exercise so that we impact our society and change it for good.

Some participants like Bright Chimezie and Charles Dominic Chisom, all noted that the workshop was really good and impactful and applauded the Vice Chancellor for the wonderful initiative, saying that the workshop has added a big value in their individual lives.



# NDLEA Busts Multinational Illicit Drug Cartel, Apprehends 3 Fleeing Traffickers, 10 Others In Ondo, Bayelsa, Imo

By: RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Over two months after they were declared wanted, operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), have arrested three members of an organized criminal organization which specializes in illicit drug trafficking across Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, Europe and America following the recent seizure of the single largest consignment of heroin at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA Ikeja Lagos.

Director, Media & Advocacy, Femi Babafemi disclosed in a press statement yesterday, that a total of 51.90 kilograms of heroin had been recovered from members of the drug cartel in an operation that began on February 10, 2024 at the SAHCO Import Shed of the airport's Cargo Terminal.

He stated that the consignment was concealed in 15 cartons of 2300-watt metal cutting machines, with no less than 45 blocks of the illicit substance weighing 49.70kg recovered from the equipment, while additional 2.2kg was seized at the syndicate's warehouse in Ayobo area of Lagos.

"While the Agency has secured interim forfeiture court order on hotel, mansions, vehicles and

funds traced to members of the syndicate after arresting four of them, a manhunt was also launched for others who went underground.

The effort however paid off on Friday 19th April when two of the wanted kingpins: Onyinyechi Irene Igbokwuputa and Frankline Uzochukwu were arrested in Lagos and Awka, Anambra state respectively. Another wanted member of the syndicate, Osita Emmanuel Obinna was equally nabbed in Lagos." Babafemi added.

Speaking on the other arrests and interception he said, "In the same vein, the attempt by a suspect, Iheakara Ifeanyichukwu Festus to export a drug consignment through the terminal 2 of the Lagos airport to Muscat, Oman via Ethiopian airline flight on Thursday 18th April was thwarted by NDLEA officers.

"When his luggage was searched, 20 big parcels of cannabis weighing 9.80kg were discovered concealed in his bag. In his statement, the suspect who lives in Muscat, Oman and returned to Nigeria in 1st April, confessed he was hired to courier the drug with an agreement to get paid N1,200,000 upon successful delivery in Oman.

"In Adamawa state, NDLEA operatives on Saturday 20th April intercepted a Peugeot car driven by Dahiru

Mohammed at Girei on his way to Mubi with 1,250,000 pills of opioids weighing 450kg.

"The operatives had earlier intercepted along Ngorore -Yola road a J5 bus marked AAA790XV loaded with motor spare parts from Onitsha, Anambra State, with consignments of Codeine Syrup and Tramadol concealed in-between the motor parts. A follow up operation led to the arrest of the recipient, Jairus Nwanchor at Jambutu motor park.

"Three suspects: Beriakuma Vivian Chinrdu, 40; Okpor Isaac, 68, and Daniel Onyeachom, 42, were on Saturday 20th April arrested at Amarata, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state in connection with the seizure of 69 compressed blocks of cannabis weighing 36kg and concealed in a false compartment of a Toyota Picnic car marked MUS 711 DH they were travelling in.

"This is even as NDLEA operatives in Imo state on Thursday 18th April arrested Kingsley Omeje, 41, at Amajeke, Owerri while he was taking delivery of 49 bottles of codeine syrup he ordered.

"In Ondo state, NDLEA operatives raided the Oloro camp, Ogbese, Akure North LGA where they arrested Linus Odogwu, 50, and destroyed a total of 25,000 kilograms of cannabis on

10 hectares of farmland while they recovered 89.5kg of same substance. Three other suspects: David Obungete Ekepenyoung, 22; Oluwaseun Folorunso, 23; and Rabi Musa, 32, were nabbed in other parts of the state in connection to different seizures totaling 77kg.

"In the same vein, Commands across the country intensified their War Against Drug Abuse, WADA, advocacy lectures. These include: WADA sensitisation lecture to students and staff of St. Dominick High School, Makurdi, Benue state; students and staff of Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure, Jigawa state; traders at timber market, Umuokpo, Awka, Anambra and WADA advocacy visit to Methodist Church (Bishop Court) Abeokuta, Ogun state, among others.

While commending the officers and men of the MMIA, Adamawa, Bayelsa, Ondo and Imo Commands of the Agency for their balanced efforts in the past week, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) equally applauded their counterparts across the country for intensifying their WADA advocacy lectures thus creating parity between their drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction activities.

## Discipline: Provost FCE Zaria Warns Students, As College Matriculates 1,712

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Provost Federal College of Education, Zaria, Dr. Suleiman Balarabe has warned students to toe the path of honour both within and outside the college as it enjoys reputation for producing excellent teachers for the nation.

He gave the warning at the matriculation ceremony of 1,712 NCE Part time students for the 2023/2024 academic session held at the College Multi Purpose Hall at the weekend.

Dr. Balarabe said, that the college abhors any form of display of anti social behaviors, especially as it concerns examination malpractice, indecent dressing and unlawful associations (Cultism) and drug abuse.

The provost maintained that as a reputed teacher training institution, students must be reminded of the need to watch their moral and social behaviors from day one.

According to him, the purpose of teacher training college like FCE Zaria is to prepare fully qualified professional teachers who will later in life help prepare their own students not only to learn and pass examination,

but to live respectable and acceptable lives in their communities.

He advised the students to be moving with their ID cards and to be vigilant of the people around them.

Also advised them to be security conscious and alert the situation as the college has installed CCTV cameras at all the nooks and crannies of the college for surveillance of activities of staff and students.

Speaking on the landmark achievement by the college, the provost said, the college is undergoing tremendous changes and transportations in line with global best practice.

He added that the college beliefs that the wave of digitalization is affecting every facet of our lives, therefore they embark on the digitalization in teaching and learning.

The college has introduced Computer Based Test in GSE examination and advised the students to prepare their minds to Know some basic computer skills.

Dr. Suleiman Balarabe urged the students to devote their time, energy and commitment to reading and

## NERC Approves 12 Additional Band A Feeders For Kaduna Electric

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), has approved 12 additional Band A feeders for Kaduna Electric.

By this approval, customers on the newly approved feeders shall enjoy a minimum of 20 hours power supply.

The Kaduna Electric's Chief Operating Officer, Sadiq Mohammed, explained that one 11kV feeder and 12 33kV feeders were approved.

He further explained, "Kaduna Electric's Band A feeder count has now risen from 25 to 37. Since April 1, all Band A feeders across Kaduna Electric's franchise in Kaduna, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi have been enjoying a minimum of 20 hours power supply daily."

In an order issued April 19, 2024, NERC said the Commission has reviewed and considered Kaduna Electric's request for additional feeders to be classified as Band A.

The Commission approved additional one (1) Nos of 11kV and eleven (11) Nos of 33kV feeders provided in schedules 1 and 2 below to have met the minimum

service requirements and be reclassified as Band A Feeders".

The newly approved Band A feeders include; 11kV Commercial feeder in Kaduna, 33KV Fadama 1 and Fadama 2 feeders in Birnin Kebbi, adding that others approved 33kV feeders in Kaduna are; 33KV Abakpa, 33KV NAF, 33KV Doka and 33KV Water Works that all radiate from Mando transmission station. 33KV Mogadishu located at Power Station in Kaduna was also approved.

Also approved for upgrading to Band A include 33KV Aviation and 33KV PZ feeders in Zaria, 33KV Narayi in Kaduna and 33KV Power House in Gusau.

Reacting to the development, Kaduna Electric's Chief Operating Officer, Sadiq Mohammed, said the approval is a welcome development and a testimony to the company's full compliance with delivering the minimum hours of supply to its Band A feeders.

He said it would spur Kaduna Electric to put in more efforts to ensure that customers on the new feeders enjoy power supply with minimal interruption.



## Despite Challenges, Tinubu's Scorecard Impressive - Ambassador Tsoken



Ambassador Tsoken

By; JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano

The scorecard of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is very impressive less than one year of his administration, despite some issues that are being controlled gradually. This was expressed by the national president of the APC Initiative For Good Governance (APC-IGG), Ambassador Musa Mohammed Tsoken in an interview with our correspondent.

Tsoken reiterated that APC-IGG is always monitoring what is going on in governance and it is impressive to announce that under one year, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has done a lot to make Nigeria more suitable and a better

domain.

He stressed that, "although it is not yet time to assess what Tinubu's administration has achieved under one year, let us give our maximum support and goodwill to our president and his government to benefit more from its excellent provision and canvassed full support for the present administration."

Similarly, Ambassador Tsoken on behalf of the national executive officers of APC-IGG, the zonal coordinators, states, local government areas and ward leaders of the Initiative, said, "we commend President Tinubu for his efforts and determination to actualize good governance for better Nigeria."

## Army Will Stop At Nothing To Decimate Terrorists, Kidnappers, Criminal Elements - COAS Lagbaja

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Taoreed Lagbaja has said that the Nigerian Army will stop at nothing to neutralize terrorists, kidnappers and other criminal elements creating challenges of insecurity in the country.

He enjoined commanders at all levels on the need to always be ingenious and courageous, saying that the adversaries they fight are emboldened by weakness as they cannot afford to show a lot of it.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the COAS First Quarter Conference in Abuja, Lagbaja assured Nigerians of the Nigerian Army' resolved to, in conjunction with their sister services and other security agencies, ensure the security of lives and properties across the country.

According to the COAS, "I enjoin law-abiding Nigerians to continue to support the Nigerian Army

in our efforts to make our territory inviolable, safeguard the lives and properties of loyal citizens, and create the enabling atmosphere for good governance and economic prosperity."

Lagbaja noted that fear is a major currency with which their adversaries trade, suggesting that they must turn the tide against them and out-trade them in their currency.

While appreciating all the personnel holding one form of command, staff, or leadership position in the highly challenging period of the country's history, the COAS stated that the department of Army operations and Nigerian Army Intelligence Corps will henceforth jointly provide an initial brief to all divisions and commanders of specialized formations like the Gds Bde to bring them up to speed on AHQ's expectation and aid their takeoff.

He assured that the COPP(A) would provide

further guidance to the standing committee by formulating appropriate orders and instructions, saying that the Military Secretary (A) should note that the formation command appreciation and recognition plaque for senior officers does not qualify recipients for the Field Command Medal of Honour award and should thus not be cited as a basis for demanding honors and awards.

"In line with the Sanction and Reward System Pillar of my Command Philosophy," he instituted another first one, stressing that the Formation Command Appreciation/Recognition Plaque presented to seven of the senior level commanders that were posted out of command between August 2023 and the first quarter of the year is their way of appreciating them for their modest contributions towards a better Nigeria and

encouraging them to do better when next similar opportunity comes their way.

He charged them to understand that posting is a routine exercise in the military, and several circumstances lead to it, saying that many of which may not be fully understood by all.

To complement the new initiative, he said the Chief of Operations would henceforth head a team made up of COLOG (A), CASE, COTI (A), CMI (A), and any other PSO deemed relevant to debrief direct reporting formation commanders not later than 10 days post-handover.

He explained that the standing committee would submit a 3-5 page report highlighting lessons and issues that could help AHQ better guide new formation commanders as well as improve the security, welfare, and morale of troops in the formation they commanded.

## Katsina Police Foils Bandits Attack, Kills One, Recovers Military Grenade, Others

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Police Command, under the leadership of its Commissioner (CP) Aliyu Abubakar Musa in an unwavering commitment towards maximising safety and security of the people has foiled an invasion attempt on Sabuwa town in Sabuwa Local Government Area of the state by suspected bandits.

Consequently, during the encounter, the Police of the Command successfully neutralised one (1) suspected bandit and recovered one (1) walkie-talkie with a Military-Grade Hand Grenade.

The Command Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu disclosed this in a statement he issued to newsmen in Katsina.

ASP Sadiq Aliyu said it was on

"April 17, 2024, at about 1648 hours the information was received at the Sabuwa Divisional Headquarters that some suspected armed bandits were in their numbers, armed with dangerous weapons such as

AK-47 rifles, on motorcycles riding towards Sabuwa town with the intent to attack."

He said upon receipt of the report, promptly, the DPO Sabuwa, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Aliyu Mustapha

mobilised a team of operatives consisting of men of the operation Sharan Daji and members of the Katsina State Community Watch Corps responded to the scene, where they engaged the suspected

bandits in a fierce gun duel.

"The team successfully foiled the planned attack; however, one Murtala Sabi'u, a member of the KSCWC, sustained a gunshot injury to his right leg and was rushed to the hospital, where he is currently receiving medical attention," he said.

According to ASP Aliyu in the course of scanning the scene, the body of one (1) neutralised suspected bandit, one (1) walkie-talkie, and a military-grade hand grenade were recovered from the scene.

Furthermore, he said the CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa has called on members of the Public to promptly report anyone seen with a bullet wound, as some of the suspects escaped the scene with gunshot injuries.

