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Resist Electricity Tariff Hike In Nigeria, Coalition Tasks Trade Unions, CSOs

By; BAYO AKAMO
Ibadan

The Coalition for Affordable and Regular Electricity (CARE) yesterday, condemned and rejected the recently announced increase in electricity tariff in Nigeria by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). CARE in a statement by its National Coordinator, Comrade Chinedu Bosah demanded reversal of the tariff hike, as well as privatization of the power sector.

In the statement, the coalition tasked trade union leadership and leaders of pro-masses organisations in the country to mobilise workers and community people for a struggle to resist both the current and planned electricity tariff hike.

CARE accused President Bola Tinubu government through the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) of allegedly imposing, "another provocative hike in electricity tariff for Band

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World Health Day: Yobe State Has Only 25 Active Cerebrospinal Meningitis Cases - Commissioner

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

After weeks of battling with the outbreak of Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Yobe State Government says it now has only 25 active cases of the disease stressing that the outbreak is significantly reducing. The Commissioner for Health in the State, Dr. Lawan Gana who was represented by Abdullahi Danchuwa at a World Health Day Commemoration in Damaturu organized by W.H.O, commended the World Health

Organisation for becoming one of its supporting partners.

"Governor Mai Mala Buni has supported healthcare significantly to see that we fight the scourging diseases affecting Yobe state and most importantly commend WHO, UNICEF and other developmental partners because they have worked well to ensure that some of the scourging diseases in Yobe state are mitigated to its barest minimum.

"I want to assure you right now we are fighting cerebrospinal meningitis and the last number of

cases we recorded in the state were 25. It has already affected 10 local government areas of the state" he said.

The State Coordinator, World Health Organisation (WHO) represented by Emmanuel Katugwa, a Surveillance Officer, said the W.H.O will prioritize healthcare as fundamental human right by supporting governments in meeting the healthcare needs of its citizens.

"Health is a fundamental human right and this year's theme 'my health, my right' serves a reminder

that every individual across the globe is entitled to the highest, attainable standard of health without discrimination or prejudice"

"We must affirm our commitment to prioritize health as a fundamental human right, by supporting the governments to succeed" he said.

The road walk with healthcare workers took the stakeholders round Damaturu the state capital, sensitizing the general public on the need to access healthcare services.

3,500 People Die Of Hepatitis Viruses Daily - WHO

By: AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The World Health Organization (WHO), has said that about 3,500 people die from hepatitis virus every day, raising alarm that the global toll is rising.

WHO warned yesterday, calling for swift action to fight the second-largest infectious killer every day and the rising global toll.

A new data from 187 countries indicates that the number of deaths from viral hepatitis rose to 1.3 million in 2022 from 1.1 million in 2019, according to a WHO report released to coincide with the World Hepatitis Summit in Portugal this week.

Meg Doherty, head of the WHO's global HIV, hepatitis and sexually-transmitted infection programmes, in a press conference, noted that the

situation is alarming.

The report explained, "there are 3,500 deaths per day worldwide from hepatitis infections — 83 per cent from hepatitis B, 17 per cent from hepatitis C."

It stated that there are effective and cheap generic drugs which can treat these viruses, saying that only three per cent of those with chronic hep B received antiviral treatment by the end of 2023.

The report said for Hepatitis C, 20 per cent or 12.5 million people had been treated, explaining that the results fall well below the global targets to treat 80 per cent of all people living with chronic hep B and C by 2030.

He explained that the overall rate of hepatitis infections did fall slightly.



Resist Electricity Tariff Hike In Nigeria, Coalition Tasks Trade Unions, CSOs

A consumers by a whopping 230% - from N68 Kwh to N225 Kwh.

It pointed out that according to NERC, this tariff hike affects about 15% of the total consumers and is targeted at the so-called rich people, saying, "The reality is that there is hardly any community which is exclusively for the rich.

"As a result, the current cost of living crises will be further aggravated, potentially throwing more working people into poverty. Therefore, the new tariff should be rejected by working people and youth", it said.

CARE added, "Inflation has grown from 22.4 to 31.7 in February 2024 since President Tinubu removed petrol subsidy, increased the price of petrol and devalued the Naira. Rising cost of doing business and low purchasing power have forced

many manufacturers to close their businesses with its attendant loss of over 3,000 jobs.

"Coalition for Affordable and Regular Electricity (CARE) calls on the trade union leadership and leaders of pro-masses organisations to mobilise workers and community people for a struggle to resist both the current and planned electricity tariff hike".

It stressed further that, "Electricity for industries and many businesses in Nigeria reportedly constitutes 40% or more of the total cost compared to 10% in China", adding, "This huge cost is one major reason many companies closed down and relocated abroad contributing to a high unemployment rate.

"Hence, it is not true that the outrageous tariff hike for Band A will exclusively affect the rich

and middle class, it will also affect workers and the poor. This anti-poor Tinubu-led government is all out to protect the profit and greed of a few while it cares less about Nigerian workers and the poor".

It stressed, "Given the obvious failure of privatization, there is an urgent need to re-nationalise the power sector, bring it under public ownership and be subject to democratic



control and management of the working masses with the view to ushering in massive public investment that will drive the cost of electricity down and

making it affordable in the long run for most Nigerian consumers while electricity consumed by the poorest is subsidized'.

Gov Alia Promises N10m For Information On Attackers Of Reps Member In Makurdi

**Condemns attack*

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia has condemned Saturday's attack on the private residence of the Member representing Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency, Hon. Solomon Wombo.

New Nigerian in Makurdi gathered that his housekeeper was brutalized, leaving him with various degrees of injuries.

According to New Nigerian source and confirmed in a statement by the governor's spokesman, Tersoo Kulas, some armed men invaded the residence and desperately demanded to know his whereabouts.

They also insisted the main flat of the house must be opened for them to search. The governor emphasized that his administration will

not watch criminals terrorize innocent people in the state, promising that his government will do everything in its power to ensure the suspects are arrested and made to face the full wrath of the law. He said that the government will offer 10 million Naira to anyone that will give useful information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects.

He charged security agencies to work tirelessly to locate the suspects and bring them to face the full force of the law, while also ensuring greater security and safety for all citizens of the state.

The Benue State Governor urged the good people of the state to remain calm, assuring that his administration will not rest on its oars until the state is made free of every form of criminality.

Sallah: Katsina Governor Frees 222 Inmates

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State for the sake of the holy month of Ramadan and upcoming Sallah festivities has paid fines for two hundred and twenty-two (222) inmates who were detained across various correctional facilities due to their inability to pay fines imposed on them by different courts of law in the state.

A statement by the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Fadila Muhammad Dikko said Governor Dikko Radda's initiative was aimed to decongest the custodial centers and allow the inmates to celebrate Sallah with their families. Fadila Muhammad who expressed her sincere gratitude to Governor Radda, acknowledged the significance of the gesture in providing relief to those

incarcerated for minor commercial and non-capital offenses.

"The selection process for the beneficiaries involved thorough verification and recommendations to the state for intervention in paying the fines holding them in correctional facilities," Fadila Muhammad Dikko emphasized.

She explained that, "the Governor's benevolent act is expected to significantly reduce congestion in these facilities and enable the freed inmates to partake in the joyous occasion of Sallah with their loved ones."

Fadila Muhammad Dikko reiterated that, "the Katsina State Government's commitment to upholding justice and ensuring the well-being of its citizens underscores Governor Malam Dikko Umaru Radda's dedication to fostering compassion and inclusivity in governance."

New Olubadan To Emerge Tomorrow

**Kingmakers set for ratification, present him to Gov Makinde same day*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

There are indications that kingmakers in Ibadan will tomorrow, officially ratify and announce the current Balogun of Ibadanland, Owolabi Akinloye Olakulehin as the new Olubadan of Ibadanland.

New Nigerian gathered that the kingmakers at a meeting on Monday in Ibadan, fixed Thursday, April 11, 2024 as the date for the ratification and announcement of the new Olubadan.

Sources said the meeting reportedly held on Monday at the Iwo Road residence of a former President of Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII), Chief Bode Amao agreed that the eleven kingmakers who are also members of Olubadan-in-Council are to meet on that at Mapo hall.

It was learnt that that the new Olubadan is expected to be presented at the Thursday meeting by the Balogun line after which his name would be ratified and announced by the entire Ibadan kingmakers. According to sources, after the pronouncement tomorrow, the kingmakers will be going straight to Gov Makinde for the



Olubadan designate, Oba Owolabi Olakulehin

presentation of the new Olubadan of Ibadanland. New Nigerian recalled that the Olubadan-designate, Oba Owolabi Olakulehin last Friday made his first public appearance at his Alalubosa area residence in Ibadan.

The Olubadan designate on his appearance, hosted some of the Ibadan kingmakers who paid him a visit with one of the kingmakers, Osi Balogun

Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Lateef Adebimpe, who led other three of the kingmakers to the residence of the Olubadan designate saying Oba Olakulehin is hale and hearty.

The Osi Balogun Olubadan while speaking with journalists stressed that, "it is impossible for the Olubadan-in-Council to nominate Olakulehin unless they are sure that he

is in good condition" "It has been sometime we have seen our Kabiyesi Owolabi Olakulehin in our midst and we have been making arrangements for Olakulehin's coronation ceremony, who is our new Olubadan of Ibadanland. We thank God that he is hale and hearty, and very soon, he will ascend the throne of his fore fathers, we will relate what we see here to our colleagues."

Eid-el Fitr: Celebration: Akwa Ibom Police Command Beef Up Security At Worship Centres

By; PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Police said it has tightened security around worship centres and in the state, with the deployment of 1,527 personnel.

Command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) CSPOdiko MacDon stated this in a statement made available to our correspondent in Uyo today.

MacDon also stated that the Commissioner of Police, CP Waheed Ayilara has felicitated with Muslim faithful in the state on the occasion of the celebration of Eid-el-Fitr. "The Commissioner of Police has ordered a tightened security around Mosques, prayer grounds,

worship Centres and other parts of the State during and after the Salah celebrations by deploying by a total of one thousand, five hundred and twenty seven officers and men.