He reiterated the Katsina State Police command's commitment to ensuring protection of lives and property of People of the state under CP Musa



Neutralised bandit



The military grade grenade recovered

## We Demolished Yoruba Nation Agitators Buildings In Ibadan with Court Order - Oyo Govt

*\*illegal Lithium Processing Factory also affected*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Government on Thursday, disclosed that it demolished a building allegedly belonging to the Yoruba Nation agitators based on Court order. The state's Commissioner for Lands, Housing, Survey and Urban Development, Mr William

Akin-Funmilayo said this while speaking with journalists at the site of the demolished building at Toye Oyesola Street, Sagari in Ibadan.

According to the Commissioner, Oyo State Government pulled the building down after obtaining a court order to that effect.

"The demolition was carried out two days ago.

We obtained a court order from High Court on April 16, 2024 to demolish the building, having gotten information that the Yoruba Nation agitators used the place. This building belongs to them. It houses dangerous weapons", he said.

Mr Akin-Funmilayo added, "The government will give you peace of mind. The government is here to maintain security.

We implore the residents to say something when they see something. I will implore them to report any illegal and life-threatening activities to the government."

The Commissioner hinted that the state government has also demolished an illegal lithium processing factory Idi-Ayure road, Oluyole local government area of Ibadan.



*The demolished building*

## Oyo LG Polls: NSCDC Committed To Fostering Secure, Fair Electoral Atmosphere - Oyo NSCDC Commandant

*\*Directs Area Commanders, Divisional Officers to initiate security operations in their respective jurisdictions*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Oyo State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Commandant Augustine Padonu, has declared that NSCDC is committed to fostering a secure and fair electoral atmosphere in the country.

This was contained in a statement by the command made available to journalists in Ibadan on Thursday on the April 27

local government elections in Oyo state.

According to the statement, the Commandant said this during a Management meeting held at the State Command's headquarters in Ibadan and directed all Area Commanders and Divisional Officers to initiate security operations within their respective jurisdictions.

This, he stressed, is to ensure the successful conduct of the April 27 election in the state, to be

conducted by the Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC).

Commandant Padonu stressed the critical role of the NSCDC in ensuring a secure and conducive environment for the electoral process, emphasizing the importance of upholding peace and security during the election period.

He declared that NSCDC is committed to upholding the highest standards of conduct and ethical

practices, underscoring the organization's dedication to fostering a secure and fair electoral atmosphere.

"NSCDC, Oyo State Command, remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding the democratic process and upholding the peace and security of the State, working in close collaboration with the relevant authorities to ensure a smooth and successful Local Government election", he said.

## EFCC Vs Yahaya Bello: Court Adjourns Till April 23 For Ruling On Substituted Service

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, on Thursday, fixed April 23 for ruling in the application by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), seeking a substituted service of the charge on former governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello. EFCC in a suit before the Court against the immediate past governor of Kogi state preferred a 19-count money laundering charge preferred against him. When the matter was called for the arraignment of Bello on a 19-count money laundering charge preferred against him, the former governor was not in court, but his team of lawyers, including were in court.

Alhaji Yahaya Bello lawyer, Abdulwahab Mohammed, SAN challenged the validity of the charge on the ground that the court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the matter on the one hand and to have issued the arrest warrant against his client on the other hand.

The Counsel told the court that a preliminary objection had already been filed before the court to the effect urging the court to vacate the arrest warrant order, as a High Court of Kogi had on February. 9 restrained the anti-graft agency from arresting, detaining or prosecuting Bello.

Stressing that the ruling was on a fundamental rights suit filed by the former governor and that the EFCC was a party in the matter, Barrister Mohammed (SAN) added that two of the senior advocates representing the anti-graft agency in the instant charge were also in the matter.

The Counsel maintained that the order was challenged by the EFCC at the Court of Appeal and the matter was already fixed for hearing, adding that the arrest warrant the

commission surreptitiously got from the court was an attempt to bring the court on collision course with the Appeal Court.

Insisting that the issue of jurisdiction was a threshold which the court must address first, the former governor's Counsel argued that the charge ought not to have been filed in view of the appeal and

that, contrary to the EFCC Counsel's submission, the court should direct that he should be served with the charge in the open court since he represented Bello, he said that he was not authorised to receive the charge on his client's behalf.

He argued that if the commission could not serve Bello personally with the charge, they should formally apply so that the defendant could respond accordingly and that their objection to the whole charge and the arrest warrant on the ground of lack of jurisdiction had not been dealt with.

The EFCC's lawyer however disagreed with Mohammed's submission, saying the matter was fixed for Bello's arraignment and Mohammed, having announced appearance for the ex-governor, could be served in the open court for the matter to proceed.

After counsel for the EFCC, Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, and Alhaji Yahaya Bello lawyer, Abdulwahab Mohammed, SAN, presented their arguments for and against the oral application, the court adjourned to April 23 for ruling on substituted service.

New Nigerian recalled that Justice Nwite had, on Wednesday, issued a warrant for the arrest of Bello despite the subsisting judgment by a Kogi High Court restraining the commission from arresting, detaining, or prosecuting him.

The court had also ordered that the ex-governor be produced in court for his arraignment.



## We Must Harness Opportunities In Tourism Sector - Gov Makinde

**\*Says Oyo will partner investors to unlock tourism potentials**

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

Oyo State Governor, Engr Seyi Makinde has advocated proper harnessing of the opportunities in the tourism sector

The governor made the call on Wednesday at the opening ceremony of the International Tourism Summit tagged #ITSOYOSTATE 2024, holding at the International Conference Center, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

He pointed out at the summit with the theme, "Repositioning Tourism as a Drive for Sustainable Development in Oyo State," that much opportunities exist in the tourism sector, which can lead to prosperity if properly harnessed.

According to him, to ensure proper harnessing of the opportunities in the tourism sector, Oyo state gov is ready to partner with investors to unlock the tourism potentials of the state and that his administration will support and work with

relevant stakeholders and foster the partnership that would lead to sustainable development and guarantee the success of their investments.

"When you hear the title of the presentation, the key word you can quickly identify is unlocking. I always tell people that Nigeria has the potential and we have to unlock it to be able to realise the benefits from those potentials. The investors have their money for their investment and on the other side is profit. So, the question always is what will be the Return on Investment, RoI", he said. Gov Makinde added, "Without the right key to unlock the potential they are seeking, they will not gain access to the expected benefit. So, in this presentation, I will share the keys that unlock tourism potentials in Oyo State. Various speakers discuss partnership opportunities in Oyo State and outline what the state has to offer. But it is one thing to know what the state has and quite another thing to access it. So, what

is this key? Well, it is partnership."

The governor noted that Oyo state government had focused on the interconnectivity of all zones, thereby attracting tourists to the sites and creating enabling environment for tourism to thrive and also deepen the experience for business travellers, adding "There are three types of partnership you can find in Oyo State. The first one is Public Private Partnership; Public Development Partnership, PDP, and the Hybrid Partnership. How do these work?"

"In the first instance, we have six tourism sites in Category A including the Ibadan Cultural Centre, Bower's Tower, Eleyele Water Front, Idanre Hill, Iyapapo Hill, Iyake Suspended Lake. We have done our home work and we have the figures. As you may already know, we do have expectations for these sites and destinations. For example, our minimum expectation is that the Ibadan Cultural Centre will be restored to

its former glory and we project that the entry point for this investment will be about N1 billion"

The governor stressed, "In fact, for each of these sites and destinations, which I will be referring to as 'The Focused Six', the entry point will be about N250m with expected profit margin of between 50 and 60 per cent yearly based on a five-year projection.

"We got a reputable tourism advisory firm to run the number. So, we have the location and marketing appraisal for them as well as proposed project concept and financial appraisal. One major thing is the role the government needs to play in fostering partnership that leads to sustainable development, and I know that if I speak to these investors later today, the question they will be asking me is what we have to offer as a state government.

"Under our PPA arrangement, the primary source of funding for the project is the private investor or development organisation."

## Group Questions Appointment Of Abdullahi Ganduje As APC Chairman

**\*Threaten to shut down party national secretariat**

By; **AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna**

A group under the auspices of Nigeria Citizens Movement for Good Governance, has noted that the endorsement of President Bola Tinubu to appoint Dr Abdullahi Umaru Ganduje as the chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC) has led to dissatisfaction and disunity among a lot of loyal party members in the North.

The Convener of the group, Aminu Haruna Maipampo, in a statement, expressed total dismay over the continuation of Dr. Abdullahi Umaru Ganduje as the acting National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Dr Abdullahi Umaru Ganduje assumed the acting chairmanship of the APC after the voluntary resignation of Dr. Abdullahi Adamu as the chairman of the party in July 2023.

He said, "It is pertinent to note that, it was wrong in the first place for President Tinubu to endorse the appointment

of Ganduje as party's chairman, knowing fully that the chairmanship of the party ought to be retained in the North Central, which is the zone of the erstwhile chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Adamu. This has led to dissatisfaction and disunity among a lot of loyal party members in the North."

He called on the acting National chairman of the APC, Ganduje to as a matter of urgency, step down to allow that exalted position to be occupied by a competent person from the North Central in order to allow for justice and fairness. He stressed, "Failure to relinquish his position in the next seven working days, we will be compelled to mobilize thousands of party faithful and support groups to protest and shut down the APC National Headquarters in Abuja until the Acting Chairman resigns."

The convener called on all party faithfuls and support groups who have shown interest in this course to remain calm and resolute till we give further directives.

## Benue Govt Frowns As Youth Hijack Trucks Conveying Palliatives To South East

**\*Incident occurred along portion of unmotorable Makurdi-Otukpo highway**

**\*35 arrested for illegal revenue collection**

By; **ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi**

The acting Chairman, Benue State Internal Revenue Services, (BIRS), Emmanuel Agena, has disclosed that some youth in Aliade, Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State hijacked trucks conveying palliatives to the Eastern part of the country.

Speaking with newsmen in his office in Makurdi, the BIRS Chairman said trucks were coming from Adamawa State and heading to one of the Eastern states.

The BIRS boss who frowned at the incident, said, "the truck was intercepted and the driver beaten while the windscreen of the vehicle was broken and over N200,000 stolen."

According to him, "three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident and are in police custody. They will be moved to the DSS for thorough investigation."

Mr. Agena who decried the activities of illegal tax collectors in the state, said most of them are backed by very prominent individuals who are sponsoring them to carry

out their illegal activities.

He said that 35 persons have already been arrested for engaging in such illegal revenue collection and have been arraigned in court.

"Our aim to flush out or reduce illegal tax collectors to the barest minimum. Dealing with illegal tax operators has been a big challenge. We have constituted a team headed by director of Tax collection. Prominent people in the State are involved in encouraging these boys. They must know that the time of patronizing politicians is

over," he said.

The BIRS boss, who stated that state government surpassed its N14 billion revenue target for 2023, said it has the target to generate over N16 billion as internally generated revenue for 2024.

"We also plan to recover over 5.6 billion from ground rent. We are liaising with the Ministry of Land towards this direction.

"Taxation is about confidence. Our work now is easy because tax payers are willing to pay because the people are seeing what government is doing,"



# UNN, Partners UNICEF, In Bridging Nation's Policy Formation, Implementation Gap.

*\*Launches institute*



## Senator Akpabio Seeks Parliamentary Collaboration Between Nigerian Parliament, Serbian Counterpart

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio has advocated for Parliamentary Collaboration between the Nigerian Parliament and its Serbian counterpart.

According to statement on Thursday by the Senate President Special Assistant on Media, Jackson Udom, Senator Akpabio made the call on Wednesday during a meeting with the President of the Serbia Parliament,

Ms Ana Brnabic in London

It stressed that Senator Akpabio and the President of the Serbia Parliament, Ana Brnabic extensively discussed issues of mutual interest to both nations and how to improve parliamentary collaborations between Serbia and Nigeria.

"The Meeting, which was at the request of Ms Brnabić, also discussed matters relating to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). The two

parliamentarians have also agreed to meet again soon", it said.

The statement added, "The Serbian lawmaker, used the meeting to formally invite Nigeria's Senate President to Serbia, on a yet to be announced date."

It noted that Senator Akpabio, was accompanied to the meeting by the Chairman, Senate Committee on NDDC, Asuquo Ekpenyong and Nigeria's Acting High

Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Cyprian Terseer Heens.

It would be recalled that Senator Akpabio, was recently elected into the Executive Committee of the IPU, a role he has been playing successfully in the last few months, specifically his thought provoking speech on the needless blood letting in Gaza, and the call for a cease fire at the just concluded meeting of the body in Geneva, Switzerland.

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

The University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), is partnering the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF), in bridging the age long gap in the nation's social policy formation and implementation.

To this end, the university, with support from UNICEF on Wednesday, formally launched the Institute for Social Policy at the Nsukka permanent site of the ivory tower.

Speaking during the ceremony, Vice Chancellor of UNN, Professor Charles Igwe, expressed deep appreciation to UNICEF for the kind gesture, saying its interventions in the global education sector, including Nigeria, is highly commendable.

Represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, professor Romanus Ezeokonkwo, the UNN boss, noted that the institute which is set to fly would go a long way in addressing the nation's policy formation and implementation challenges in all sectors via capacity building of policy makers and production of future leaders with needed knowledge on the subject matter.

According to him, the issue of social policy is vital in any clime as it cuts across every discipline and sectors hence, the need to accord it serious attention, stressing that no nation, be it developed, or developing can make any meaningful head way in its economy without proper policy formation and implementation.

Prof Igwe, said it's against the backdrop of the usefulness of social policy that UNN conceived the idea of the institute, and would do everything possible ensure that it succeeds, thanking UNICEF, for being a worthy partner to the institution.

He disclosed that a competent Director, professor Okey Ikeanyibe of Administration and policy has been appointed for the institute, which offers Post graduate Courses, PGD, MSc, and

PhD, adding that most facilities to drive it has also been put in place, including engagement of committed Staff drawn from various disciplines in the social sciences.

"We don't have any problem regarding the institute. We are set to fly, because the university Senate has given approval to all our request. We have the capacity, and ready to deliver, because social policy is all about development and touching human lives"

In his remarks, leader of UNICEF delegation, from Enugu field office, Dr. Olusoji Akinleye, said his organization is always poised towards promoting education and issues bothering on human development across the globe including Africa and Nigeria, noting that lack of proper policy formation and implementation had over the years remained a serious cog in the wheel of progress of the country hence, the need to address it through such important institute.

He posited that a robust and proper social policy would help in tackling multiple issues in the nation's economy, adding that it would equally help in mainstreaming the United nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), because policy making he stated, requires a lot of skills and expertise, assuring that UNICEF is determined to ensure that the UNN institute's objective would be fully realized in the end. Dr. Akinleye, further stressed that issue of social policy is all encompassing hence, the need for all and sundry to always support moves aimed at getting things right in that direction. "So, anything that has to do with social policy in Nigeria should be taken seriously and supported.

Our correspondent writes that professors from the Nnamdi Azikiwe university UNIZIK, Awka, Anambra state, South East Nigeria also graced the event, which came to climax with a tour of the temporary site of the institute by the UNN and UNICEF delegation



L-R: Nigeria's acting High Commissioner to the UK, Cyprian Terseer Heens, President of the Serbian Parliament, Ana Brnabic, President of the Senate and Chairman National Assembly, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Godswill Akpabio and Chairman, Senate Committee on NDDC, Asuquo Ekpenyong, after a meeting at the instance of the leadership of the Serbian Parliament on Wednesday in London.



# COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Community Stakeholders Urge Security, Community, Religious Leaders To Intervene On Social Vices

By; SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Community stakeholders from Maiduguri Metropolitan Council and Jere LGCs of Borno State during its third community stakeholders dialogue on social vices as an early warning sign and community level response mechanisms held at Women Development Center Maiduguri on Friday, suggested that advocacy, awareness and enlightenment activities by the government and its partners as well as departments, should be enhanced and effectively carried out in the return of the repentant insurgents

Some called on security agencies, traditional institutions, community and religious leaders to tackle the menace of hoodlums or youth popularly known as Malians terrorizing community members with threats and harassment using knives, diggers, razor blades, etc urging for immediate intervention before the situation gets out of control.

They also urged community members to stop stigmatization and harassment or molestation of the repentant insurgents, while others called for total acceptability of the returnees back to the community for peace and progress through forgiveness and pardon.

The stakeholders also called on government and their agencies to embrace all and sundry and cater for the welfare and sustainability through empowerment and poverty alleviation, as well as skills acquisition and entrepreneurship training of both the the returnee repentant and community members.



Some community stakeholders observed that some women still isolate themselves from their relations and community members on their return from the bush, while calling on government, community, as well as religious leaders to intensify efforts to educate and enlighten the returnees and community members on the need for social interaction and relationship as if nothing ever happened.

Most stakeholders noted that so far, there has been improvement and progress in the level of interaction and relationship between the community members and repentant insurgents deradicalized, rehabilitated and reintegrated where some even attend community meetings, weddings and naming ceremonies, especially in the night.

They further observed that most of the reintegrated repentant relate and visit friends, families and neighbours, especially the women and girls mingling with members of the community,

unlike in the past where in some cases, some of the widows and grown up girls have accepted and decided to marry their choice husbands within the communities and leaving peacefully with one another and neighbours.

Executive Director of Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Hajiya Hamsatu Allamin in her opening remarks, said that as part of the reconciliation and peace building efforts of the foundation as well as reintegration process of deradicalized women and girls, survivors and victims of the Boko Haram insurgency.

Hajiya Allamin added that the community stakeholders have been selected and invited by the foundation to meet and identify as well as deliberate freely on the major communal issues and problems which have been creating public disturbance or crisis or tension and threats among others.

She further said that the stakeholders were to discuss the



issues and problems identified and their challenges as well as proffer meaningful and concrete suggestions and recommendations for a way forward in tackling these social vices identified in the various communities through the appropriate security, community, religious and other collaborative organizations.

The Project Facilitator and Monitoring & Evaluation Consultant, Dr. Lawan Balami noted that the early warning is important in communities as it is an opportunity to be able to draw attention of security, community and religious, as well as government stakeholders to community issues and problems for quick action and intervention for the purpose of safety, peace and development.

He added that early warning and response system has four aspects such as, surveillance, reporting analysis and response which in the case of any outbreak or emergency, officials go round houses or camps to monitor and observe situations in

communities for a specific period of time in order to ascertain the vulnerability or frequency of the outbreak or emergency.

Project Kanuri Interpreter, Comrade Zanna Shettima' also interpreted the explanations and presentations made by the facilitator for the benefit of Kanuri listeners, interpreting English and Hausa versions for proper, accurate and reliable reports in observations and monitoring made to the appropriate authorities or community leaders or religious leaders or security agents for quick or immediate response.

However, it was noted that all reporting situations in early warning require confidentiality or duty of secrecy as all intelligence is done in the overall interest, including risk assessment to ascertain the level or gravity of the social vices and collaborative strategies and assessment with the relevant authorities to address the problem or menace.



## Oyo: RCCG Pastor, Others Abducted From 14-seater Bus In Ipapo

*\*Abductors demanding N10m ransom*

*\*Investigation is in progress - Oyo Police Command*

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

A pastor with the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and other passengers in a 14-seater commercial bus were on Thursday abducted by suspected kidnappers in Ipapo, Oyo State.

New Nigerian gathered that the abductors are now demanding N10 million as ransom on those in their custody.

It was learnt that the RCCG pastor, identified as Olugbenga Olowore, together with others in the 14-seater bus were traveling to Lagos along the Maya axis of Lanlate-Eruwa Road when the suspected kidnappers accosted their bus at about 5pm.

The gunmen were said to have overpowered all the passengers including the pastor and reportedly led them into the bush

Sources said the abducted Pastor was returning from Ipapo town where he as reported to have concluded arrangements for the burial of his late mother fixed for the weekend in the town

The source said the abducted pastor is in charge of Heavens Gate Parish, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Lagos Province 73, along Agbara-Lusada Road, Ogun State.

According to a family source, the kidnappers called the pastor's wife at about 8pm on Thursday and allowed him to talk to her with the pastor said to

be confirming to the wife that he was kidnapped with others.

The abducted pastor was also said to have informed his wife that the abductors were demanding N10 million as ransom for his release.

The family source said the kidnappers again called the pastor's wife on Friday at about 9a.m, with the pastor reportedly begging his wife to raise money for the ransom even if it was N1 million.

He was said to have emphasized that the wife should raise the money as the only option to stop his abductors from killing him, having already killed some of those abducted together with him.

It was learnt that at this juncture, the kidnappers

cut off the phone call with all efforts by the wife to call back failed as the line had been switched off.

The pastor's relatives were said to have reported the matter at the police station in the town where they met family members of others abducted in the 14 seater bus during which they learnt that the police have recovered the abandoned commercial bus with some phones belonging to the abducted passengers in the bus.

When contacted, the Oyo State Police Command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Adewale Osifeso assured that, "Investigation is in progress. Updates will be provided accordingly"

## Iya Organizes 5-day Computer-based Workshop For 100 Adamawa Teachers

*\*Praises Gov Fintiri for reviving Education sector*

By; **TOM GARBA, Yola**

Worried by the constant failure of the West Africa Exams Council (WAEC) of the senior secondary schools by many students of Adamawa, as well as failing in the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the university entry exams, an education enthusiast, Hon Umar Sanda Iya has organized a five-day workshop for teachers in the Northern Senatorial District of the state.

He attributed the lack of computer-based knowledge of both the teachers and students as contributing to the failure of many of the sons and daughters in the state who are qualified and good enough to join any of the civil service, military, or paramilitary in the country. According to him, the essence is to support the present Government of Adamawa State under the able leadership of Rt. Honourable Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri as the governor with the vision to transform the state in many fields of endeavour.

He said the Government of Adamawa State has built and furnished many schools with computers, but teachers and students lack requisite knowledge of how to use the computer systems and appliances are becoming damaged and obsolete.

He appraised the government for making giant efforts for Adamawa indigenes to succeed and academically compute well anywhere they are.

Iya who is also a businessman and politician, said that it has become paramount for him to give back to the society with the little God has blessed him with to impact humanity in the area of education.

While calling on well-meaning and public spirited organizations and individuals, especially those from Adamawa Northern Senatorial District to join hands with the present administration of Fintiri in making education a priority.

At the workshop on Equipping Teachers for Inclusive Practices through the use of Information and Communication

Technology (ICT), the Katukan Gulak on Monday, flagged off the training with a hundred teachers cutting across the five local government areas of the Northern Senatorial District as beneficiaries.

The teachers who are twenty from each local government area of Mubi North, Mubi South, Maiha, Michika, and Madagali were trained during the workshop on "Equipping Teachers to Make Creative Computing Accessible."

Stakeholders in education representing the five local government areas including traditional rulers (Lawan Duhu), pastors, imams, principals of both private and public schools, head teachers of primary schools, and local government council officials were in attendance in appreciation of Iya's efforts.

Iya in an interview with our Yola correspondent, charged community leaders, and other critical stakeholders on education to make computer education a success because lack of it is drawing their wards and children backward.

While thanking the Governor of Adamawa State for the successes recorded in different parts of the state, especially in the area of road infrastructure, innovative education, security, and human capital development of the state civil service, Iya called on him to as a matter of urgency, employ more teachers and give priority to those who are ICT compliance and those who have the knowledge of computer in all the secondary schools in the state.

"We have brilliant students, they abound in all our communities and schools but because many of them are lacking computer knowledge and exposure to ICT-based exams, they always hit a rock and become demoralized in pursuing their dreams.

"Just recently, many of our young ones went for Police enrollment but they could not succeed because of their little knowledge of computer. I think governments at all levels must embark on awareness and training of the teachers in this regard." Iya said

## Kano APC: Another Ward Exco Emerges, Issues Fresh Suspension On Ganduje

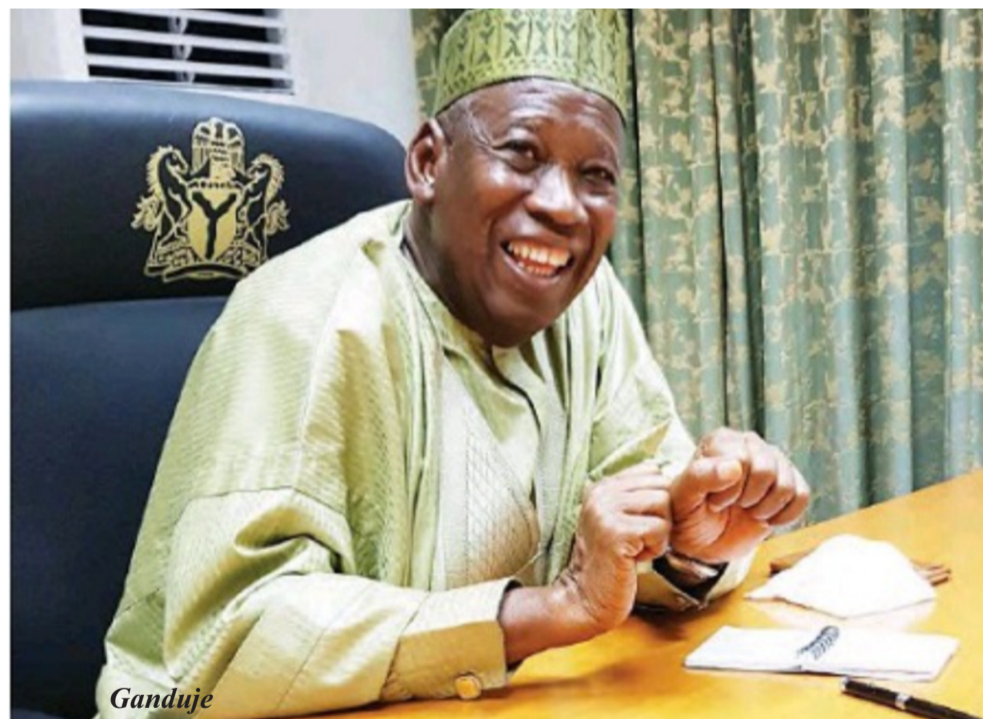
By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Crisis rocking the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kano State has taken a fresh dimension as new ward executives emerged from Ganduje Ward, issuing a fresh suspension on acting National Chairman of the party, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

Besides, the new group from Ganduje Ward, Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area of the state claimed to be the legitimate ward exco, legally and validly elected on July, 31, 2021.