"The CP, while thanking Allah for bestowing on the faithful the grace to start and complete the fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, prayed Allah to bless the state, the People and Muslims within the state and beyond." MacDon stated.

According to him, CP Ayilara has noted Ramadan as a month of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and devotion to Allah and called on Muslims to be steadfast in the pursuit of peace in the state and engage more in acts of

charity and kindness. Furthermore, the CP has condemned the killing, and vowed to arrest, in the shortest possible time, the killers of one Sylvanus Ukpung who was murdered at Ifa Atai in a failed attempt to abduct him.

While reiterating his commitment to providing security for residents of the



CP Waheed Ayilara

state, the CP said perpetrators of violent crimes in the state will be arrested and held accountable.

Voters Didn't Have Problem With Our Party's Logo During 2023 Election, SW NNPP PRO replies Nat'l Secretary

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The South West Public Relations Officer of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Hon Kilamuwaye Badmus on Tuesday, disclosed that voters across Nigeria did not have problem with the party's logo during the 2023 general elections.

Hon Badmus who said this, noted that the complaint was that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) omitted the logo of the party on ballot papers in most states of the federation.

The NNPP PRO while reacting to a television programme interview by the NNPP's National Secretary, Mr Dipo Olayokun that the change of the logo was as a result of complaints from members during the last general elections that the logo was not visible enough accused Olayokun of turning the truth on its head.

According to Hon Badmus, the complaints from the party leaders and voters in many states was that INEC omitted the logo on ballot papers and not that the logo was difficult to understand, adding that



Hon Badmus

it is the same logo that Olayokun claimed wasn't comprehensive by voters that gave the party the Governorship seat and majority members of national and state assembly in Kano.

"They have their own plan and the plan is to turn NNPP into Kwankwasiy Movement. Nothing is wrong with our logo. The logo was used in Kano and we won the Governorship election, the national assembly election and won the majority in the state assembly election",

he said

Hon Badmus added, "Our complaint was that in many states like Ogun State for instance, INEC deliberately omitted our logo on the ballot papers and this caused us the Governorship election which ordinarily we would have won with wide margins".

"Contrary to Olayokun's claim, that the date for the mini convention was well communicated to members, most members got to know about the date for the convention on Saturday that it was held.

He stressed further "What even shows their desperation in turning a national party like the NNPP into a Kwankwasiy Movement is the violation of an Abuja High Court order that prohibit holding of convention till 2026.

"The question we need to ask the organiser of the mini convention is why the hurry. Why jettisoning a court order. To us in the South West NNPP, the mini convention is illegal and we are not part of the changing of the party's logo.

"You can't change a party's logo without carrying all members along. We stand by our position, that the new logo is not valid and is illegal. All the efforts put up by Olayokun in defending the illegal action cannot stand"

New Nigerian recalls that the NNPP in a mini convention last Saturday changed the party's logo and slogan but this was immediately rejected by many members across the federation most especially the South West Chapter of the party, which has since described the action as illegal and something that cannot stand the test of time.

FG Approves Additional Holiday For Eid-el-Fitr

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

The Federal Government has approved Thursday, April, 11, 2024 as an additional public holiday to celebrate this year's Eid -El-Fitr.

The Federal Government has earlier approved Tuesday and Wednesday, April 9 and 10 as public holidays respectively for the Sallah festivities.

Honourable Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji Ojo, while congratulating the muslim Ummah for a successful completion of a month of spiritual rejuvenation, in a Statement by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Aishetu Gogo Ndayako reiterated President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's commitment to providing a safe and prosperous Nigeria for all to thrive.

Hajj 2024: Marafan Yamman Zazzau Commends Tinubu Over N90bn Subsidy



By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Marafan Yamman Zazzau, Alhaji Adamu Ubaidullah has commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu over the release of N90 billion to subsidize the 2024 pilgrimage.

He said, the gesture is a welcome development, considering the fact that the intending pilgrims have been thrown into confusion on what to do.

Ubaidullah noted that without this intervention, each of the intending pilgrims would have been requested to add at least N1.9 million to the initial fare which was pegged at over N4 million.

He recalled that

NAHCON had in December last year, fixed a fare of N4.9 million per pilgrim based on the exchange rate of N897 to a dollar.

The traditional title holder also advised intending pilgrims to show appreciation by being good ambassadors of Nigeria while in the holy land during and after the Hajj exercise.

Also speaking on the current economic situation in the country Alh. Adamu Ubaidullah urged wealthy people to assist the needy ones particularly as Sallah celebration is on.

He said that Allah has answered their fasting, prayers as well as forgiven their sins.

Oyo Govt Boosts Security with Over 120 Vehicles, Modern Communication Gadgets - Oyo CP

*Lauds Gov Makinde

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat has disclosed that Gov Seyi Makinde boosted security in the state with over 120 vehicles, modern communication gadgets

The Commissioner made this known on Monday while receiving Oyo State Commissioner for Information Prince Dotun Oyelade into his office during a fact-finding courtesy call.

CP Hamzat emphasized the governor's gestures has provided adequate support for the Police command in strengthening the security architecture in the state

with the donation of 120 vehicles, the provision of modern day communication gadgets and personal motivation for the officers and men of the command.

According to CP Hamzat the modern day gadgets procured for the Police by Gov Makinde has enabled him and other senior colleagues to monitor happenings in Oyo State from any part of the federation.

Stressing that in all the eight states where he had served as Commissioner of Police none is as peaceful as Oyo State, adding that community policing has been highly successful to combat crime in Oyo State

because the governor gives Policemen extra incentives and motivation apart from their regular salaries, while the populace is generally happy to cooperate with the Police.

He maintained that the present administration in Oyo State is in the good books of Police hierarchy throughout Nigeria because of the successful hosting of over 4,000 Policemen during the 2024 Police Games which held in Ibadan early in the year.

CP Hamzat then tasked the people of Oyo state to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the Police by calling the emergency number 615 in case of emergency

maintained that the state government has set a record in its efforts to protect her citizens.

Oyo state Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade while speaking declared that from research no state government in the federation has done more for the protection of its citizens than Governor Makinde, adding, this is why Oyo State remains one of the safest states in the country today.

The Commissioner said apart from other infrastructures that are being put in place, the atmosphere of peace is also rubbing off positively on the commerce and economic development of Oyo State.

Unilorin VC Egbewole Congratulates Muslims On Eid-el Fitr

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has felicitated members of the Muslim community and the generality of the Muslim Ummah on the occasion of this year's Eid-el-Fitri festival.

In a statement issued on his behalf by the Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle Akogun, the Vice Chancellor explained that the last one month, which was evidently devoted to worship, charity and fraternity, was a rare opportunity for Muslims to regain spiritual strength and moral fortitude needed to withstand contemporary socio-economic challenges.

The Vice Chancellor, who is also the Secretary-General of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU), urged members of the Muslim community to ensure that they perpetuate all the fascinating lessons derived from observing the Ramadan fast.

Prof. Egbewole said that he is particularly optimistic that members of the university Muslim community have renewed their faith in Allah and the nation's future.

He noted that the series of "spiritual diets" that they were fed with during the month, were intended to rebuild them for personal greatness and collective glory.

The Vice Chancellor specifically appealed to Muslims worldwide and their friends not to return to the path of perversion, which they abandoned during the month, saying that those who return to one ungodly act or the other would not be regarded as being among those who truly obeyed Allah with their participation in the month-long fast.

Speaking on the state and prospect of the nation's most sought-after university, Prof. Egbewole thanked members of the institution's community, particularly staff and students, for the prevailing peace on the campus as he said that the harmonious situation reflects the level of maturity obtainable among them.

While urging staff and students of the university to sustain the peace of the campus, Prof. Egbewole said that his administration would continue to pursue programmes and policies that would sustain peaceful coexistence and industrial harmony.



Unilorin VC

Eid-el-Fitr: Oborevwoori Felicitates Muslims

By: **UTEBOR PETER, Asaba**

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwoori, has felicitated Muslims in the state, Nigeria and all over the world, on the occasion of 2024 Eid-el-Fitr celebration.

The governor gave the felicitation in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Festus Ahon, in Asaba.

Governor Oborevwoori tasked every follower of Islam with incorporating the spiritual lessons of love, peace, and justice from Ramadan into their everyday lives in order to promote national harmony, peace, and progress.

The governor said, "I felicitate with all Deltans and Nigerians, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters, on the auspicious occasion of this year's Eid-

el-Fitri celebrations.

"I extend my congratulations to every one of our compatriots who has completed the cleansing fast of Ramadan.

"I hope and pray that the spiritual lessons of Ramadan and the teachings of the Holy Prophet—piety, love, justice, fairness, equity, peaceful coexistence with others, tolerance, honesty, and dedication to duty, will stick with us all as we celebrate Eid-el-Fitri, for the greater good of our beloved country."

Governor Oborevwoori added, "on behalf of my family, the government and people of Delta State, I extend our warmest wishes to Muslims in Delta State, Nigeria and across the world on the occasion of the 2024 Eid-el-Fitr celebrations.

"As we celebrate in Nigeria, it is important to



Delta Governor

remind Nigerians of the imperative for mutual respect for all faiths and customs and the necessity to continue to live together in peace according to our religious and cultural beliefs.

"Regardless of ethnicity or faith, may the teachings and blessings of the Holy Month permeate all

national endeavours, favourably impact our attitudes towards one another, and encourage a stronger dedication to the peace, unity and stability of the country.

"It is my wish that the celebration of this year fills every home with happiness and joy".

Group Passes Vote Of Confidence On PDP Chairman

By: **ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna**

A group, People's Democratic Party (PDP) Professionals Support Movement, has passed vote of confidence on the Chairman of the party, Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagum.

Chairman of the PDP professional group, Dr. Muazzam Lawal Sadauki while reacting to a call for the resignation of the chairman by some members of the green chamber of the National Assembly on Monday, said the party needs unity now ever than before, hence, the need for all hands to be on deck.