Addressing journalists in Kano, on Sunday, secretary of Ganduje Ward, Ja'afar Adamu Ganduje who spoke on behalf of 11 other executive members, explained that the suspension of former Governor of Kano is necessitated on allegations of anti-party activities exhibited by Ganduje which led to division and failure of the party during the last election.

Adamu, who is Ganduje's



nephew also accused Dr. Ganduje of igniting conflict of interest that led to two factional exco in the ward, thereby bringing the party to disrepute on the minds of the public.

The secretary equally alleged that the embattled APC national Chairman has not been paying his statutory party dues.

According to Adamu, "We are the authentic executive of Ganduje Ward and we have passed a vote of no confidence and imposed a

new suspension on Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje for series of reasons.

"First we have suspended Dr. Ganduje's membership for creating internal conflict among party members at the ward level.

Another major reason why the authentic executive resolved to suspend Ganduje is the issue of anti-party activities he generated during the 2023 elections, which resulted to the party's failure in the state".

Adamu emphasized that those two factions claiming to be exco from Ganduje Ward are fake and impostors, orchestrated by Dr. Ganduje and other bad elements in the party.

Adamu reiterated that the real Ganduje Ward leaders would not hesitate to institute legal action against the two factions which earlier addressed the media claiming to be ward exco.

# Nothing Must Happen To Yahaya Bello, Ebira Youth Coalition Cautions FG

- Says humiliation by EFCC slap on sensibility of Kogi State
- Frowns against withdrawal of security details
- AYCF says, stop Harassing Yahaya Bello

and DSS has now made the former governor vulnerable and the youths of our land will be left with no other options than to defend our own even if it's with our bear hands if the harassment continues unabated." said the youth from Kogi central.

The statement called on President Bola Tinubu to rise to the occasion to stop the unwarranted harassment of the former governor by EFCC which itself is a creation of the law.

It noted that if the commission felt dissatisfied with the restraining order given to the former governor by the state high court, it could use all available legal means available to it to vacate the order rather than engaging in its current shameful actions.

The coalition also advised youth of the other ethnic groups in the state to be mindful of how they use social media to malign Yahaya Bello and his ethnic group, nothing that their actions are capable of truncating the peace we currently enjoy in the state.

The statement reminded the youths of Kogi East in particular

of the role played by youths of Central when Former Governor Abubakar Audu was brought to court in handcuffs by the EFCC after he left office.

It said the youth of Central believe that the humiliation by EFCC was a slap on the collective sensibility of the people of the state and they mobilized to protest right before them and that made the arraignment almost impossible at that time.

They, therefore, cautioned that if some Kogi East youth are now taking to Social Media to celebrate Bello's ordeal and maligning Ebira people, that put their sense of appreciation into question on them with its repercussions.

\*AYCF says, stop Harassing Yahaya Bello

Meanwhile, the Arewa Youths Consultative Forum (AYCF) has called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to respect the rule of law and halt the persecution, harassment and public embarrassment of the former governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello.

Reacting to the recent declaration of Yahaya Bello as wanted by the EFCC, the AYCF President General Yerima Shettima noted that the fact that the EFCC has already charged Bello to court warrants that they show restraint and allow the law to take its due course as it presumes the conclusion of investigations.

According to Shettima, with this development, Bello no longer has anything to do with the EFCC and he only needs to appear in court on the next adjourned date or when he is served with the court processes.

"if EFCC actually believes in injustice, and in the judiciary and in the court system, this is not the way to handle the matter.

"Besides, the charge sheet was from 2015, and was amended to 2016. Three weeks when Bello came into the office, you can see that something is fishing, which no one can say exactly what is happening," Shettima said.

The AYCF said it is indeed curious that the EFCC is presenting Yahaya Bello as someone who is running from investigation and prosecution,

especially considering the lack of concrete evidence to support such claims.

Bello's residence has been invaded, he has been declared wanted, and he has been placed on a watchlist, all without any indication as to whether or not he was ever invited by the EFCC for questioning.

"In the interest of transparency and fairness, it is imperative that the EFCC provide the public with the necessary information regarding Bello's alleged evasion of investigation. This includes releasing the invitation letter sent to Bello, detailing the date it was received and who received it. By doing so, the EFCC can ensure that all parties involved are aware of the facts and can make informed judgments based on concrete evidence.

"It is crucial for law enforcement agencies to operate with the utmost integrity and accountability. This includes providing accurate and timely information to the public, especially in high-profile cases such as this. By releasing the invitation letter to Yahaya Bello,

the EFCC can demonstrate its commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting transparency in its investigations," Shettima said.

The AYCF is calling on the EFCC to respect the principles of justice, fairness, and due process. Targeting individuals for political reasons or personal vendettas undermines the credibility of the anti-corruption fight in Nigeria. Shettima stressed that if the EFCC truly believes in the judiciary and the court system, they must allow the legal process to unfold without unnecessary interference or intimidation.

The AYCF is urging the EFCC to reconsider their approach in handling the case of Yahaya Bello. The continued harassment and persecution of individuals, especially those in positions of authority, erode public trust in the fight against corruption.

It is essential that the EFCC operates within the confines of the law and respects the rights of all individuals, including those under investigation. Let us uphold the rule of law and ensure that justice is served without bias or prejudice.

## Oborewori Visits Okuama, Says Residents Will Return Soon

By: UTEBOR PETER Asaba

Delta State Governor, Rt Hon Sheriff Oborewori, has visited Okuama with an assurance for the safe return of the indigenes who fled the community in the wake of the crisis over the killing of 17 officers and soldiers on March 14.

The governor, who was accompanied by Commander 63 Brigade, Brig. Gen. Unachukwu Ugochukwu, and top government officials, on a journey that took over one hour and twenty minutes from Warri, reiterated that innocent citizens would not be made to suffer for what they know nothing about.

Recall that the killings made the people of the community to flee for fear of being attacked.

Speaking to journalists at

Okuama, Governor Oborewori said: "We have followed due process in the whole incident. The people have been buried and the King that was detained has been released yesterday and today I am here to see what happened in Okuama community.

"The Okuama 17 is something that we didn't expect to happen because it is against our bargain for peace and security which I promised Deltans that we are going to enhance.

"We have been enjoying peace and security since last year until the 14th of March when the four Army



officers and 13 soldiers were murdered.

"They were not just murdered, their bodies were mutilated and we have come here to see what happened.

"Let me again reiterate Mr President's promise that no innocent person would be victimised and you can see

that, from that time till now, there has been no harassment of citizens of this community.

"I have come to see how the innocent people of this community can be reintegrated back with the cooperation of the military.

"We know its a big loss to

them but we have to follow due process. The Brigade Commander is with us and the newly posted Commander of 181 Battalion, Lt Col Dabo, is also here with us and its a great synergy."

He said his administration was doing a lot to effectively resolve the

dispute, adding that citizens of Okuama would soon return home.

Continuing, Governor Oborewori, said: "Let me once again thank Mr President and Commander in Chief, Bola Tinubu, the Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Defence Staff for their cooperation so far.

"They have been very supportive and they have kept to their promise that innocent people will not be

victimised. I want to assure the people of Okuama there is no point running away from your community.

"We are going to bring you back to your community. It's only those that are involved the military are looking for".

# Dangote Mulls Investment In Gombe State, As Governor Inuwa Yahaya Woos Africa's Richest Man

**\*Aliko Dangote Praises Gombe's investment environment, pragmatic leadership; plans cement manufacturing venture**

**By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**  
**G**ombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has received Africa's richest man and President of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, who visited him at the Government House, Gombe. A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available yesterday, said that speaking to newsmen after a closed door meeting, Dangote indicated his company's readiness to take advantage of Gombe State's favourable business environment. He noted that Gombe State under the leadership of Governor Inuwa Yahaya, has provided a good template for his company, maintaining that the time is ripe to take full advantage of the huge limestone, coal and gypsum deposits in the state and commence cement manufacturing. Alhaji Dangote also noted that Governor Inuwa Yahaya has provided the necessary investment atmosphere and infrastructures needed to attract and keep manufacturing companies functioning to the maximum capacity, especially with

the setting up of the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, which he described as a novel project that can propel Gombe State to economic prosperity. The foremost industrialist praised Governor Inuwa Yahaya's business acumen and his pragmatic governance style, saying "although government has no business in investment endeavours, yet the Gombe State Governor has been exemplary in his investment drive". "I commend Governor Inuwa Yahaya for doing his best in terms of laying down the policy framework for a good investment environment", Aliko Dangote said. "We have had fruitful discussions on our investment plans with the Governor. In fact Gombe State should be one of the highest producers of cement in the country. It is one of the very lucrative areas for us in term of cement production. The State has a location advantage.; it is close to Borno and other Northeastern States as well as Cameroon and so on. So if we produce 20% of what we need here, it will be about the cheapest instead of bringing them over here from other locations. So if we have the opportunity to do so we will definitely start production

here", he assured. Shedding light on the significant reduction in diesel prices by his company from over N1600/Ltr to about 1,100/ Ltr, Dangote said the move was a patriotic gesture that will effectively lower transportation costs and subsequently reduce food prices because of the widespread impact of diesel on everyday commodities. He cited transportation as a significant contributor to the high cost of goods, particularly in urban centers, stating that by slashing its price, it will help reduce financial burdens on consumers and foster economic stability. "It (the reduction in diesel price) is just to demonstrate that we are very patriotic and when we look at it, the business actually affects the lives of everybody. To produce anything, the major cost is diesel so when we looked at it, I said we should try and bring down the cost. Because people who have held on to the business for a very long time were profiteering and we decided that we can afford to sell diesel at N1,000 per litre. It is about 60 per cent drop; areas like here (Gombe), Borno, Bauchi and the rest, it was selling between N1,700 to N1,800 but

right now, I am sure in the next few days, you will not buy diesel at more than N1,100/Ltr", he said. Earlier while receiving the Africa's richest man, Governor Inuwa Yahaya painted a compelling picture of Gombe as a prime destination for investment and economic prosperity, highlighting its remarkable business-friendly environment as well as its status as the best state in Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria.. He also emphasized Gombe's abundance of solid mineral resources as well as the impressive infrastructure, including the sprawling 1000-hectare Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park situated near the 40-megawatt Dadinkowa power plant. The Governor said, this strategic location not only offers ample space for industrial expansion but also ensures access to reliable power supply, a crucial factor for sustained industrial operations. He also highlighted the centrality of Gombe State in the North East sub region, serving as a commercial nerve centre with peaceful atmosphere, positioning the state as an attractive destination for investors seeking stability and growth opportunities.



# Governor Inuwa Yahaya, Dangote Lead Dignitaries As Emir Of Gombe Hosts Grand Wedding Fatiha For Kwairanga's Daughter

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON earlier today, led dignitaries to partake in the nuptial rites of Dr. Maryam (Kamila) Kwairanga, daughter of Chairman of Nigeria Exchange Limited, Dr. Umaru Kwairanga (Sarkin Fulanin Gombe) and her hearthrob, Khalid Dahiru Buba Biri.

The wedding fatiha which took place at the Palace of the Emir of Gombe, witnessed the presence of high profile dignitaries, including Africa's richest man, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, renowned banking and financial sector leader, Alhaji Umar Mutallab, former Governors of Gombe and Sokoto States; Alhaji Ibrahim Dankwambo and Aminu Tambuwal, Acting National Chairman of PDP, Amb. Damagum, members of National and State Assemblies, members of political and business classes from within and outside the state, family members and associates.

The Emir of Gombe and Chairman of Gombe state Council

of Emirs and Chiefs, Alhaji Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III, CFR witnessed as the Chief Imam of Gombe central mosque, Sheikh Muhammadu Umar Pindiga presided over the wedding and contracted the marriage between Dr. Maryam and Khalid in line with Islamic injunctions.

A statement signed by the DG (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, made available at the weekend, said that Governor Inuwa Yahaya served as Waliy for the bride and gave out her hands in marriage on behalf of the Kwairanga family. The sum of 500,000 Naira was pronounced as the dowry.

Shortly after the wedding fatiha, the Emir of Gombe hosted dignitaries to a royal luncheon at the palace's Stable, known as Muri.

Governor Inuwa while congratulating the couple and their parents, noted that marriage as an institution requires mutual trust and understanding, urging the bride and her groom to respect one another and adhere strictly to islamic teachings in their matrimony.



By: ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

Hundreds of human rights activists, on Saturday, hit the streets of Lagos to condemn what they described as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's (EFCC's) antidemocratic approaches to issues of law enforcement as well as unjust application of state power by the Federal Government.

The Anti-Corruption Civil Society Organisations, numbering over 120, along with a huge crowd of members and supporters, stressed that the actions of the Federal Government in the ongoing face-off between the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and former Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, which took an ugly dimension during the week, suggested that the bone of contention was beyond the EFCC exercising its constitutional responsibility.

According to them, from the facts and documents obtained on the matter, the EFCC never sent a letter of invitation to ex-Gov Bello.

The issue of evading arrest, they said, did not therefore exist.