According to him, "some hired and misguided elements parading themselves as fifth grade are playing behind the curtains of creating political tension and unnecessary noise about the leadership of the party under Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagum.

"We are concerned that some group of lawmakers in the House of Representatives would allow themselves to be

misguided to issue a warning against the same party leadership that suffered and works tirelessly to deliver them to success.

"It is clear that their claims are nothing but an attempt to blackmail the party's leadership into becoming a target or frenzy of the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting under the leadership of Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagum. They just don't want him to succeed in holding the NEC and Caucus meetings respectively.

"We are of the view that our Honourable members could have sought an audience and discussed issues affecting the party with the leadership of the party rather than hurriedly going to the Press to address any issue that was supposed to be a family affair.

"We, therefore, advise these PDP lawmakers to apologise immediately and seek understanding with the leadership of the party instead of grieving unnecessarily. "The play of gallery and

comedy of error in that Press conference is a ploy for creating diversionary issues that are important to the political development of our great party.

"We see it as a mistake and confrontational to openly threaten to dump the party, or demand for the removal of a constitutional body, especially acting national chairman Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagum", he said.

The group however passed a vote of confidence on Damagum's led party leadership, urging him not to relent in his effort to reposition the party ahead of the coming elections.

"While assuring our support to the party's leadership, we want the Acting Chairman of the PDP to remain focused, resolute, and confident about building bridges of peace, reconciliation, and unity among the party's supporters across the country.

"On behalf of the entire discipline and supporters of the party, we are confident with the leaderships of the present NWC, under Amb Umar Iliya Damagum, the Board of Trustees (BoT), and PDP Governors' Forum among others.



Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagum

Governor Uba Sani Passionate About Quality Education For Kaduna Youth, Says Aide On Students Matters

By; AMOS EBUTE MATHEW, Kaduna

Senior Special Assistant To Governor Uba Sani On Students Matters, Amina Sani Bello has reiterated the passion and determination of the present administration to deliver quality and affordable tertiary education to its teeming youth across the state.

She made the statement, while hosting students leaders from various tertiary institutions in the state to breaking of Ramadan fast.

She said the governor's zeal to ensure youth from poor background access quality education made him reduce tuition fees charged by higher institutions, which according to her had driven upward the number of students' intake in Kaduna

State.

While enjoining the youth to reciprocate the kind gesture of the Governor by paying due attention to their studies so they would graduate in flying colours and become illustrious sons that the state could be proud of, the Senior Special Assistant assured of more good things from the present administration for youth.

"Ramadan is a time of reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion. It is also a time for us to strengthen the bonds of kinship and community, as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Student Matters, I am particularly moved by the unity and determination I see in our students.

"Our administration, under the leadership of His Excellency, the Governor of

Kaduna State Distinguished Senator Uba Sani is committed to nurturing an environment where education thrives, and where every student can pursue their dreams without hindrance.

"We recognize that the progress of Kaduna State is deeply intertwined with the educational advancement of our youth, this is why reducing the tuition fees for all state-owned universities constituted the initial executive actions taken by His Excellency the Governor on assumption of office.

"The SUSTAIN AGENDA of His Excellency promises to invest heavily in human capital and education is a crucial part of this promise. I assure you that His Excellency considers education a matter of priority and we, his foot soldiers shall

not relent in transforming his vision for this sector into reality.

"Stakeholders present, your partnership and support would be instrumental in forming the bedrock of our educational initiatives. Together, we are building a legacy of knowledge, skill, and innovation that will echo through generations.

"As we break bread together this evening, let us renew our commitment to one another. Let us pledge to uphold the values of empathy, integrity, and excellence. Let us work hand in hand to support the administration of His Excellency Senator Uba Sani to create a brighter future for all the students across tertiary institutions in Kaduna State" she appealed.



OCP, Fortescue To Partner To Develop Green Energy, Hydrogen, Ammonia In Morocco

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

OCP Group, a global leader in plant nutrition and phosphate-based fertilizers, and Fortescue Energy, part of global green energy, metals and technology company Fortescue Ltd (Fortescue), on Monday, announced a landmark Joint Venture (JV) in Morocco. This equal partnership aims to supply green hydrogen, ammonia, and fertilizers to Morocco, Europe, and international markets. It includes the potential development of manufacturing facilities and an R&D hub to advance the rapidly growing renewable energy industry in Morocco.

Fortescue and OCP Group, leaders in iron ore and phosphate respectively, are united in their goal to reach their emissions reductions targets. They share a common vision for the pivotal role of green hydrogen and ammonia in forging a sustainable future globally.

The partners have laid out proposed plans for four cornerstone projects in Morocco:

1. Large-scale integrated green ammonia and green fertilizer production capacity, including renewables, energy generation, electrolysis, ammonification and fertilizer production;

2. Manufacturing of green technology and equipment;

3. An R&D and Technology Hub, located alongside Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) near Marrakech, to bolster the JV, the ecosystem and other players, with research in renewable energy, green hydrogen and minerals processing; and

4. Collaboration of corporate venture capital funds to drive investment in key technology advancements.

The partners' objective is to supply green hydrogen and ammonia for use both as sources of green energy and in the manufacture of carbon-neutral and customized fertilizers that are accessible and affordable for farmers around the world.

Mostafa Terrab, Chairman and CEO of OCP Group, said: "Our strategic partnership with Fortescue is a testimony to our joint commitment to

decarbonisation, driving the development of cutting-edge facilities and delivering competitive renewable energy, products and technology.

This is a key step towards fulfilling our vision of simultaneously ensuring global food security and combating climate change."

Dr Andrew Forrest AO, Fortescue Executive Chair and Founder said: "Together, Fortescue and OCP will build a world-leading and globally competitive platform to accompany Morocco's journey into a green energy production, manufacturing, and industrial powerhouse.

Together, we will be a key originator and green corridor into Europe and to and from the Atlantic basin.

Morocco will be a major player in the global energy transition given it is home to some of the world's most prospective wind and solar resources, two large coastlines, and is in close proximity to Europe and the Americas.

We are proud to partner with OCP, a global industrial leader, with a shared ambitious commitment to invest in renewable energy, products and technology to reduce global emissions."

Fortescue Energy CEO, Mark Hutchinson added: "OCP and Fortescue are fully aligned on their ambitions. We intend to create in Morocco one of the world's leading integrated renewable energy, manufacturing, and technology enterprises, supplying not only a large and growing domestic market for green products, but also with the potential to supply other countries and continents.

This is a very significant moment for Fortescue, OCP Group and Morocco as we help revolutionize the way we power our planet and diversify the world's future energy security, while creating thousands of jobs and industries in Morocco."

These proposed projects will also leverage the expertise of INNOVX, a multi-sectoral venture platform that is dedicated to building innovative and sustainable businesses, and contributing



to creating emerging ecosystems with a strong local impact.

Today's agreement underlines OCP Group's and Fortescue's shared vision to help make Morocco a green energy production, manufacturing and industrial powerhouse, with significant long-term benefits for Morocco.

The venture is subject to customary closing conditions, including regulatory approvals.

OCP Group helps feed a growing global population by providing it with the essential elements for soil fertility and plant growth. With over a century of expertise and a turnover of more than USD 9 billion in 2023, OCP is the world leader in plant nutrition solutions and phosphate-based fertilizers. Headquartered in Morocco and present on five continents, OCP has approximately 20,000 employees and works closely with over 350 customers around the world. OCP recently launched a green investment strategy, dedicated to increasing fertilizer production and investing in renewable energy. The strategy foresees an overall investment of approximately USD 13 billion over the period 2023-2027, which will enable the Group to use 100% renewable energy by 2027 and achieve full carbon neutrality by 2040 (Scope 1 and 2 by 2030, and Scope 3 by 2040). The strategy also aims to reach a water desalination capacity of 560 million m3 in 2026 and to increase the production

of green fertilizers. The Group is firmly convinced that leadership and profitability are synonymous with social responsibility and sustainable development.

Its strategic vision sits at the junction of these two dimensions.

Fortescue is focused on becoming the number 1 integrated green energy, metals and technology company, recognised for its culture, innovation and industry-leading development of infrastructure, mining assets and green energy initiatives. It operates with two divisions – Metals and Energy. Fortescue is committed to producing green hydrogen, containing zero carbon, from renewable electricity. Green hydrogen is a zero-carbon fuel that, when used, produces primarily water. It is a practical and implementable solution that can help revolutionise the way we power our planet: helping to decarbonise heavy industry and create jobs globally. Fortescue is leading the green industrial revolution, building a global portfolio of renewable green hydrogen and green ammonia projects, while also leading the global effort to help decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors. This includes developing and acquiring the technology and energy supply to help decarbonise the Australian iron ore operations of one of the world's largest producers of iron ore, Fortescue Metals, by 2030 (Scope 1 and 2 terrestrial emissions).



Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi Not Dead, Still Alive, Says Family

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The reported death of Islamic Cleric, one of the most respected leaders of the Sufi group otherwise known as Tijaniya Movement in Nigeria, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, has been debunked by the family of the religious leader.

While debunking the unfounded circulated news of the death of the Islamic leader during press briefing with journalists in Bauchi recently, Alhaji Sanusi Dahiru, a very close family member of the cleric said Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi is hale, healthy and alive.

According to him, "the 97 years old cleric is hale and hearty in Abuja this morning we spoke with him and is very fine".

"Sheikh Bauchi has left Abuja for Kaduna on Thursday for the closing ceremony of his Annual tafsir, where he was represented by his son, Dr Sulumbai Dahiru.

"Therefore, admirers of Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi, should disregard the rumors. He is still alive in good health despite old age, urging the general public to continue to pray for him," Dahiru said.

The family member urged the rumor peddlers to wait until it would be time for him to join Muslims who had passed away to the glory of Allah.



Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

AATF Engages Emir Of Rano To Foster Support For PBR Cowpea Uptake

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON,
Kaduna

In a proactive move to garner support and advocacy for the adoption of Pod Borer Resistant Cowpea, a delegation led by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) has engaged in a strategic meeting with the Emir of Rano, Ambassador Kabiru Muhammad Inwua.