"Someone who was never invited, who has a valid court order restraining his arrest and harassment, among other reliefs, until the determination of the court case, could not be said to be evading arrest. It is deliberate misinformation to turn the public against the Governor," they said.

The anti-corruption activists and human rights crusaders, specifically condemned the military action threat by an EFCC lawyer, saying that, issuing "such a threat before a judge and inside a court was a violation of the sanctity of the courtroom."

The Chairman of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL, Debo Adeniran, who led other activists during the protest on Saturday, noted that the ongoing disregard for the rule of law was not only about Yahaya Bello.

"We don't know who the next victim will be," he said.

"If the FG continues in its iniquitous way of trampling on the rule of law by undermining our judicial system, we will mobilise a much larger number of Nigerians to join this pro-democracy struggle. It concerns all Nigerians because we don't know who the next victim may be," Adeniran said.

He called on the Federal Government to first obey all the court orders preceding their own actions in court and then go ahead to vacate them through due processes of law.

"There is no point in endangering anyone's life unnecessarily because that's the situation we believe that Yahaya Bello is in now. If the government doesn't handle this matter carefully, it may shoot itself on the foot and put all Nigerians in collective injury," the activists said.

The activists warned that Government should not instigate anarchy, insisting that democracy is governed by the rule of law and not the rule of force.

They pointed out that some of them had been in the trenches for over four decades without comprising their stand on justice.

"Thirty-one years ago when we organized to confront the military for the annulment of the June 12 election by General Ibrahim Babangida's junta, it was for the cause of justice.

"Nobody paid us a dime to organize the anti-SAP protests of 1989 that nearly shut down the entire country.

"We have organised or participated in many altruistic struggles. In the course of these selfless struggles, many of us were jailed, many were maimed, a lot lost their lives on the battlefield of the fight for justice. But we have remained undeterred till date. Ours is thankless sacrifice for humanity. But we are not complaining.

"We have been on the side of the EFCC in many cases without gratification or prompting. But on this case, we insist that the EFCC is disregarding the rule of law and creating room for anarchy. And this must not be allowed to stand," they stated.

The anti-graft CSOs stated, "Our intervention today is to ensure that each side in the ongoing but avoidable tension between the Federal Government through the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and the immediate former Governor of Kogi State gets the justice that is deserved - both the agency and the suspect.

"We feel that it was totally unnecessary to threaten military action in a civil case because it may escalate beyond proportions and cause devastating even if unintended consequences as being suggested by the EFCC through their lawyer.

## Yahaya Bello: Anti-Corruption CSOs Condemn 'Unjust' Application Of State Power



## Bauchi Needs Support Of Private Sector To Rescue Ailing industries, Create Business Opportunities - Dep Gov

By: ABBAS SHEHU, Bauchi

In its efforts to boost economic activities in the state, the Bauchi State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Mohammed Auwal Jatau has said that the administration of Governor Bala Mohammed requires support of private sector to resuscitate its ailing industries and create more business environments and opportunities.

The deputy governor who serves as chairman of the board, spoke recently at the inaugural meeting of the Governing Board of Bureau for Privatisation and Economic Reforms, where he said the inauguration signals the beginning of another journey in the collective

mandate to ensure full and functional privatisation and commercialisation of moribund enterprises in the state.

According to him, "the mandate and role of the board, includes among others, determining the political, economic and social objectives of privatisation and commercialisation of state owned enterprises, review from time to time, the socio-economic effect of the program of Privatisation and commercialisation, make regulatory reforms in the economic sector of the state and to supervise the activities of the bureau and to issue directions on the implementation of the privatisation, commercialisation and

economic reforms programmes.

"I want to seize this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed CON (Kauran Bauchi), the Executive Governor of Bauchi State for entrusting me with the leadership of the board of the State Bureau of Privatisation and Economic Reforms.

"I enjoin all of us to put hands together to ensure success of the Privatisation, Commercialisation and other economic reform programmes. This is the only way we can promote excellence that will take us to the promised land. I count on your support, encouragement and prayers at all time."

The Deputy Governor therefore, assured that the board of the State Bureau of Privatisation and Economic Reforms will compliment the efforts of the state government in creating employment opportunities for youths in the state and to produce goods and services for the teeming population.

Responding on behalf of the inaugurated members of the board, the Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Ibrahim Mohammed expressed gratitude and thanks for finding them worthy to serve on the board and promised to justify the confidence reposed on them by working tirelessly towards achieving the desired objectives.



## There Is No Title In Existence Bearing Olodogbo Of Odogbo-Ijesa - Osun Govt

\*Says Ogini was not installed as Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa In 2012

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Osun State Government on Thursday, declared that there is no record of the title of Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa.

The state government expressed this in a letter by the Osun State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, titled, "RE: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON DR. OLATUNDE OGinni's

CLAIM TO THE TITLE OF ODOGBO OF ODOGBO-IJESA.

In the letter signed by Mr Wale Alliyu for the Permanent Secretary in charge of the ministry dated April 18, the government denied the assertion by Dr. Olatunde Oginni that he was installed as the Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa by the Osun State Government.

"I am directed to refer to your letter dated 29th March, 2024 on the above subject matter and to kindly reply as follows: that the assertion by Dr. Olatunde Oginni that he was installed as the Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa by the Osun State Government on January 20 2012 is far from the truth, and therefore a wrong assertion; that in our record, there is no title in existence bearing Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa", it said.

Osun State Government added, "That we have in our record a letter dated 18th day of January, 2012, addressed to the Commissioner

of Police in Osun State by His Royal Majesty, the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesa Land, Oba Adekunle Aromolaran, dissociating the whole Ijesa Land from this strange traditional title, the Olodogbo of Odogbo claimed by the said Dr. Olatunde Oginni".

It stressed, "The Ministry only recognized the Likure of Odogbo-Ijesa, Oba Adedapo Samson Adewuyi who was issued an Instrument of Appointment on the 10th of November, 2022 by the

former Governor of Osun State, Governor Gboyega Oyetola".

New Nigerian recalls that the Ejemo of Odogbo-Ijesa, Chief Jacob Adedeji Adeyeye said there is no controversy or clash with any existing title on the installation of Dr. Olatunde Oginni as the Oba of Oranpon.

Chief Adeyeye in his reaction to the news of an order and interim injunction restraining the Ogboni of Ipo-Ijesa from installing Dr Olatunde Oginni as the Oba of Oranpon, saying Oba Oginni, "is a law abiding citizen who will not like to prejudice any case that is already in court but will like to put some record straight for the public not be misled by the publication.

"I'm the Ejemo of Odogbo-Ijesa where HRH Olatunde Oginni has been installed by the traditional institution of the community as the first Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa on 20th of January 2012 after more than 150 people within the community signed the letter that was written to Osun State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy matters demanding for the enthronement of Olodogbo of Odogbo-Ijesa", he said.

Chief Adeyeye added, "Olatunde Oginni has showed to be a worthy leader that can be relied upon since he was installed as Aro ii of this Odogbo-Ijesa in 2009, and considering his contributions to the development of our this town through numerous projects running into several millions of naira, we the progressive minded citizen of the town, after several deliberations and consultations resolved to elevates him to be our traditional leader.

"Nobody has ever occupied such a post in the history of the town, so it is not controversial or clashes with any existing title. We don't have any issue."

## Over 1,000 Kano APC Members Dump Party For NNPP

By; JABIRU HASSAN, Kano

In a significant shift, over 1,000 members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kano State decamped to the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) on Saturday.

The decampers, from Shanono and Bagwai local government areas, were formally received by Deputy Governor, Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo on behalf of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf at the Kano State Government House. A statement by the

Deputy Governor's spokesperson, Ibrahim Garba Shuaibu, stated Gwarzo's delight in welcoming the defectors. He emphasized that the NNPP prioritizes unity and all members will be treated equally.

According to Garba, the Deputy Governor, Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo reiterated the administration's commitment to implementing programs that benefit all of Kano State and urged continued support from residents for

the state's progress.

Speaking earlier, Alhaji Haruna Babangida Abbas (Kosashe), leader of the defectors, cited Governor Abba's leadership qualities and governance style as reasons for their move.

He expressed regrets for their past APC affiliation and pledged their dedication to working with the NNPP for Kano's betterment.

Also Speaking, Kano NNPP Chairman, Alhaji Hashimu Dungurawa welcomed the new members and assured their

involvement in party activities.

He encouraged members of other parties, including the APC, to join the NNPP for the state's advancement. Dungurawa also urged support for the government's programs and policies.

The event was attended by prominent figures like the Kano State Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Alhaji Musa Suleiman Shanono, and several NNPP stakeholders who celebrated the influx of the new members.



## Fintiri Urges NBA Members To Maintain Professionalism

By; TINA PHINEAS, Yola

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has been urged to maintain high level of professionalism and adhere to the ethical standards of the noble profession.

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa state made the call, while declaring open the Emergency National Executive (NEC) meeting of the association in Yola.

Fintiri said the judiciary, is the last hope of a common man, stressing the need to sustain people's

confidence.

"I urge you to help in sustaining the confidence in the judiciary as the last hope of a common man.

"Let justice be done and let justice be seen to be done", the governor stated.

Fintiri, who was represented by the state Deputy Governor, Professor Kaletapwa Farauta, said government is committed to changing the narrative of the state.

According to her, government has provided modern infrastructural facilities which are the much sought-after dividends of democracy

to the people.

Earlier, NBA president, Yakubu Maikyau SAN, praised the infrastructural development of the state.

Maikyau said, as lawyers they give guidance and protection to the people and government.

He therefore, urged government not to take decision without considering the constitution provisions and implications..

"Government should not do something they feel good about it, they should check if law permit them. Maikyau stated that the emergency NEC meeting of NBA is related to the

conduct of election of the association which is slated in July, where new national officers are expected to emerge, ahead of national conference in August this year.

He thanked the state Chief Judge for good leadership and reforms in the judiciary, which brings justices to the door step of the common man.

While speaking at the occasion, the state Chief Judge, Justice Hapsat Abdulrahman urged the participants to take decisions that, would enhance relevance of the bar.



# 2023 Electricity Act And NDDC's Illumination Of Ondo 5 LGAs After Decades Of Darkness

By: JEROME-MARIO UTOMI

Each passing day brings to mind evidence that Niger Delta region is on the march to becoming a zone of peace and sustainable development as promised some months ago by Mr. Chiedu Ebie, Chairman, Governing board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). Through their actions and inactions so far, the board/management have demonstrated to be the true response to the social and economic challenges in the Niger Delta region.

They have shown capacity to articulate the developmental needs of the people of the region as encapsulated in the agency's mission and vision statement 'to offer a lasting solution to the socioeconomic difficulties of the Niger Delta region and facilitate the rapid and sustainable development of the Niger Delta region into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful'.

The latest example to this assertion is the news report that the Niger Delta Development Commission, in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, renewed hope agenda, completed and connected the 132/33kv electricity substation built at Ode-Erinje in the Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State to the national grid.

Aside from the power station boosting economic activities in the state coupled with a promise by the agency to replicate this legacy project across all states in the Niger Delta, also very remarkable is the fact that the power substation would provide electricity to over 2,000 communities across five local government areas within the oil-producing region of Ondo State that had been without electricity for the past 15 years, and will significantly impact lives by ending decades of darkness.

"We are committed to lighting up all the local government areas and the oil-producing communities in Ondo South Senatorial District. This is part of NDDC's mandate to provide infrastructure and development projects in the Niger Delta region."

Very unique is the awareness that before the 'dust of excitement' that trailed the agency's breakthrough in Ondo state could settle, another was up. This time around in Edo state. It was reported that The Niger Delta Development Commission is set to complete and commission the construction of the 1x15mva 33/11kv electricity project, electricity injection sub-station in Amufi-Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, Benin City, Edo State. Without doubt, these double feats, for reasons that will be stated in the subsequent paragraphs have finally made Niger Deltans with critical minds to conclude that NDDC is serious



President Tinubu

with its ambitious goal of transitioning from a transactional entity to one deeply committed to sustainable development and transformation in the region. Here is the point.

Electricity is globally recognized as one of the most important blessings that science has given to mankind. It has also become a part of modern life and one cannot think of a world without it. Electricity has many uses in our day to day life. It is used for lighting rooms, working fans and domestic appliances like using electric stoves, A/C and more. All these provide comfort to people. In factories, large machines are worked with the help of electricity. Essential items like food, cloth, paper and many other things are the product of electricity.

Also, the world is in agreement that modern means of transportation and communication have been revolutionized by it. Electric trains and battery cars are quick means of travel. Electricity, it was recently argued, provides means of amusement, radio, television and cinema, which are the most popular forms of entertainment as a result of electricity. Modern equipment like computers and robots have also been developed because of electricity. Electricity plays a pivotal role in the fields of medicines and surgery too — such as X-ray, ECG. The use of electricity is increasing day by day.

More specifically and of course a fundamental reason why what NDDC governing board and management are presently doing in the region should be



Chiedu Ebie

appreciated is the fact that it is seamlessly in concord with the President Tinubu's burning desire to have electricity reach every nook and cranny of the country—a desire that birthed the 2023 Electricity Act, which replaced the Electricity and Power Sector Reform Act of 2005.