According to a statement signed by the

Communication Officer (West and Central Africa) AATF, Okpani Alex Abutu, made available on Monday April 8, 2024, the meeting held at the Emir's Palace in Rano aimed to solicit his esteemed support in promoting the uptake of PBR Cowpea, a genetically modified crop designed to withstand the devastating impact of pests and enhance agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

The leader of the delegation, Dr Jean

Baptiste, AATF Regional Representative for West Africa said that cowpea, a staple crop in Nigeria, plays a crucial role in addressing food security and nutritional needs, particularly in rural communities. "However, the crop is often plagued by the devastating impact of pests, notably the Maruca vitrata, which can cause significant yield losses if left unchecked". Baptiste said that to address the pest challenges, AATF and partners has developed PBR cowpea varieties engineered to resist the destructive effects of the pod borer, offering a sustainable solution to improve yields and enhance farmer livelihoods.

The Emir of Rano. He therefore solicited the support of the Emir in championing its adoption within the emirate saying that the crop has the potentials of improving the livelihood of farmers due to its prolific nature.

Dr Baptiste emphasized the role of the PBR Cowpea in reducing pesticide use, increasing yields, and improving food security for rural households.

He also noted that rigorous scientific research and regulatory processes was undertaken to

ensure the safety and efficacy of genetically modified crops, assuring the Emir of the integrity and reliability of PBR cowpea varieties.

In response, the Emir commended AATF for its dedication to advancing agricultural technologies that benefit smallholder farmers and rural communities.

He reiterated his commitment to supporting initiatives that promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance the resilience of local food systems. Moreover, the Emir pledged his full support for the promotion and adoption of PBR cowpea within the Rano Emirate.

Founded in 2003 to address Africa's food security prospects through agricultural technology, AATF believes that the agricultural sector is a key foundational pillar as Africa consolidates its economic growth and carves out its new position as a major global economic powerhouse and the next growth market in the world.

It was formed in response to the need for an effective mechanism that would facilitate and support negotiation for technology access and delivery and formation of appropriate partnerships to manage the development & deployment of innovative technologies for use by smallholder farmers in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA).



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police Arrests 9 Suspected Ritualists, Including 2 ABU Students

*Confess to murder of aged man

*Jerry can full with suspected human blood found on them

*Arms, fetish items found in their vehicle

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

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

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

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

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



Some of the nabbed suspected ritualists

full of human blood were recovered.

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

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

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

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

student of ABU Samaru.

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

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

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

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

*North Central records highest cases

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

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

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

Speaking at the National Human Rights Commission

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

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

Mr Ogbona maintained that domestic violence is

becoming too rampant in some part of the country with 471 cases recorded and that the non state actor and private actors have 32 and 36 respectively while 3 cases of violation of rights were recorded against disabled people.

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

period.

While maintaining that the 1,580 human rights violations were the entire figures recorded in the 36 states offices of the commission and Abuja, he expressed worry over the increasing cases of human rights violation, saying about 301 school children were abducted in Kaduna state alone while 40 people were killed in Benue state.

Mr Ogbona expressing dismay that rights to life was being violated in various ways and manner because four deaths were recorded in Nassarawa





COMMUNITY FOCUS

Aidogodo Development Community Decries Lack Of Cultural Values Among Youth



By: **ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi**

The president of Aidogodo Development Community, Comrade Joseph Ameh Onoja has identified lack of Cultural orientation and traditional values among youths as one of the reasons responsible for the high rate of social vices in the society.

Addressing delegates and other stakeholders to mark the 2024 Aidogodo Day and honouring two of their sons, Prof Innocent Ujah, OON Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo and Dr Ameh Idoko, MFR, observed that most of the younger generations lacks better understanding of their culture heritage and transitional values.

Comrade Onoja cited the younger generations of Idoma extraction who cannot even speak the Idoma language, "our children are not coming home, and they don't speak Idoma language. And the situation that they do not understand our culture and traditional values, the tendency is that, it may be wiped away in no distant time."

According to the Aidogodo Development Community leader, one of the ways to destroy the heritage of the people is to discourage it younger generations from learning their tradition, Culture and values over time, "being mindful of this snare therefore, we would continually celebrate our culture and heritage with honour and dignity".

"As we celebrate, it is good time to reflect

on our journey so far. You may be aware, the ADC has set up a committee (Education Submit) to equally tackle the menace of failing standard of education in the community. A Community that will think and act as one united, strong and virile community, with same purposeful goals to up lift our educational development".

While appealing to sons and daughters of Aidogodo to imbibe the culture of unity by forging a common front for development, he called on the people to be law abiding and report any suspecting movement or development to the law enforcement agencies.

As part of the activities to mark the yearly Aidogodo Day, two of their outstanding sons, Prof Innocent Ujah OON and Dr

Ame Idoko MFR were honoured for their contributions to the development of the community.

" We are honouring (2) two of our illustrious sons and recognizing some of our sons and friends as part of our tradition of giving honour to our sons and daughters who have remarkable impact in the sand of history."

In a telephone interview, Prof Innocent Ujah, the Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, said he was honoured by the good gesture of his Community by recognizing him and his elder professional colleague, Dr Ame Idoko MFR and promised that they we continue to their best to the community and humanity.

Catholic Diocese Of Ikot Ekpene @60: Senator Akpabio advocates Nurturing Of Next Generation By Church

**Unveils plans for future aspiration of the Church*

By; BAYOAKAMO, Ibadan

President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio on Saturday, advocated adequate nurturing of the next generation by the church.

Senator Akpabio stated this at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Ikot Ekpene,

The Senate President while unveiling his future plans aimed at promoting the next generation future aspirations of the church, stressed that this became necessary to ensure they are actively involved in the church's mission.

Exalting God for upholding the diocese since its inception and for constantly blessing the church. the Senate President expressed joy for the accomplishments of the diocese, highlighting the establishment and growth of numerous schools and organizations within the diocese.

Accompanied by his wife, Unoma, Senator Eteng Williams, the Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, among numerous others, Senator Akpabio commended the diocese for its achievements in the area of spreading the word of God.

"We have collectively achieved a lot. I

pray the Lord keeps all of us to continue winning more souls into the Catholic fold. I will like to see more young people in the church than elders, so we can be sure of a secure future for the church," he said.

He acknowledged the blessings bestowed upon the diocese over the past 60 years, highlighting specifically, his rise as an ambassador, who became the governor of the state, leading to significant transformations in Ikot Ekpene, including the creation of essential roads and now the number three citizen of Nigeria.

"We have brought a hospitality center called Four Points by Sheraton to Ikot Ekpene. Obong Ekperikpe Ekpo, the first minister of Gas Resources, from the area, also hails from the Diocese of Ikot Ekpene. This can only be God"

Speaking further, Senator Akpabio assured the congregation of his commitment to transforming lives and announced plans to invest in the Catholic Pastoral Training Centre, Nko in Obot Akara LGA.

"I will send engineers on Monday, to fence the whole place; no matter how large it is, we will ensure we do internal roads," he promised.

At the event graced by the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno,



L-R: President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, his wife, Unoma and the Catholic Bishop of Ikot Ekpene, His Lordship, Most Rev Dr Camillus Umoh, after the presentation of the award of Grand Ambassadors of Communion of Ikot Ekpene Diocese, on Saturday in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

represented by his deputy, Senator Akon Eyakenyi; the Minister of Gas Resources, Obong Ekperikpe Ekpo, among others award plaques was presented to the President of the Senate and his wife, Mrs Ekaette Unoma Akpabio.

National Youth Alliance Backs Okwori For PDP Women Leader

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna, Kaduna

Frontline group, the National Youth Alliance (NYA) has described the candidature of Benue born Honourable Ada Fredrick Okwori for the position of National Women Leader of the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) as a step in the right direction as her emergence would be a departure from the past, where older women are voted into the position. NYA expressed this in a

statement signed by SA Media to its National President, Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen in Kaduna on Monday April 8, 2024.

"Ada's decision to join the race for the PDP Women Leader is a welcome development. Unlike in the past where women above 60 always go for the position, we are backing a youth to clinch it this time.

"I have known Ada both inside the PDP and outside for some years

now and I believe she will make an excellent Women Leader," Ambassador Abbas was quoted in the statement.

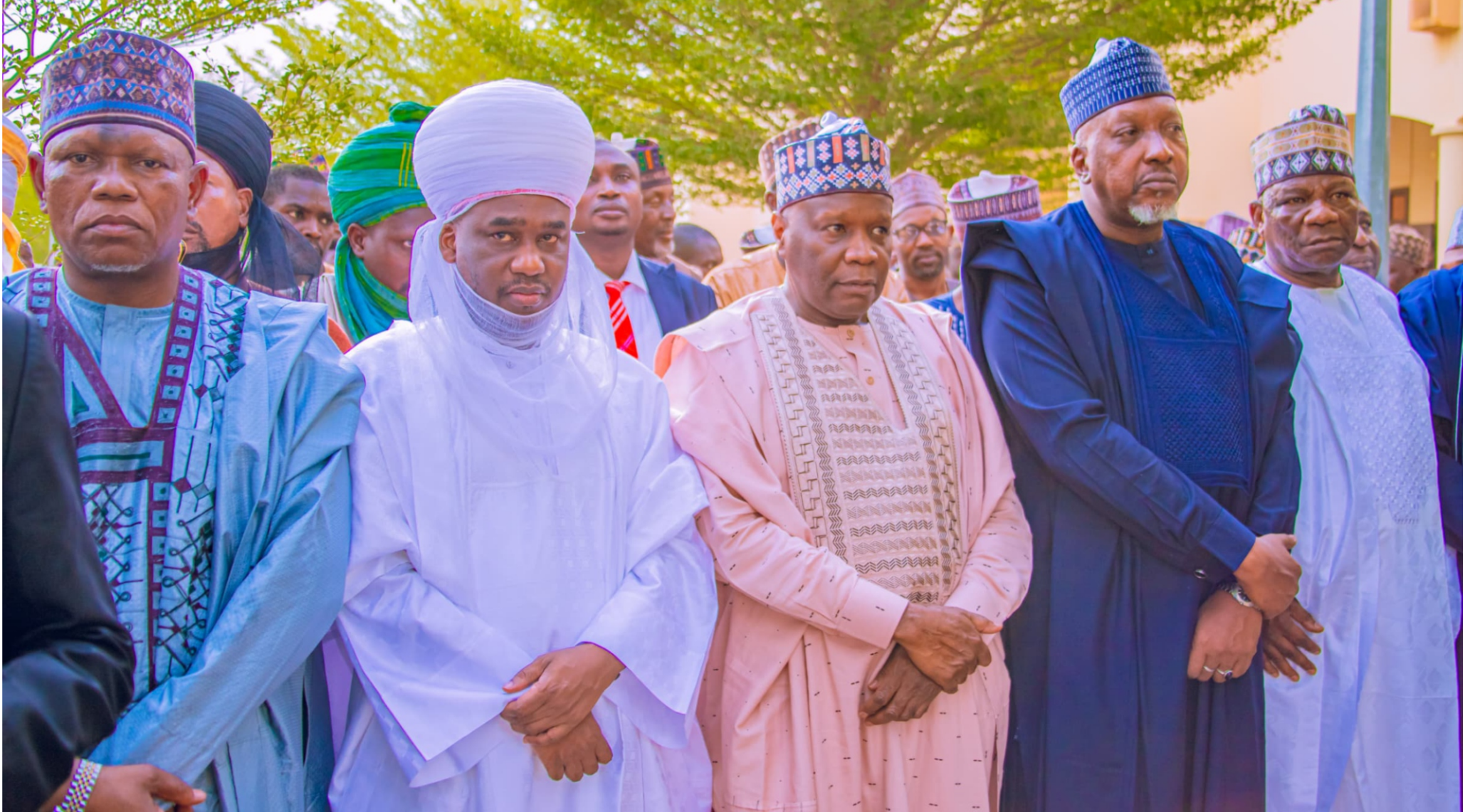
NYA therefore, tasked the PDP to use the election of Ada who is a youth, as its women leader to assure younger Nigerians that the party has them on mind.

"This is PDP's chance of wooing more youth to the party. Inclusiveness should be a priority at this time, ahead of the 2027 polls," the statement advised.



Hon Ada Fredrick Okwori

Gombe Governor, Emir Lead Hundreds Of Sympathizers At Funeral Prayer For Late Elder Statesman, Muhammadu Aliyu



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON, Kaduna

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has led top government functionaries, including his Deputy, Manassah Daniel Jatau to the funeral prayer of the late elder statesman, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu (Santurakin Yamaltu) who died on Sunday at the age of 94.

Emir of Gombe, Alhaji Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III, CFR, Emir of Nafada, Alhaji Muhammadu Dadum Hamza, family members, friends and associates of the bereaved were among hundreds of sympathizers who attended the Janazah held today at the Bubayero Mosque, Emir's Palace, Gombe.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya had earlier in a message of condolence to the family, described the late educationist as a distinguished public servant, highly respected father, community leader and elder statesman with a pedigree of

humility, integrity and hard work.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, dated Monday April 8, 2024, he said that the death of Alhaji Aliyu is a huge loss, not only for his immediate family but to the state and nation at large.

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

He urged the entire Muhammadu Aliyu's family to take

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

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

Born in 1930 in Gombe, Alhaji Muhammadu Aliyu left behind 10 children, including the Gombe State Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Alhaji Nasiru Muhammad Aliyu, mni (Magajin Garin Gwani), Major General Abdulrashid Muhammad Aliyu RTD (Sarkin Kudun Gombe); President of ZAVATI Group, Alhaji Abdulrahman Muhammad Aliyu (Majen Gombe), Alhaji Adamu Aliyu, Buhari Muhammadu Aliyu (Sarkin Bauran Gombe) among others.



Eid-il-Fitr: Katsina Governor Greets Muslims

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda of Katsina State has Felicitated Katsina Muslims on the joyous occasion of this year's Eid-il-Fitr festivity coming up tomorrow, Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Governor Dikko Radda said in a statement he signed and made available to newsmen in Katsina that, "I warmly greet the entire Muslims and people of Katsina State."

Governor Radda explained that, in the aftermath of the 2024 Ramadan fasting, "let us not forget the invaluable lessons of self-discipline, compassion, and spirituality that the last one month taught us."

"As we bid farewell to Ramadan, let us carry

forward its teachings of empathy, generosity, and kindness into our daily lives," he advised.

Accordingly, Governor Radda said "Let us strive to be better individuals, fostering unity and harmony within our communities."

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda urged People of the State to keep supporting his administration in its bid to change the narrative of Katsina State. pointing out that, "indeed, your unwavering support is crucial in our journey to achieving progress and prosperity for our beloved Katsina."

The governor noted that, "Together, let us work hand in hand to address the challenges facing our state and build a brighter future for generations to come."

He emphasized that, "Without any



Gov Dikko Radda

equivocation, I remain steadfast in my commitment to fulfilling my entire campaign promises and steering Katsina State towards the promised land of accelerated socio-

economic growth."

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda finally said, "let us all reiterate our pledge to contribute positively to the growth and development of our beloved state, as we celebrate this Eid."

Death Of Escort On Duty: Nigerian Railway Has Medics On Train - NRC Mgt

By; MATTHEW UKACHUNWA, Lagos

The Management of Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has said that the corporation has well trained medical practitioners and equipped medical cubicles who attend to any emergency health challenges of passengers on board its passenger trains.

NRC made the declaration in reaction to criticisms following the death of a Police Inspector aboard its Abuja-Kaduna train recently. The NRC management made the explanation in a statement titled: "We Have Medics On Our Train - NRC Sympathizes with Family of COP." which was issued on Tuesday.

In the document NRC said: "The Management's attention has been drawn to publication on various social and mainstream media on the non-availability of medical personnel on our passenger train which allegedly led to the inadequate attention

leading to the late Police Officer's death onboard Abuja-Kaduna passenger train.

"NRC Management wishes to emphatically inform the general public that we have well trained medical personnel and equipped medical cubicle to attend to any emergency health challenges of our esteemed passengers."

The Corporation disclosed that the medical officer on duty on the day the incident occurred was Mariam Abdulai who was assisted by "a good Samaritan medical practitioner that happened to be our passenger on board to revive the ailing cop but was in futility."

The management of Nigerian Railway Corporation expressed its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family of the late Police Inspector, Nambut Selbol, who was an escort on duty on the Abuja-Kaduna Train Service on that fateful day.

Rivers Police Crushes Criminal Kingpins

*CP Disu moves to end General 2man's reign

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Two notorious deadly cultists, said to be close allies of a cultist kingpin named ThankGod in Ogbologbo community of Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State have sustained fatal gunshot injuries in a gun duel with police operatives.

This is sequel to the efforts of the police at bringing an end to the reign of ThankGod popularly known as General 2man.

Our correspondent reliably learnt that the duo of the lieutenants identified as ThankGod Uchechi aka, 'Pastor SP,' second in command and Okpo Emenike, a.k.a Western King, his third-in-command, were fatally wounded in an operation on Monday 8th April, 2024, during an exchange of gun shots with Police Tactical Team. Several gang members were said to have escaped with gunshot injuries during the duel, while two loaded AK-47 rifles and eight magazines were recovered from them.

The Rivers State Police Command Spokesperson SP Grace Iringe-Koko, who made the disclosure in a release on

Monday, hinted that General 2man a escaped during the operation.

It reads" The Rivers State Police Command has taken another giant step in its ongoing onslaught against cultism and other related crimes in the state. Today, April 8, 2024, a team of police officers was deployed to the Ogbologbo community in Ahoada West Local Government Area to bring an end to the reign of terror of one Ikem ThankGod, popularly known as General 2man.

" General 2man, a close ally of the now neutralized 2Baba and General Odereke, was a terror in the Ahoada West Local Government Area and neighbouring Local Government Areas.

" Some of his nefarious activities include the shooting to death of Inspector Usang Ude on April 13, 2023. On March 5, 2024, he also murdered four persons, namely, Henry Kirirka, Patience Henry, Abigail Victor, and Chigozie Okpo. He also slaughtered one Samuel Philip without provocation. Last month, he buried several persons alive, including Christmas Ede and Agode Gamany.

" He has carried out a lot of kidnapping activities within and outside the Ahoada West Local Government Area. His catalogue of criminal activities also includes armed robbery and vandalism of valuable properties. He coordinates the deroofting of public buildings and the selling of the roofing sheets. He also constituted himself as an authority that approves social events within the Local Government Area. This has made him attack and disrupt weddings, burials, etc., which he did not approve of.

"During the operation, General 2man and his gang opened fire on the Police tactical team. Though he was able to evade arrest, his second-in-command, ThankGod Uchechi aka, 'Pastor



The gunned down kingpins

SP,' and his third-in-command, 'Western King' Okpo Emenike were fatally wounded.

"Several gang members escaped with gunshot injuries, and two loaded AK-47 rifles and eight magazines were recovered from the gang.

"Concerted efforts are in top gear to bring General 2man and his fleeing gang members to justice and put an end to his reign of terror."

Meanwhile, the Commissioner

of Police, Rivers State Police Command Tunji Disu while commending the tactical team for their efforts, reiterated his commitment to fighting crimes in the state.

He equally urged members of the public to feed the police with reliable information that could lead to the arrest of the fleeing suspects and other criminal elements in the State.

Islamic Welfare Foundation Advices Muslim Parents On Child Upbringing



By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin**

Muslim parents have received guidance on the vital task of nurturing their children in accordance with Islamic principles.

During the Annual Ramadan Weekend Classes organized by the Islamic Welfare Foundation (IWF) in Ilorin, Hajia Lateefah Aromaradu, a guest lecturer, emphasized the importance of embedding Islamic values in children from an early age.

She underscored the pivotal role of parents as the primary educators responsible for molding their children's spiritual and moral growth.