The 2023 Electricity Act brought about the de-monopolization of Nigeria's electricity generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity at the National level and empowers states, companies, and individuals to generate, transmit and distribute electricity. It replaced the Electricity and Power Sector Reform Act of 2005. It provides a framework to guide the post-privatization phase of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) as well as encourage private sector investments in the sector. States can issue licenses to private investors who can operate mini-grids and power plants within the state. However, the Act precludes interstate and transnational electricity distribution.

Under the Electricity Act 2023, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) will be able to regulate the electricity sector within Nigeria without prejudice to the powers of the states to make laws and create electricity markets within those states and to regulate those markets.

The Act mandates how NERC can transition regulatory responsibilities from itself to state regulators when they are established. Until a state has passed its electricity market laws, NERC will

continue to regulate electricity business exclusively carried out in those states.

The Act grants lawmakers the power to carry out oversight responsibilities and function over the NESI through its respective Committees on Power in the Senate and House of Representatives. This is to be carried out notwithstanding the supervisory powers of any government Ministry over government-owned enterprises or other entities operating in the Nigerian electricity supply industry.

Electricity generation licensees are obligated to meet renewable generation obligations as may be prescribed by NERC. Under the Act, electricity generating companies will be mandated to either generate power from renewable energy sources, purchase power generated from renewable energy or procure any instrument representing renewable energy generation.

It also mandates the imposition of renewable purchase obligations on distribution or supply licensees.

The Act also states that anyone may construct, own

or operate an undertaking for generating electricity not exceeding 1 megawatt (MW) in aggregate at a site or an undertaking for distribution of electricity with a capacity not exceeding 100 kilowatts (KW) in aggregate at a site, or such other capacity as NERC may determine from time to time, without a license.

Indeed, while there is no argument anymore that 2023 Electricity Act has revolutionized electricity generation and supply in the country, which has in turn brought significant stability in power supply in the country, of which credit goes to Mr. President, this piece will in a similar vein align with the recently formed opinion by Niger Deltans of goodwill that under Mr. Chiedu Ebie led governing board and management of NDDC, the interventionist agency has finally gotten a board with the understanding that it is their duty to serve our communities and embrace its aspirations, both now and in the future, by assuring the people economic growth, education, health, security, stability, comfort, leisure opportunities and freedom in ways that will allow for the most conducive atmosphere to achieve the targets that will guarantee our welfare and a bright future.

*Utomi is the Programme Coordinator (Media and Public Policy), Social and Economic Justice Advocacy (SEJA), Lagos*

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HALF PAGE	248,970.00	18,672.75	267,642.75	203,175.00	15,238.13	218,413.13
QUARTER PAGE	164,670.00	12,350.25	177,020.25	94,724.44	7,104.33	101,828.77
10" x 6 Col	364,320.00	27,324.00	391,644.00	245,005.20	18,375.39	263,380.59
10" x 5 Col	333,960.00	25,047.00	359,007.00	224,588.11	16,844.11	241,432.22
10" x 4 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
10" x 3 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
9" x 6 Col	327,888.00	24,591.60	352,479.60	220,504.68	16,537.85	237,042.53
9" x 5 Col	273,240.00	20,493.00	293,733.00	183,753.90	13,781.54	197,535.44
9" x 4 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
9" x 3 Col	163,944.00	12,295.80	176,239.80	110,252.34	8,268.93	118,521.27
8" x 6 Col	291,456.00	21,859.20	313,315.20	196,004.16	14,700.31	210,704.47
8" x 5 Col	242,880.00	18,216.00	261,096.00	163,336.80	12,250.26	175,587.06
8" x 4 Col	194,304.00	14,572.80	208,876.80	130,669.44	9,800.21	140,469.65
8" x 3 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
7" x 6 Col	255,024.00	19,126.80	274,150.80	171,503.64	12,862.77	184,366.41
7" x 5 Col	212,520.00	15,939.00	228,459.00	142,919.70	10,718.98	153,638.68
7" x 4 Col	170,016.00	12,751.20	182,767.20	114,335.76	8,575.18	122,910.94
6" x 6 Col	218,592.00	16,394.40	234,986.40	147,003.12	11,025.23	158,028.35
6" x 5 Col	182,160.00	13,662.00	195,822.00	122,502.60	9,187.70	131,690.30
6" x 4 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
6" x 3 Col	109,296.00	8,197.20	117,493.20	73,501.56	5,512.62	79,014.18
6" x 2 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
5" x 5 Col	151,800.00	11,385.00	163,185.00	102,085.50	7,656.41	109,741.91
5" x 4 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
5" x 3 Col	91,080.00	6,831.00	97,911.00	61,251.30	4,593.85	65,845.15
5" x 2 Col	60,720.00	4,554.00	65,274.00	40,834.20	3,062.57	43,896.77
4" x 6 Col	145,728.00	10,929.60	156,657.60	98,002.08	7,350.16	105,352.24
4" x 5 Col	121,440.00	9,108.00	130,548.00	81,668.40	6,125.13	87,793.53
4" x 4 Col	97,152.00	7,286.40	104,438.40	65,334.72	4,900.10	70,234.82
4" x 3 Col	72,864.00	5,464.80	78,328.80	49,001.04	3,675.08	52,676.12
4" x 2 Col	48,576.00	3,643.20	52,219.20	32,667.36	2,450.05	35,117.41
3" x 3 Col	54,648.00	4,098.60	58,746.60	36,750.78	2,756.31	39,507.09
3" x 2 Col	36,432.00	2,732.40	39,164.40	24,500.52	1,837.54	26,338.06
2" x 2 Col	24,288.00	1,821.60	26,109.60	16,333.68	1,225.03	17,558.71
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FRONT PAGE SOLUS	787,474.29	59,060.57	846,534.86
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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
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3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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PA GE 6 O R 7	325,000.00	24,375.00	349,375.00
FR ONT PA GE M A S T H E A D E A R P I E C E	215,000.00	16,875.00	231,875.00
FR ONT PA GE S O L U S	312,500.00	23,437.50	335,937.50
FR ONT PA GE S T R I P	375,000.00	28,125.00	403,125.00
B A C K PA GE E A R P I E C E	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00
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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
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FR ONT PA GE (10" X 6)	3,250,000.00	243,750.00	3,493,750.00
R O P S T R I P (C O L O U R )	125,000.00	9,375.00	134,375.00
R O P S T R I P (B L A C K & W H I T E)	85,000.00	6,375.00	91,375.00

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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 (2)

By: HASSAN GIMBA

Two days after I started taking the medication prescribed by Dr Heba, I could lift myself out of the wheelchair and walk about. By the fifth day, I walked into the hospital, gingerly, but surely, and came face to face with Dr Heba, who was not even surprised to see me on my feet, on her way to buy a cappuccino, I guessed.

We went to the waiting area and waited to be called in to see her. She soon returned, holding a cup of her drink. She asked me certain questions and, after taking my vitals, sent me to go for a Spirometry Flow-Volume Test, known as Lung Function Test (LFT).

One interesting and commendable attribute of Saudi hospitals, not least the Saudi-German, is that you do not have to come the next day for your test results. Once they admit you, ask fundamental questions and register your vitals, they start conducting tests. It is test upon test because once a result comes out, then another test would be conducted based on that result until they narrow down and nail the ailment. Anytime they start, they can take 24 hours, each team handing your case over to the next shift. And if you got tired and ran off to return the next day, as I once did, they will begin with you from the very beginning, not from where you ran off – the syringe punches, cannula and bandages, x-rays and all! I asked why and I was told, “Anything could have happened in your system since you left that could render yesterday's results no more tenable.”

Well, back to spirometry. After the result came out, Dr Heba, who had earlier said she would be going for a quick break, decided to postpone it to attend to us. After studying the result, she recommended Pulmonary Rehabilitation which is physiotherapy and hydrotherapy. She decided to send me to the head of the unit whose schedule was full for the month but who decided to accept me nonetheless.

And so we met him. Small built with baldness setting in and a face full of smiles, Dr Amjad Alqurtabi was a sporty, friendly and easy-going fellow who was ever willing to do his job.

One thing with the medical personnel at the Saudi-German Hospital is that, apart from being professional and willing to be of assistance, they are friendly, going a long way to make you feel comfortable, at home, and cared for. A man may be excused to think the female personnel have fallen for him.

And you do not feel any obligation or indebtedness to them. For the first time in my interactions with health workers, all the rest being back in Nigeria, of course, I never felt they were doing me a favour or there was the need to dip my hands into my pockets to “appreciate” a health caregiver.

Dr Amjad, I learnt, is a descendant of the author of a book on fiqh (Islamic

jurisprudence), Qurtabi, written in poetic form. It is one of those primary books studied to deepen knowledge of jurisprudence and also to learn the Arabic language. I got to know this because, out of curiosity, I told him that the name Qurtabi rang a bell, to which he opened up on his relationship with the famed author.

For those who might have read it, the book, Qurtabi, named after the town of the author, Shaykh Allama Yahya bn Ishaq bn Yahya al-Laisi, started with “Yaqulu Yahyal Qurtabiyyud dari; Almutaji mathubatal ghaffari; Bi'ismil ilaHi abda'ul maqala; Faminhu arjul afwa wal ifdhaala,” which when translated means: “Says Yahya who lives (domiciled) in Qurtabi; A man expecting (desirous of) reward and forgiveness (from Allah); in the name of Allah, I am starting this discussion; From Him, I am expecting sympathy and greatness.”

Qurtabi was the name of Cordoba in Spain, called Andalusia at the time when the country was an Islamic nation.

Dr Alqurtabi went through the process of physically breaking the mucus that filled my lungs so that they could get expectorated and give relief to my lungs and chest. That would also allow me to breathe easily, which will reduce the Shortness of Breath (SoB) I struggled with due to insufficient oxygen.

My ailment, found out to be Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), is a non-communicable, irreversible chronic inflammatory lung disease that causes airflow blockage, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. And so one has to imbibe a lifetime habit of pulmonary rehabilitation. And that was what Dr Amjad Alqurtabi set out to put me through.

After massaging my chest to loosen the mucus, he handed me over to Coach Khalid, the man in charge of both therapies. Even though he is more fluent in Arabic, we hit it off instantly as friends because I saw in him a man enthusiastic to nurse me back to health. I could see happiness in his eyes at my progress and pride all over his face that he was part of it. The first set of physiotherapy consisted of sessions on the treadmill, spinner bike and



**Hassan Gimba**

## Monday Column

exercises on deep breathing. Next was hydrotherapy, where I was made to undergo various sessions and exercises in a heated swimming pool with a Jacuzzi, leading to full swimming and holding my breath for a time underwater.

After about ten days at it, I became strong enough to perform the Umrah and after two weeks, when Dr Heba called for another LFT, it was found out that my lung function had improved by over thirty per

cent. No wonder the physiotherapy department of the Makkah Saudi-German is the best in the Saudi-German chain.

I still believe we can have hospitals with the standard of the Saudi-German. And what can hinder us from achieving such a feat? Three things make the Makkah Saudi-German great: adequate infrastructure, modern equipment for service delivery and wonderful, well-trained human resources, with the right attitude in tow.

I believe our states can build at least one great hospital and invite the Saudi-German to equip and manage them for a certain period. While doing that, our citizens will receive the best on-the-job training after graduation and may further benefit from exchange programmes with the franchise.

All these will allow them to internalise the concept of global best practices in health care delivery. That will be a win-win situation for us and will in no small measure galvanise our development individually and as a nation because a healthy nation is a wealthy one.

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

“Well, back to spirometry. After the result came out, Dr Heba, who had earlier said she would be going for a quick break, decided to postpone it to attend to us. After studying the result, she recommended Pulmonary Rehabilitation which is physiotherapy and hydrotherapy. She decided to send me to the head of the unit whose schedule was full for the month but who decided to accept me nonetheless.”

# Zaria Conversations On Improving Security And National Unity 1

By Jibrin Ibrahim

I SPENT the week in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, making two presentations and engaging the academic community in broad debates of the crises facing Nigeria and West Africa. The state is constructed as an edifice against citizens who are assumed to have a natural tendency to break laws and must therefore be controlled, patrolled and constantly surveyed. Not surprisingly, citizens learn to fear and avoid law enforcement agents. The ordinary Nigerian sees security agents as potential violators of their security rather than providers of their security.

My first presentation was on setting eleven benchmarks for enhancing security and national unity. The Nigerian State is undergoing a three-dimensional crisis. The first one affects the political economy and is generated mainly by public corruption, which over the past four decades, has created a run on the treasury at the national and state levels threatening to consume the goose that lays the golden egg.

The second one is the crisis of citizenship symbolised by ethno-regionalism, the Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder killings, agitations for Biafra, militancy in the Niger Delta and indigene/settler conflicts.

The third element relates to the frustration of the country's democratic aspirations in a context in which the citizenry believes in "true democracy" confronted with a reckless political class that is corrupt, self-serving and manipulative. These issues have largely broken the social pact between citizens and the State. That is why today, Nigerians find themselves in a moment of doubt about their nationhood. The first benchmark is concerted State and society effort to stop the current drift towards anarchy. As a people, we love living near the precipice and the risk is that our dangerous behaviour could one day push us over. It has been said that in Zamfara State alone, there are no fewer than 30,000 gunmen spread across more than 100 camps in and around the state killing, kidnapping, raping people and burning their food and housing.