Hajia Lateefah stressed the necessity for parents to set an example by embodying Islamic virtues like compassion, honesty, and humility in their everyday conduct.

Earlier, Hajia Bilqees Oladimeji, the coordinator of the Islamic Welfare Foundation, elucidated that the program aimed to instill Islamic values in children.

She urged parents to collaborate with the foundation and fulfill their responsibilities when necessary.



Ramadan Tafsir: Governor Inuwa Yahaya Inspires Hope; Calls For Prayers, Resilience Amidst Current Economic Challenges

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON, has rallied the people of the state towards collective prayer, unity and resilience amidst prevailing economic challenges, assuring that the current difficulties are transient and that better days lie ahead.

According to a statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, the governor was speaking during the closing of Ramadan Tafsir at the Government House Mosque on Monday.

The session was led by the Mosque's chief Imam, Sheikh Zakariyya Ajiya.

Governor Inuwa urged the faithful to remain steadfast in their devotion and to channel their energies towards productive ventures, particularly as the wet season approaches.

While emphasizing the importance of agriculture in fostering economic

growth and food security, the Governor encouraged citizens to seize opportunities in farming.

He expressed confidence in the resilience of the people.

The Governor commended both the

presiding

cleric,

Sheikh

Ajiya and

the

congregants

for their

commitment

to

spiritual

enrichment

and

cohesion of

the

Ummah.

He also

used the

occasion to

acknowledge

the

generosity

of affluent

individuals

in the

society who have demonstrated empathy by extending support to the less privileged, emphasizing the importance of compassion and solidarity, particularly during times of hardship.

He noted that such gesture resonates with the essence of Ramadan, which encourages giving back and caring for those in need.

Governor prayed for a joyous Eid al-Fitr celebration in advance.



Foundation Trains Security, Traditional Stakeholders On Transitional Justice

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, a locally based non governmental organization has organized a one-day workshop in "End of Project Dissemination Event Strengthening Capacities and Will for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Borno State, Nigeria".

The security and non security actors stakeholders one-day workshop was held at Armani Event Centre, Abdulmumini Adisa Street, off Damboa Road, Maiduguri, Borno State on Monday

In her welcome address, Executive Director, Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Hajiya Hamsatu Allamin highlighted on the rationale behind the project, themed, "Strengthening Capacities and Will for Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Borno State, Nigeria" and organizing the workshop which was targeted at getting

feedbacks as responses and opinions from the security stakeholders and governments actors.

She added that the workshop is aimed at digesting the opinions of the leaders as community representatives and stakeholders who are more closer to their people and directly relate with their subjects.

The Executive Director urged the stakeholders to avail themselves of the aims and objectives of the workshop which is targeted at getting feed back as opinions and views from them in the charter of demands of the deradicalized women and girls who are widows, survivors and victims of the Boko Haram insurgency.

According to her, other issues, problems, challenges and needs of their people also need to be known with a view to impress on government to come out with government policies in the charter of demands of their subjects affected by the

insurgency living in their various communities.

The Project Facilitator who is also a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, Dr. Lawan Balami coordinated the activities of the workshop and explained extensively the need and reasons dissemination of learnings on the project should be carried out in forms of advocacy, enlightenment and mobilization with a view to educate the stakeholders and target groups the project aims and objectives

He said one of the major reasons why the End of Project Dissemination Event Theory of Change and Project Outcomes as well as activities Implemented and targets that have already been reached should be knowledgeable on happenings around them and what the Lessons Learned in the field could be shared and comprehended.

Goodwill messages, assurances and commitments were received from most of

the security officers and their representatives, district Heads and other government officials including the vigilante groups of CJTF and hunters.

The stakeholders called for synergy and cooperation between the security agencies in their areas with the traditional rulers in safeguarding lives and property of the citizenry while reiterating that commitment and support to peace building, reconciliation and reintegration. They further appreciated Allamin Foundation innovations and strategies of doing things and showing concern for the women and girl child especially victims and survivors of the insurgency, educating the children and victims and survivors of the conflict

Highpoint of the event included group photographs, PowerPoint presentation of Project Scenes and Testimonies from some beneficiaries among others



CSOs Network To Embark On Protest, Advocacy For FG To Return Electricity To Borno

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
The Network of Civil Society Organizations, Borno State (NECSOB), a coalition of both national and indigenous organizations working to promote the wellbeing of people in the state, has called on the federal government, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Transmission Companies of Nigeria (TCN) as a matter of priority and urgency, to return electricity supply to Borno State which has been in total blackout for almost a month now. NECSOB which also serves as the voice of the voiceless, advocates for social justice, and the forerunners promoting accountability and transparency; has called for the reversal of the increase in electricity bills which are mostly estimated meter bills nor reading meter bills called new tariff of almost 200% increase. The State Chairman, Network of Civil Society Organizations (NECSOB), Ambassador Bulama Abiso who stated

this yesterday at a press conference with journalists, held at Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Press Center Maiduguri further appealed to the Borno State Government and all other relevant stakeholders to support the reversal of this anti people policy, considering the current recovery status of the state; "We're also appealing to the Federal Government, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the Generation Companies (GENCO), Transmission Companies of Nigeria (TCN), the Borno State Government and all other relevant stakeholders to support the reversal of this anti people policy, considering the current recovery status of the state. "We also observed with dismay how the Yola Electricity Distribution Company (YEDC) distributes electricity bills for the months of February and March to households when there has been no power supply. "This concern is affecting every household on the estimated billing system

occasioned by abrupt disruption of free installation of the metering systems that ought to have been distributed but are now alleged to be sold at exorbitant prices. "Consequently, we are requesting that YEDC resumes the free distribution and installation of the metering system to every household in Borno State. We're equally calling on the YEDC to also enhance its distribution capacity to sufficiently meet the demands of the metropolis. "This is because we have observed in recent times that the consequences associated with the lack of power supply in the state includes: loss and dysfunctional state of small businesses and livelihood ventures, water scarcity across the state and has led to untold hardship faced by people in the revered month of Ramadan; "We however, acknowledge the efforts of the His Excellency the Executive Governor of the State Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum in intervening on the issue of restoring power in the state, But we

wish to call on all concerned stakeholders to rally around His Excellency to bring this lingering matter to the definite end. "Indeed, his comment has reawakened our hope and confidence that power will soon be restored back in the state," Abiso said. He also said that the network has planned to embark on advocacy visits to all the electricity stakeholders in the state and north east to ensure people's interest and wish are stained even it will warranted the network mobilizing other states of the north east region to carry out a match protest to the state abd national assemblies. Abiso noted however that the network will never relent in it's efforts and stand to ensure justice is done to the harrowing plight of Borno people especially at this period of Ramadan Fast and hot weather without electricity and water supply systems working while calling in the media to rally round the network to fight for the rights and justice of the people in the society through their social responsibility role.



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

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

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1	Handling for the first 40 copies	120,000.00	9,000.00	129,000.00
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3	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
4	Per 1000 Copies (Magazine)	80,000.00	6,000.00	86,000.00

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Special Position

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

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

Malagi's Ministerial Midas Touch

By: IBRAHEEM MUSA

Somehow, he took a French Leave but the satirist, as Ndaeyo Uko then was, rocked and ruled the media space in the 90s. Indeed, he was as prolific as he was proficient, sustaining 10 columns on the Daily Times stable. Naturally, he ruffled a few feathers and Chief Alex Akinyele, then Minister of Information, reined him in at a point. Uko, in one outing, had caricatured a government official, painting an inarticulate narcissist in a fictional interview with Mungo Park. Curiously, Akinyele saw himself in the text and Uko, with immediate effect, was sacked from the Daily Times.

However, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi, the current Minister of Information, is of a different cut from Akinyele. Truly, he is a man of sartorial excellence but Akinyele's direct opposite in information management. Now, briefings, press conferences and official engagements, are platforms for selling government policies and not vehicles for ego trips. Malagi, in his signature wit, delivers messages without histrionics or needless anecdotes. Besides, personal details like clothes designs, how long he takes to dress up and the cost of his apparels, are a no-no for the present Minister.

Likewise, he is not a polemist, a hectoring firebrand and an ideologue like Walter Ofonagoro, the gadfly of the Abacha era. Coarse, caustic and combative, Ofonagoro stood up to NADECO, in a Fire-For-Fire brick bats. However, Malagi is not of that mould but the Minister, with aplomb and panache, markets the Renewed Hope agenda, especially to get citizens' buy-in.

Above all, he is not given to blacklisting critics as wailers, unpatriotic elements and sundry labels. More so, the current Minister and his predecessor, in style and delivery, are poles apart in every material particular. Malagi, from his background, is an image maker and not a 'Geobbelian' propagandist who is adept at spinning and spewing alternate facts. Rather, he strives to win hearts and minds, persuade with facts as well as disarm with credible information.

Similarly, he is not an attack dog but



Alhaji Mohammed Idris

the chief image maker of the Bola Tinubu administration. However, in this regard, he provides the platform for fellow Ministers, who give insights on the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies under their watch. Malagi, more or less, is the conductor who mediates, calibrates and directs the choir, giving harmony in the orchestra of governance.

Indeed, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi, from the outset, had outlined his vision for the Ministry of Information at the senate screening last August. Prompt, credible and uninterrupted news flow from

government, according to him, will asphyxiate fake news. Mainly, rumour and fake news get oxygen from information black out, a vacuum that gives them life and the wings to travel far and wide. "Unless credible information is put out there," Malagi had counselled, "there will be room for rumours, misinformation, fake news and all kinds of things." Besides, information is key to transparency, accountability and moulding perception, he added.

Last August, Malagi provided a window to his leadership style and the matrix of assessment, after his inauguration as Minister. Specifically,

he pledged not to tell lies on behalf of the government. "As a Minister of Information and National Orientation, I have the duty of telling Nigerians the true picture of what transpired about the various programmes and projects of the administration in all sectors. Being truthful and effective as Minister of Information is essential to engender the trust of the people on various programmes and projects of the administration." So, far the Kakakin Nupe has not broken this covenant with the people.