The fourth benchmark proposed is to educate the people that virtually all Nigerians are marginalised so we should have a collective rather than section approach to contesting ruling class marginalisation of the people. A united band of criminal elements is ruling this country using divide and rule tactics that hides the reality that most of us are marginalised.

General Abdulsalami Abubakar, Chairman of the National Peace Committee, told Nigeria that there are about six million weapons circulating in private hands in the country. We are at a

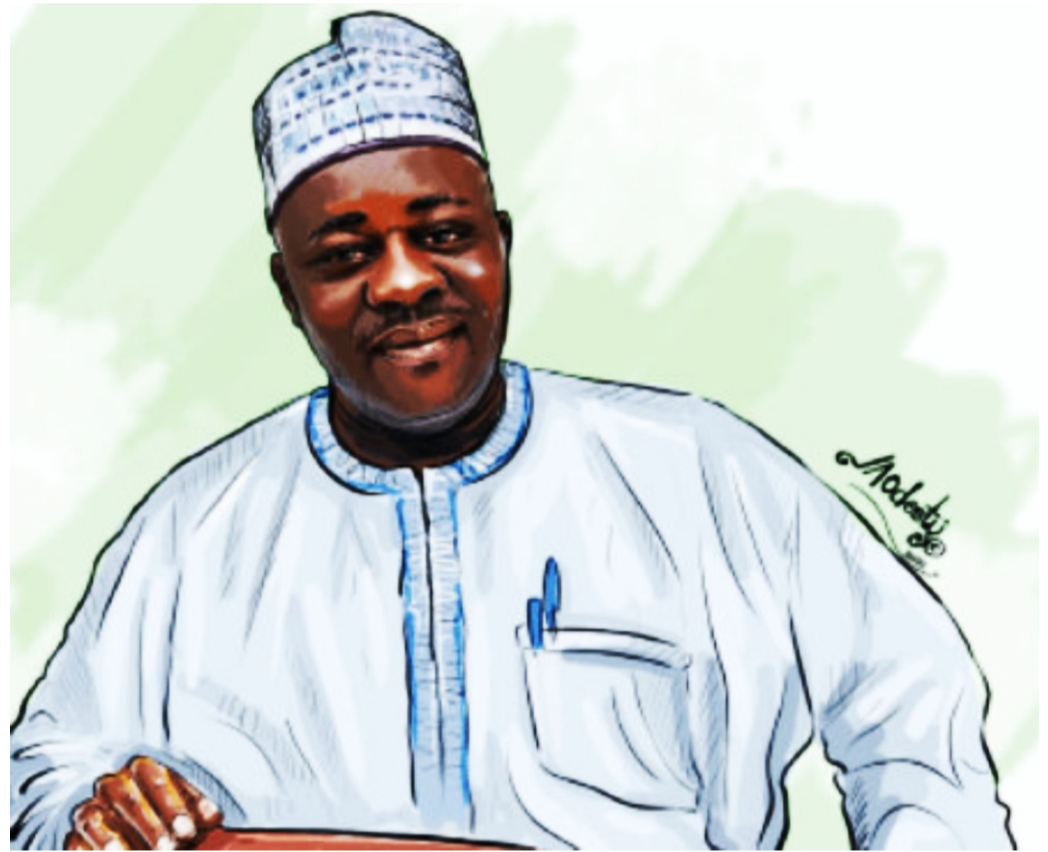
point in our national trajectory where young Nigerians feel sufficiently marginalised from the STATE and SOCIETY to procure arms and engage in self-help which they define variously as banditry, scotched earth attacks on innocent village communities accompanied by mass rape and other forms of sexual violence, in addition to killing security agents, and even declaring an Islamic Caliphate in Nigeria. There are too many groups that have discovered that obtaining an AK47 can be their pathway to wealth because they are not in government where you can be wealthy by stealing without arms.

The second benchmark is the urgency of moving away from State-centric security provisioning. The Nigerian citizen has for too long endured a culture of intimidation by the country's security forces. Law enforcement agents have since colonial times developed a culture of reckless disregard for the rights of the people. The legal framework has not helped matters given our colonial heritage of laws against vagrancy, illegal assembly, wandering, and illegal procession. The state is constructed as an edifice against citizens who are assumed to have a natural tendency to break laws and must therefore be controlled, patrolled and constantly surveyed. Not surprisingly, citizens learn to fear and avoid law enforcement agents. The ordinary Nigerian sees security agents as potential violators of their security rather than providers of their security.

Thirdly, we need to edify the rule of law which is the affirmation of the principle that the governance of human society should be based on law rather than the whims and caprices of human beings. Nigerians fear the police, and increasingly, fear of the justice system where money or favour towards those in power overrides justice. Both the law and precedents now sway in favour of injustice.

The fourth benchmark proposed is to educate the people that virtually all Nigerians are marginalised so we should have a collective rather than section approach to contesting ruling class marginalisation of the people. A united band of criminal elements is ruling this country using divide and rule tactics that hides the reality that most of us are marginalised.

Benchmark seven is on recovering our ungoverned spaces. Rural Nigeria is characterised by the absence of the State and its security agencies and it is therefore not surprising that the blight of armed banditry has spread and impacted negatively on lives and livelihoods. The massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Nigerian hinterland has provided the means for agency in the



Jibrin Ibrahim

spread of violence.

The fifth benchmark is the deeply felt need for 'true' federalism which must be addressed. The 1951 Macpherson's Constitution was adopted on the basis of an elite consensus. The regional elites were suspicious of each other, had no trust in the other and therefore decided that federalism is the best collective protection for all of them. As has been explained: "True Federalism implies power sharing, abandoning the notion of any one group dominating all the others, not secession but building interdependence. But we need to work hard on it and not merely pay lip service to unity in diversity." – Prof AdeAjayi,

The First Republic failed because the ruling elite failed to respect the principles of power-sharing. They still do.

Benchmark six is to negotiate an approach and timeframe for resolving the farmer-herder crisis. Pastoralists-farmers' conflicts in Nigeria have grown, spread and intensified over the past decade and today poses the greatest threat to our national integrity.

The activities of herders have often been recast in conspiracy theories of attacking people to take over their land. Government policy under the Buhari Administration such as the cattle colony and ruga policies were perceived by many communities as tacit, if not direct alignment with the alleged herders' agenda of killing people and taking over their land. President Buhari failed to undergo a Mea culpa stating clearly that it was not sectional in its approach to tackling the crisis of pastoralism.

A new policy framework on the farmers-pastoralists crisis should be developed

that is both comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both groups. Pastoralism is not sustainable in Nigeria over the long term due to high population growth rate, expansion of farming and loss of pasture and cattle routes. At the same time, pastoralism cannot end or be prohibited in the short term, as there are strong cultural and political economy reasons for its existence. The new policy should develop a plan for a transitional period during which new systems would be put in place.

Benchmark seven is on recovering our ungoverned spaces. Rural Nigeria is characterised by the absence of the State and its security agencies and it is therefore not surprising that the blight of armed banditry has spread and impacted negatively on lives and livelihoods. The massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Nigerian hinterland has provided the means for agency in the spread of violence.

The phenomenon has dramatized the expansion of ungoverned spaces in the country. There are many factors that contribute to the growth of the phenomenon of rural banditry. One of the most important is poor governance and the virtual collapse of institutions of governance. Deep seated corruption has eroded the capacity of institutions to perform their functions.

To be concluded...

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

# Israel, The Untamed Hunter's Dog In The Wilderness

By Owei Lakemfa

ISRAEL on Monday, April 1, 2024 attacked the Iranian Embassy in Damascus killing 16 persons, including two Iranian generals, Mohammed Reza Zahedi and Mohammed Hadi Haji Rahimi.

Iran's counter-claim that it retaliated the Israeli attacks based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, could not be faulted. That Article states: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security."

Iran vows to punish Israel for deadly strike on embassy annex: Iran warned arch-foe Israel on Tuesday that it will punish an air strike that killed seven Revolutionary Guards,...

There were no apologies. No sense of remorse. Rather, the Israeli Army Spokesman, Daniel Hagari, declared: "The ones attacked were engaged in terrorism against Israel."

The attempt in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), to discuss the attacks were blocked by the United States, Britain and France.

For Israel, the attacks were routine. After all, it had carried out over a dozen previous attacks against Iran, including within the country, and the Iranians had not responded.

It, therefore, came as a shock when on April 13, 2024, Iran, according to Israel, fired 185 armed drones, 110 ballistic missiles, and 36 cruise missiles into its territory. Like a beaten child with bruises but pretending not to be hurt, Israel claimed the attacks were of no effect because with its American, French and British allies, it shot down 99 per cent of the Iranian missiles.

However, Israel imposed a media ban on the attacks when it was revealed that two of its bases, including the Nevatim military base, were hit.

What Israel did not say, was that the Iranians might have deliberately used very slow missiles that announced their take-off, some five hours before, thereby giving Israel and its allies, adequate time to shoot them down. Secondly, that Iran has far more sophisticated missiles, like the hypersonic missiles it unveiled in 2023 which travels at Mach-5 or five times the speed of sound. These modern missiles travel at a kilometre per second with complex trajectory and unpredictable manoeuvrability.

The hypocrisy in such statements was brought into sharp relief when the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, David Cameron, told Sky News's presenter, Kay Burley, that Iran, by retaliating the attacks

on it by Israel, was "reckless and dangerous".

But when Burley asked him how UK would react were any of its consulates to be attacked by another country, Cameron replied that it would be 'very strong action'.

These missiles can hit Israel in less than 17 minutes from Iranian territory. So, it appears Iran's strikes were like a mere warning. A way of assuring its allies that it can strike Israel.

Perhaps this reality is why the United States told Israel point blank, not to respond. Rather, it tried to massage Israel's ego. US President Joe Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the Iranian attacks were a victory for Israel because there was "no significant damage within Israel itself". This, he said, demonstrated Israel's superior military capability.

The attacks, in themselves, cost Israel five times more than Iran. The latter used cheap arsenal. The drones cost \$50,000, each, the cruise missiles, \$250,000 and the ballistic missiles an average \$5 million. So, maximum cost to Iran was about \$217 million. In contrast, Israel employed the Arrow and David Sling missiles, which cost \$3.5 million and \$1 million. The defence overnight, cost Israel, \$1.1 billion.

But, why would Israel violate the territorial space of Syria and attack the diplomatic mission of Iran conscious of the fact that it was technically attacking two countries? It could be a continuation of its policy of spreading terror in the region. Secondly, it might be an attempt to divert attention from its on-going genocide in the Gaza. Thirdly, it could be an attempt to suck in the US and its allies into its war in the region and widen the conflicts.

The realisation that Iran did not use its modern missiles might also have been the reason Israel did not immediately respond. Rather, it went wailing at the UNSC. Its UN envoy, Gilad Erdan, said the UNSC must sanction Iran for alleged terrorism.

Iran's counter-claim that it retaliated the Israeli attacks based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, could not be faulted. That Article states: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain

international peace and security." The joint response of Prime Ministers Giorgia Meloni of Italy, Japan's Fumio Kishida, Justin Trudeau of Canada, Britain's Rishi Sunkin, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Presidents Emmanuel Macron of France and Joe Biden, was a classic case of duplicity in diplomacy. They had not condemned Israel's attacks on Iran, but found their voices when Iran retaliated.



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The leaders who met virtually under the G7 canopy said they "unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms Iran's direct and unprecedented attack against Israel". They expressed solidarity with Israel and rededicated themselves to its security. They gave the impression that Israel, like a spoilt brat, can go about attacking other countries, but that their victims have no right to self-defence. Their message is that only Israel deserves security, while countries like Syria and Iran who are victims of its reckless attacks, have no right to defend themselves.

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In taking on various countries simultaneously, Israel reminds me of the African saying that if a dog has human backing, it can kill a monkey. The powerful countries using Israel as a hunter's dog, also have a duty to put it on a leash so it does not constitute a danger to society.

In contrast to the G7, Cuba struck a more reflective pose. First, that the silence of the UNSC "served as an incentive for the

Iranian response..." Secondly, that de-escalating the on-going violence, requires an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Thirdly, that peace and stability in the Middle East is impossible "unless a comprehensive, just, and permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is reached."

But, why would Israel violate the territorial space of Syria and attack the diplomatic mission of Iran conscious of the fact that it was technically attacking two countries? It could be a continuation of its policy of spreading terror in the region. Secondly, it might be an attempt to divert attention from its on-going genocide in the Gaza. Thirdly, it could be an attempt to suck in the US and its allies into its war in the region and widen the conflicts. Fourthly, it might be a move to draw out Iran which, after its peace deals with Saudi Arabia, is enjoying unprecedented support across the Muslim world.

Conscious of Russia's presence in Syria and commitment to supporting that country, Israel's attacks can also be an attempt to provoke Russian response and widen the conflicts in the region. This way, the conflict in the region can be linked with that in Ukraine. If this were to be the case, then Israel would be playing the same proxy role as Ukraine, which is essentially, a cannon fodder.

In taking on various countries simultaneously, Israel reminds me of the African saying that if a dog has human backing, it can kill a monkey. The powerful countries using Israel as a hunter's dog, also have a duty to put it on a leash so it does not constitute a danger to society.

On the other hand, the Israeli dog might have been long gone in the wilderness and can no longer hear the hunter's whistle. It is like "The Second Coming", William Butler Yeats' famous poem:

# Kada Kings, Emeralds Win 2024 President Beach Volleyball Cup

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

**K**ada Kings and Kada Emeralds of Kaduna State have emerged champions of the 2024 President Beach Volleyball Cup in the men and women's categories.

In the men's category, Kada Kings came from behind to beat Kada Stars 2-1 (21-23, 21-19, 15-8) in a keenly contested final, while Kada Emeralds beat Adamawa Spikers 2-0 (21-12, 21-11) in the women's category at 2024 President

Beach Volleyball Cup in Kaduna.

In an interview with sports journalists, the President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engineer Musa Nimrod said the President Cup has lived up to expectations of the Beach community.

Nimrod said the beach commission will ensure the young players discovered at the Cup gets adequate attention by organising regular tournaments.

He said, "The President Beach Volleyball Cup is the first tournament in the calendar

of the Federation and I am happy with what I have seen. We have a couple of young players who are playing beach volleyball for the first time and they have been impressive.

"There are two categories in the President Beach Cup and they are the U19 and Senior. The U19 exposed a lot of young players and the commission is working tirelessly in ensuring the players get a lot of exposure".

Nimrod charged coaches across the country not to relent in the discovery of young players.

He said, "The coaches are the engine room of the Federation; I am calling on coaches in the various states not to relent in discovering players. Nigeria is blessed and there are lots untapped players waiting to be processed; the coaches are the right set of people to refine them".



## Return Our Property, Documents In Your Possession, SWAN Tells Ex-President Sirawo

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has warned its erstwhile National President, Dr Honour Sirawoo, to as a matter of urgency, return all documents and property of the association in his possession.

SWAN in a letter dated April 17, 2024 to Sirawo by its Secretary-General, Amb. Ikenna Okonkwo, said the withheld property and documents are meant for effective running of the association.

SWAN equally listed the items expected for retrieve to include: Original CAC

Certificate of SWAN, details of appointed patrons of the association, and any other document/property/asset belonging to the National Secretariat.

The letter further reads: "You were ordinarily meant to properly handover these items with you immediately after the Triennial Congress on July 13, 2023 which signalled the end of your tenure.

"Due to exigencies associated with the use of the above at the Secretariat, you are required to make them available with the next 7 days from the date this letter was issued."



## Alleged RUGA: Enugu Farmer Petitions Police Over False Alarm On Agric PPP With Govt

\*Says shareholders my wives children not Northerners

By; KELVIN OKPARA, Enugu

An Enugu-born commercial farmer, and Christian who converted to Islam, Ahmad Sani Ibrahim, formerly known as Friday Nnaji, has petitioned the Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Zone 13, in Anambra State, raising the alarm over alleged criminal defamation and attempts by some persons to misrepresent his farming partnership with the Enugu State Government, calling on the law enforcement agency to investigate the matter to avert breach of peace.

Mr. Ibrahim accused two indigenes of Isi-Uzo LGA, Mr. Simon Ede and Engr. Samuel Ugwuode of falsely relying on a purported search at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to present the agricultural venture with the state government as a front by some Northern elements to acquire vast lands in Isi-Uzo for sinister purposes. The farmer, who said that he converted to Islam in 1998, also clarified that shareholders and directors of the company, who bear Muslim names are not Northerners as published by Samuel Ugwuode and Simon Ede, but his wives and children.

He equally explained that the venture is for crop production, not ranching and further accused the duo of Ugwuode and Ede of cyberstalking, racist and xenophobic publications against his

person, and Ugwu Anama Farms, as well a deliberate attempt to cause a breach of peace in Isi-Uzo and the state in general.

In the petition dated April 11, 2024, and accompanied with an old affidavit of change of name and the newspaper publication to that effect, the petitioner wrote, "I am a Muslim by faith and religion. I am an indigene of Ugwu Anama, Mbu in Isi-Uzo LGA of Enugu State. My native name is Friday Nnaji. After I converted to the Islamic religion and faith in 1998, I started bearing Ahmed Sani Ibrahim as my Islamic name.

"I am the promoter and majority shareholder of Ugwu Anama Farm Ltd. The other shareholders of the company are, Ibrahim Hassan, my Islamic adopted son, and also a director of the company; Layusat Shehu Jibril, one of my wives and a director of the company; Zainab Sani Ahmad, one of my wives; Mariyam Sa'id, my Islamic adopted daughter, and Ahmad Sani Ibrahim, my biological son.

"While Engr. Samuel Chimaobi Ugwuode is from the same Mbu community as I, Mr Ede Simon Onyema is from Eha-Amufu, another community in my Isi-Uzo LGA. Both of them know me very well.

"In a bid to unlock the economic and social potentials of the state, the company and Enugu State Government, in March, 2024, entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPPA)

wherein it was agreed, among other things, that the state will provide the company with 15,000 hectares of farmlands in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of the state for the cultivation of cassava, rice, maize, high-yielding premium banana and yam.

"Having learnt about the above relationship between the state and the company, the duo of Engr. Samuel Chimaobi Ugwuode and Mr. Ede Simon Onyema maliciously, between March and April, 2024, made defamatory, offensive, ethnocentric, racist and xenophobic publications against the petitioners (shareholders and directors) on the WhatsApp group chat called "Isi Uzo News".

He alleged that the publications was done, "with intent to deliberately provoke breach of peace by offensive publication; cause criminal defamation, cyber stalking; and cause racist and xenophobic disaffection against the petitioners, by portraying the shareholders and directors of the company as Northern elements who are hiding under the cover of the company to acquire large expanse of Igbo land belonging to the Eha-Amufu people of Isi-Uzo LGA of Enugu State for sinister purposes."

Attaching copies of the alleged offensive publications entitled "Unmasking those Behind Ugwu Anama Farm Ltd" and "Eha-Amufu Land: Hand of Esau and Voice of

Jacob," the farmer wrote, "Under the laws of Nigeria, every Nigerian has the right to acquire moveable and immovable properties, reside in and do legitimate business in any part of Nigeria, irrespective of religious or ethnic background and affiliation.

"Therefore, one being of another faith is not a barrier to acquiring land or doing business of any nature in Enugu State.

"Moreover, the duo of Engr. Samuel Chimaobi Ugwuode and Mr Ede Simon Onyema are enlightened and well aware of this fact, but deliberately and maliciously chose to make the said offensive publications against us with the ultimate intent of spreading hate and ultimately undermining the said project between the Enugu State Government and the company.

"The offensive publications are clearly intended to spread ethnic hatred against the shareholders and directors and endanger our lives, safety, properties and business interests in Eha-Amufu, Isi-Uzo LGA and Enugu State at large."

The company, therefore, requested the Police AIG to use his "good office to investigate this complaint and bring the culprits to book if found culpable."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim-Nnaji has been a commercial farmer involved in large-scale crop production in Isi-Uzo and other parts of the country over the years.



## Miyetti Allah, SW Farmers Sign Pact On Peaceful Coexistence

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, (MACBAN) and the Southwest Farmers on Friday, signed memorandum of understanding on peaceful coexistence.

After signing the peace MoU at a day summit in Ibadan, Coordinator of Southwest Commodities Farmers Organization, Mr Olusegun Dasaolu said the summit was aimed at finding lasting solution to some challenges confronting farmers in South-West states.

He pointed out that the memorandum of

understanding symbolizes an agreement between the herders and Southwest farmers to work in unity to improve food production and sustainability within the Southwest region and by extension Nigeria.

"What the memorandum of understanding with cattle breeders translates to is that the farmers in the Southwest and the herders have agreed to work together for the unity of farmers and the progress of Agriculture so that conflicts will be resolved amicably amongst the stakeholders", he said.

The Coordinator added, "And from this moment on, the first step we are going to take is to identify the

genuine herders in Southwest and who are the genuine farmers and we have agreed to connect better"

"This is going to go a long way in solving food crisis in the sense that farmers will now feel secured to go back to their farms and so Agricultural production will increase and this is going to assist greatly in the renewed hope of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu"

Speaking, National Chairman of Miyetti Allah, Othman Ngelzarma disclosed that the signing of the MoU serves as an opportunity to chart a way forward on ensuring the security both Farmers and herders in the South West.

The Miyetti Allah National Chairman noted that farmers and herders in the Southwest are now united as brothers and must collaborate effectively to identify and address any problematic elements within the pastoralist community in the region.

In his remarks, the Southwest Director of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Abimbola Akeredolu, called for the continued deployment of technological solutions in agriculture to support farmers and enhance food production.



Miyetti Allah and SW Farmers leaders at the signing in Ibadan on Friday

## 18 Perish From Road Accidents In Kano, Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

Road crashes claimed the lives of 18 people on Thursday and Friday at Gaya Junction in Kano State and Tashar Yari in Kaduna State respectively.

Dauda Biu, the Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps, has condemned the use of substandard tyres and excessive speeding by drivers on Nigerian roads following the fatal road crashes.

In a statement signed by the corps spokesperson, Jonas Agwu, on Friday, Biu urged motorists to prioritise safety and comply with regulations.

The Gaya Junction crash which occurred on Friday, according to investigation reports submitted to

the Corps Marshal, involved two vehicles, a Toyota Hiace bus and a Hijet bus with number plates KTG 190 XB and KTG 501YG, respectively.

The crash, according to the statement caused by speed limit violation and tyre burst, resulted in injuries to 16 individuals and the loss of 12 lives, including the driver.

The statement explained that Tashar Yari crash that happened on Thursday, involved a total of 57 people, with 30 sustaining injuries and six fatalities, saying that the accident was caused by speed limit violation and the use of worn-out tyres, involving a trailer that lost control.

According to the statement, "The

Gaya Junction crash involved a total of two vehicles, a Toyota Hiace Bus and a Hijet bus registered as KTG 190 XB & KTG 501YG, respectively."

The report, according to the statement revealed that the Gaya crash, which was occasioned by a speed limit violation and a tyre burst, involved 28 people comprising 17 male adults, five female adults, two male children, and four female children.

It stated that from the number, 16 victims, including five male adults, five female adults, two male children, and four female children, were injured, while 12 persons, including the driver, all male adults, were killed.

## Kada Kings, Emeralds Win 2024 President Beach Volleyball Cup

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## NCDC Hints On Strange Disease Spreading To Kaduna

By; AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), has confirmed the spread of the Sokoto and Zamfara strange disease to Kaduna with a total of seven deaths recorded so far.

The centre has convened a high-level meeting with commissioners of health from the affected states with the fear that the disease may spread to other neighbouring communities.

Dr Jide Idris, the Director-General of the NCDC explained that a total of 196 suspected cases have been reported across Isa, Sabon Birni, and Iella Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Sokoto State since the outbreak surfaced on March 21, 2024.

According to him, an emergency meeting with Commissioners for Health from Sokoto and Kaduna States, and also a phone conversation with the Zamfara's State Commissioner for Health, Hajiya Asabe Balarabe, Dr. Aisha Anka and Hajiya Umma Ahmed, explained that the meeting was to access the situation.

He explained, "the meeting started with a visit to the Sokoto Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, where updates on response activities, ranging

from case management, surveillance, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) were presented."

He noted that challenges around limited diagnostic capacity in the state and the continued spread of the illness to neighbouring localities, including Zamfara State were raised.

Among those present were representatives from the Sokoto State Ministry of Health, Sokoto State Primary Health Care Development Agency, and partner organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), eHealth Africa, Solina Centre for International Development and Research (SCIDaR), and Breakthrough Action Nigeria (BA-N).

Idris acknowledged the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders and expressing concern over the lack of a definitive diagnosis and emphasised the urgency of the situation, saying that they are working with their sister agencies at the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) to ascertain the correct diagnosis of the illness.

## Kaduna Govt Warns Against Streetlight Vandalism

By; FUNMI ADERINTO, Kaduna

Kaduna State Government led by Senator Uba Sani has embarked on a replacement exercise of non-functioning streetlights in the state.

Speaking through Kaduna Roads Management Agency (KADRA) at the weekend, the government said it has come to the notice of the management that some unpatriotic individuals have been vandalizing and removing streetlights and their accessories across the state, saying that this is worrisome and unacceptable. According to (KADRA), Kaduna State Government is prioritizing the safety and security of its citizens by replacing non-functional

streetlights all over the state. "Street lights are not only for security reasons, but also improve the city's overall appearance and enhance visibility for motorists and pedestrians.

"Therefore, KADRA is issuing out a warning to those involved in such acts to stop immediately or face the consequences of the law as security personnel have been deployed to safeguard the streetlights.

"KADRA is also calling on community and youth leaders to join hands in protecting public property as custodians and direct beneficiaries of projects in their communities. "The administration of Governor Uba Sani is dedicating to making the lives of the people of Kaduna State better," it said.