Ibraheem Musa is a Public Affairs commentator based in Kaduna.

We'll Take Decisive Action Against Violators Of Laws, Order, Rivers Police Warns

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

Would be violators of laws and order in Rivers State have been warned to toe the path of peace or risk the full weight of the law.

The Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Tunji Disu who gave the warning, vowed that the command will not stand idle and allow any individual or group to disrupt the existing peace in the state under any guise or pretext.

In a statement by the Police Public Relations Officer SP Grace Iring-Koko on Sunday, the Command emphasised that it is firmly committed to upholding and enforcing all laws and orders within the state.

The statement, titled, "RIVERS POLICE SUE FOR PEACE ON THE BOILING POLITICAL ISSUES WITHIN THE STATE" reads, "The Rivers State Police Command is fully aware of the numerous political statements and sentiments that have been circulating within the state.

"In light of these developments, we would like to inform the general public and the esteemed people of Rivers State of

the following:

"The Nigeria Police Force is the statutory and constitutional authority entrusted with the responsibilities of enforcing laws and orders, as well as protecting lives and properties, among others.

"The Rivers State Police Command, as an integral part of the Nigeria Police Force, is firmly committed to upholding and enforcing all laws and orders within the state.

"The Command will not stand idle and allow any individual or group to disrupt the existing peace in the state under any guise or pretext.

"The Rivers State Police Command will not hesitate to take decisive action against any person or group of persons found to be in violation of the laws and orders of the state.

"Therefore, we implore members of the public to maintain peace and abide by the laws of the land. To those involved in the ongoing political unrest, we urge you to seek peaceful/lawful means to address your grievances."

The command however, assured of its neutrality and apolitical in all matters pertaining to the current political situation in the state.

IBEDC Dedicated To Providing Quality Service Even During Holidays - Management

**Warns against assault on staff, felicitates Muslims on Eid El Fitri.*

suspected act of vandalism.

"It is important that communities join us in the fight against vandalism to avoid being plunged into darkness even during this holiday", he said.

Engr Achife added, "IBEDC offices will remain open during public holidays from 9 am to 3 pm to address customer needs, and inquiries can also be made via email at customercare@ibedc.com".

Encouraging customers to

utilize IBEDC's hassle-free payment channels for bill settlements and vending to avoid disconnection, he said "the payment channels include the IBEDCPAY app for Android and iOS users, Fets Wallet Quickteller, Payarena, Jumia, Watu, Buypower, and ATM."

"IBEDC offices will remain open during public holidays from 9 am to 3 pm to address customer needs, and inquiries can also be made via email".

Delta Police, Right Activist Rescue Abandoned One Month Baby

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

The Police in Delta State on Monday, in Orerokpe Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer, CSP Paul Oboware rescued a month old baby boy who was abandoned by the mother in Osubi

Community, Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State.

New Nigerian Newspapers learnt that the police and a human rights activist, Comrade Kelvin Ejumudo rescued the baby after an aged woman who saw the baby, raised alarm. The baby was promptly

handed over to the police, according to Comrade Ejumudo who said, "It's worrisome what could have led to this scenario where one would abandon a child, not thinking about the safety and the welfare."

When contacted for confirmation, the State

Police Public Relations Officer, SP Bright Efade confirmed the report in a text message he sent to New Nigerian Correspondent in Asaba on Monday evening. His message read thus, "Confirmed but not rescued by the activist pls".



Cultural display by the Ham people of Jaba LG of Kaduna State

Reverse Removal Of Rector, ASUP Benue State Polytechnic Chapter Begs Gov Alia

By; ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Benue State Polytechnic Ugbokolo Chapter and the Concerned Idoma Senior Staff Association of the institution have appealed to Governor Hyacinth Alia to reverse the recent removal of Dr. Nathaniel Oche as the Rector of the polytechnic.

Dr. Oche who was appointed Rector of the institution in May 25, 2023 for a five-year tenure, was recently removed from office by the present administration. Addressing newsmen in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, the Chairman of ASUP Benue Polytechnic Chapter, Comrade David Owuna recalled how the institution was run in acting capacity for 18 months contrary to the provisions of the law, before the appointment of Dr. Oche, the first indigenous Rector of the institution last May.

The union maintained that Dr. Oche has done exceptionally well within the short period he ran the institution and has taken right decisions and made appropriate appointments that created industrial harmony in the institution, hence the resolve of the union to call for the reversal of his sack.

The union noted that, "in his brief stay in office so far as the Rector of the polytechnic, Dr. Oche has succeeded in bringing about relative peace both within and outside the campus.

"He has also been very liberal in the appointments of staff, a situation that had eluded the polytechnic for about two decades.

"His coming as Rector has greatly unified staff of the school with respect to harmonious working relationship; and with these, a new phase of relative developments is gradually being entrenched in the polytechnic, only now to hear of his removal from office tied to the report of a

visitation panel believed to be false."

The union also expressed surprise that the appointments of deputy rectors, administration and academics and other appointments made by the rector that were denied the polytechnic in the past were also reversed by the Commissioner of Education for unexplained reasons.

"This therefore, is the crux of the matter, and it is totally unacceptable to members. In view of the above, and given that if there was any misdeeds by the Rector he has not been given any fair hearing; the union hereby appeal to the governor and the visitor to the polytechnic to kindly re-consider his decision concerning the removal of Dr. Nathaniel Oche as the Rector of Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo for industrial harmony and peaceful coexistence."

Also, the Concerned Idoma Senior Staff Association of the institution at the briefing through its Chairman,

Jude Eza noted that the Rector was appointed legally but "the termination of his appointment did not follow due process since he was not given fair hearing in line with part XI, section 45 of the Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo Law Cap 160 of Benue State, 2004.

"The visitation panel was set up by the state government to look at affairs of the Polytechnic from the year 2016-2023, the period within which the Rector was barely three months in office. And so when was the Panel report submitted and white paper released to warrant the recommendation to terminate the Rector's appointment."

The association appealed to the Governor and Visitor of the Polytechnic to "kindly reverse the termination of the appointment of the Rector for the continuous smooth running of the Polytechnic."

Ali Chiroma: Leading Labour Under Rampaging Military Regimes

By Owei Lakemfa

The year 1984 was quite a trying one for the country. The military, which had five years before handed over power to civilian leaders, had returned like a badly treated Military Tuberculosis. It was on rampage, smashing all other powers in the country. To deal with the press, the regime, led by the duo of Generals Muhammadu Buhari and Tunde Idiagbon, issued Decree 4 of 1984 under which falsehood and truth were punishable offences.

It adopted terror as state policy. For instance, it introduced a War Against Indiscipline (WAI) campaign in which Nigerians were given corporal punishment on the streets not based on any investigation or trial, but the whims and caprices of soldiers and security agents. Student unions were smashed and some of their leaders like Lanre Arogundade, then President of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) were abducted on the streets.

In leading the opposition to SAP, Chiroma said it is like a Kanuri proverb which says: "If you dig a hole to fill a hole, you have one more hole to fill." In other words, that is a fruitless and destructive endeavour. He was right. Today, 38 years later, Nigeria is still suffering from the cancerous radiation effects of the IMF-imposed programmes. The IMF was actually a quack doctor administering the same drugs on all patients irrespective of their ailments.

Also, retroactive decrees carrying the death penalty on cases like drug trafficking, were enacted and executed. Nigeria was in a war declared by the military Generals on the populace. However, the regime found the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) a formidable foe and tried various means of conquering it. It saw the 1984 NLC election as an opportunity to take over the Congress. But the leading candidate was a stubborn radical, John Enas Dubre. So, pro-state unionists got a court injunction disqualifying him. But rather than allow state agents to take over the Congress, the radical unions swung support to an honest and obstinate Ali Chiroma. He won the election.

Chiroma's non-radical posture, his being the Principal, School of Health Technology, Maiduguri, and his quiet disposition, seemed to have suited the regime. But the country was in for a shock as he came out fighting, boldly leading workers and refusing to back down.

The Chiroma leadership demanded that the regime stopped its mindless mass retrenchment of workers and, delayed payment of salaries. It rejected the ban on strikes insisting that workers have a fundamental right to work or refuse to

work. It defended the student movement and rejected the ban on cafeteria system. It sided with the press against the regime. Chiroma publicly demonstrated this by personally attending sessions of the Decree 4 trials of the 'Guardian Newspaper' journalists, Nduka Irabor and Tunde Thompson.

The nation heaved a sigh of relief when a palace coup on August 27, 1985 swept away the Buhari-Idiagbon dictatorship. Although the new leadership of General Ibrahim Babangida was more subtle, it turned out to be deadlier. When the regime tilted towards taking an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan and its enslaving conditionality, the NLC, under Chiroma, led the populace against it.

Babangida publicly announced the IMF rejection by the overwhelming majority of Nigerians in his December 13, 1985 broadcast. However, the regime went on to take the loan and implement the IMF dictates as the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). Chiroma led labour to reject it and refused to back down even when the regime decreed that as far as SAP goes, There Is No Alternative (TINA).

Back in 1986, the military regime accused Chiroma of trying to overthrow it. This followed the Friday, May 23, 1986 massacre of students and other citizens at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The regime established a panel of inquiry headed by Major General Emmanuel Abisoye and, appointed the NLC into the panel. But the Chiroma leadership rejected the appointment, insisting that arrested students must first be released and that those directly responsible for the killings should be suspended from office.

The regime also made opposition to SAP a crime. Chiroma rejected this, fought against privatisation and the increases in prices of petroleum products. For these, he and labour leaders like Dr Lasisi Osunde were detained without trial.

In leading the opposition to SAP, Chiroma said it is like a Kanuri proverb which says: "If you dig a hole to fill a hole, you have one more hole to fill." In other words, that is a fruitless and destructive endeavour. He was right. Today, 38 years later, Nigeria is still suffering from the cancerous radiation effects of the IMF-imposed programmes. The IMF was actually a quack doctor administering the same drugs on all patients irrespective of their ailments.



In 2015, in its quarterly magazine 'Finance and Development' the institution apologised, saying: "The IMF is unconditionally saying sorry for its dogged insistence, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s that countries' capital accounts needed to be liberalized... We now know that much of that research was useless- no more useful than the types of studies that say homeopathy works... The other culpa is the insistence on austerity." So, perceptive leaders with common sense like Chiroma were right, and their tormentors were wrong. Yet, Babangida has not apologised for ruining Nigeria with SAP and, the useless but highly toxic austerity measures. Another arena of confrontation between the Chiroma leadership and the regime was over draconian labour laws, especially those that prescribed life sentence or death penalty for striking workers. This was threatened against striking National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) members in May 1986, and later, used in sentencing 11 electricity workers for going on strike from October 5-8, 1988.

When Chiroma sought re-election at the 1988 NLC Conference in Benin, the Babangida regime decided to stop him. First, it paid up all the outstanding NLC affiliation fees owed by the pro-government 'Democrat' unions in order to shore up their votes. When it realised that even this will not give it victory, the regime's preferred candidate, Takai Shamang, and his group, boycotted the NLC Conference but declared themselves elected.

Back in 1986, the military regime accused Chiroma of trying to overthrow it. This followed the Friday, May 23, 1986 massacre of students and other citizens at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The regime established a panel of inquiry headed by Major General Emmanuel Abisoye and, appointed the NLC into the panel. But the Chiroma leadership rejected the appointment,

insisting that arrested students must first be released and that those directly responsible for the killings should be suspended from office.

The NLC then mobilised the public for a Day of National Mourning slated for June 4, 1986. The regime banned the NLC demonstration. Its propagandists claimed the date was an attempt to replicate the June 4, 1979 Rawlings coup in Ghana.

Chiroma responded that the regime's mobilisation "is an all-out war, by land, sea and air, against unarmed workers". On the eve of the protests, Chiroma, his lieutenants and many activists were seized and detained nationwide. The NLC headquarters and its offices in the states were occupied by armed security men with the army deployed on the streets of Lagos and Kano.

When Chiroma sought re-election at the 1988 NLC Conference in Benin, the Babangida regime decided to stop him. First, it paid up all the outstanding NLC affiliation fees owed by the pro-government 'Democrat' unions in order to shore up their votes. When it realised that even this will not give it victory, the regime's preferred candidate, Takai Shamang, and his group, boycotted the NLC Conference but declared themselves elected.

When Chiroma was re-elected, Babangida immediately issued a decree removing his leadership and imposing an employer, Michael Ogunkoya, as NLC Sole Administrator. When the regime ordered Chiroma to handover to Ogunkoya, he, uncharacteristically, did not consult his comrades before doing so. There was also the issue whether it was appropriate for him to have accepted to be the Sole Administrator of NUPENG after General Sani Abacha banned its leadership.

Over the years, Chiroma continued to side with the populace until his departure on Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Falcons Qualify For 2024 Olympics



By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Nigeria's Super Falcons have picked one of Africa's ticket for the Paris Olympics Games with a 1-0 aggregate despite a 0-0 draw against WAFCON defending champions, South Africa's Banyana Banyana in Pretoria, South Africa.

Desiree Ellis's team who struggled to create chances against the number-one-ranked women's team on the continent in the first leg in Abuja couldn't find their

rhythm despite playing at home in the second leg this Tuesday.

The Randy Waldrum led Super Falcons took charge of the second leg in Pretoria, having confidence of their 1-0 aggregate lead from team captain Rasheedat Ajibade's penalty in the first leg.

Coach Randy Waldrum said, now the focus is to intensify preparation for the Olympics proper in mid-year in Paris, France.

The pair of highly experienced Halimatu

Ayinde and fresh blood Deborah Abiodun continued their midfield marshalling where they paused from the first leg in Abuja.

Halimatu Ayinde who plays for FC Rosengard said, this a dream come through despite representing the country on different competition at all levels except the Olympics, noted that this can only be God.

"It has always been my biggest dream to play at the Olympics for my country and now I can only say, thank God Almighty

for this opportunity. This is indeed a fulfilled career," she added.

Ayinde described Deborah Abiodun, as a great talent and a long term asset for the team. "Playing alongside Deborah reminds me of my early days with the Super Falcons," she recalled.

Nigeria's Super Falcons would now join world champions, Spain, Brazil and Japan in Group C.

The Olympics is scheduled for July and August in Paris.

Eid-el-Fitr: Zamfara Governor Felicitates Muslims, Urges More Prayers For Peace

By ; I M R A N A ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

Governor Dauda Lawal has felicitated the Muslim community on Eid el-Fitr and urged prayers for peace in Zamfara and across Nigeria.

A statement by the governor's spokesperson, Sulaiman Bala Idris, said that the holy month of Ramadan provided an opportunity to pray and seek divine intervention for the country's security situation.

The statement added that the Muslim community should continue to practice the lessons learnt during Ramadan even after the month has ended.

The statement read in parts: "Eid el-Fitr is a time of great joy, as it represents the successful completion of the fasting period and spiritual reflection in the holy month of Ramadan.

"On Eid, Muslims express gratitude for the health and opportunities Allah has given them to fulfil their obligation of fasting.

"We should use this festive period to promote peace and harmony.

"To address Nigeria's security challenges, we must watch out for each other, remain steadfast in our prayers, and support the government's efforts to end all vices and criminalities.

"I congratulate all Muslim communities in Zamfara, Nigeria, and around the world. May we celebrate many more Eids in good health."



Gov Dauda Lawal

Kaduna To Host 2024 President Beach Volleyball Cup

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

All is set for the 5th edition of the President Beach Volleyball Cup billed to hold from 12th to 21st April, 2024 at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium (ABS) in Kaduna state.

According to the Technical Representative of Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Chief Martin Melandi, the President Beach Volleyball Cup will be the first official beach volleyball programme of the year.

Melandi revealed that the success of the women's team at the 13th African Games in Ghana has consolidated the efforts of the current board led by Engineer Musa Nimrod in transforming the game in Nigeria.

The former International Referee said the President Cup will help prepare the athletes for a series of International Championships coming up later in the year including the Olympics Qualifiers. He said, "The President Beach Cup is coming late due to the African Games in March. The Federation had a series of camps after the 3rd phase of the 2023 Nigeria Beach Volleyball Tour and before the Federal Ministry of Sports Development called for their general camp.

"The President Cup has provided a platform for junior and senior players to play against themselves as well as

create an avenue for mentorship.

"This year is going to be busy because we have a series of international championships including the African U17 and U21 Championships, the African Senior Beach Volleyball Championships and most importantly the Paris 2024 Olympics Qualifiers.

"We narrowly missed the Olympics in 2016 and 2020 where we finished second position. The Federation is going to deploy everything within its powers to create an enabling environment for the athletes to train including training tours within Sub Saharan Africa.

"The Nigeria Beach Volleyball Commission is excited because the country won a bronze medal at the 13th African Games after nine years. The set of players are still young and we believe they will also make the country proud when they reach the zenith".

Melandi said the Nigeria Volleyball Federation will continue to be a role model for other countries in the region.

"Nigeria has dominated West Africa in the junior and senior categories; and it is evident at the 13th African Games in Ghana. We are the big brother of other nations and Nigeria is not going to back down in discovering more beach volleyball players who will rule Africa", he added.



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Volleyball Cup**

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Gov AbdulRazaq Bids Kwarans Blessed Eid-ul-Fitri

By BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq heartily rejoices with the Muslim community on the occasion of the Eid-el-Fitr, which marks the end of the Ramadan fast.

The governor congratulated the leader of the faithful in Kwara, Emir of Ilorin, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari on the successful completion of the fasting period. He asked the Muslim

community to make the noble activities of the holy month — including alms giving, abstinence from negativities, and good conducts — an integral feature of their daily lives.

Governor AbdulRazaq urged the community to unite upon goodness and avoid anything that may eat away the rewards of their fast or question their sincerity as devotees.

He asked Allaah to grant everyone a blessed Eid and better years ahead in the best state of faith (eeman).



Governor AbdulRazaq

IBEDC Dedicated To Providing Quality Service Even During Holidays - Management

**Warns against assault on staff, felicitates Muslims on Eid El Fitri.*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Management of Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) Plc yesterday, said that it is dedicated to providing quality service, within the remit of its control, even during holidays.

IBEDC Managing Director, Engr. Kingsley Achife made this known in a message to felicitate Muslims and all Nigerians at this year's Eid-El-Fitri. Engr Achife in the statement, assured customers that IBEDC technical teams are committed to promptly resolving any faults that may occur during this

period.

The Managing Director while appealing to its customers to stop assaulting IBEDC staff emphasized that, "it is a criminal offence that can attract jail terms" and that customers should report complaints to IBEDC offices or call the customer care line at 07001239999 instead of resorting to violence.

Cautioning against tampering with electrical installations, which can lead to electrical accidents, the IBEDC advised communities to watch over their electrical installations and report any

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Governor Yusuf Rejoices With African Business Mogul, Alh. Aliko Dangote @67

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf has rejoiced with African richest Man and President Dangote Conglomerate, Alh. Aliko Dangote on the occasion of his 67th anniversary.

Governor Yusuf, described Alh. Dangote as illustrious son of Kano, whose philanthropic gesture breeds live and livelihood to millions of households in Nigeria and the entire Africa continent.

In a statement by Sanusi Bature Dawakin-Tofa, Director General, Media and Publicity, Government House, the governor said Dangote remains a strong backbone to the Nation's economy and critical strength to growth and development of Africa.

"Kano, your ancestral home would remain grateful for your humanitarian gesture especially the recent distribution of palliatives to millions of less privileged passing through the present economic reality.

"Prior to that, you have channelled support to several sectors in Kano. Essentially, your magnanimous contribution to eradicate the deadly polio myelitis, COVID 19 pandemic and malnutrition has saved many innocent lives.

"Your readiness to partner and support our administration's policy drive will surely propel profoundly social and economic development of the state.

"As you clock a new era in the annal of history, we can only wish you sound health, profound wisdom, and long life to propel positive impact on humanity". Gov. Yusuf said.



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