

# New NIGERIAN

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- Say he is a draconian leader
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*The Ardos at their meeting in Abuja*

By: TOM GARBA, Yola

**D**uring their zonal and national consultative meeting held yesterday at the NICON Luxury Hotel Abuja, over 33,360 Ardos who are the traditional and spiritual leaders of the specific Fulbe communities in Nigeria, have lamented how the current government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is on a wide

rampage of ethnic profiling of many Nigerian tribes, groups, and individuals.

The Ardos said the Fulbe are the worst, receiving the brunt of ethnic profiling in the current regime through the draconian policies and anti-people decisions of the current Minister of FCT, Barr Nyesome Wike is unleashing.

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# Our Successes, Warning Signal To Drug Cartels, Kingpin - NDLEA Boss Marwa

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) has said that the arrest of 50,901 drug offenders, inclusive of 46 barons and the successful prosecution and conviction of 9,034 of them as well as the seizure of over 7,561 tonnes of illicit substances in the past 38 months has sent the right message to drug cartels and their kingpins that Nigeria won't tolerate their criminal activities.

Marwa stated this in Lagos on Monday 15th April 2024 in his remarks at the commissioning and handing over ceremony of an operational facility built and donated to NDLEA by the British government

While commending the donor for the generous support, Marwa stressed that it will further boost the capability of the anti-narcotic agency in tackling the menace of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in Nigeria.

This was contained in a release by the Director, Media & Advocacy of the Agency Mr. Femi Babafemi made available to journalists on Monday.

According to the NDLEA Boss, "We gather here not just to commission a new building complex but to celebrate a significant milestone in our ongoing fight against the scourge of licit and illicit drug trafficking. Today, we commission the newly acquired building, a project made possible through the generous support of the British Government.

"I must begin by expressing our deepest gratitude to the British Government, for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to our cause. From the onset of our collaboration, the UK has been a steadfast ally in our relentless pursuit to neutralise transnational organised criminal activities, particularly in the realm of illicit drug production and trafficking.

"This building complex stands not only as a physical structure but as a symbol of the enduring partnership between our two nations in the global fight against drug trafficking. It represents the culmination of years of cooperation, mutual trust, and shared determination to combat one of the most pressing threats to our societies.

"The significance of this project cannot be overstated. It will serve as a vital hub for data analysis and strategic planning in our efforts to disrupt drug trafficking networks and apprehend those responsible. With state-of-the-art facilities and technology at our disposal, we are better equipped than ever before to tackle this complex and ever-evolving challenge head-on.

"But beyond the bricks and mortar, this building complex embodies the spirit of collaboration and solidarity that defines our partnership with the British Government. It is a testament to what can be achieved when nations come together with a shared purpose and a shared commitment to making our world a safer place for all.

"As an agency, NDLEA has undergone a tremendous reformation, with its metamorphosis catalysed by partners like the UK. Our operations have undergone substantial reforms, resulting in remarkable achievements within the last three years.

"During this period, the NDLEA achieved significant milestones in its mission to combat drug trafficking and abuse. With a total of 50,901 arrests, including the apprehension of 46 drug barons, our agency has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to bringing those involved in illicit drug activities to justice. Furthermore, the conviction of 9,034 offenders underscores our relentless pursuit of accountability and deterrence in the fight against drug-related crimes.

"Our seizure of 7,560,748.5 kilograms



Buba Marwa speaking at the event

(7,561 tonnes) not only disrupts the flow of illegal drugs but also serves as a significant blow to the criminal networks responsible for their distribution. We have taken decisive action against illicit drug crop cultivation with our search-and-destroy campaign against cannabis plantations which have led to the destruction of 1,057.33348 hectares of cannabis farms in the past three years."

While acknowledging officials of the British government that facilitated the realisation of the project especially Mr. Dave Carter, the NDLEA boss called for the strengthening of the partnership between Nigeria and the UK.

"As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter in our partnership, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to intensifying the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime. Let us continue to work hand in hand, across borders and boundaries, to disrupt criminal networks, intercept illegal drugs, and bring to justice those who seek to profit from the illicit drug trade."

Marwa stated that though so much has been achieved under his leadership of the agency, the battle against illicit drugs is

far from over. "Let us redouble our efforts, with renewed vigour and determination, as we strive to build a safer, more secure future for generations to come", he charged.

Speaking at the ceremony, British Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria, Jonny Baxter assured of continued support to NDLEA and Nigeria. According to him, "We, the UK government are delighted to have this long-standing relationship with the NDLEA and I'm in particular delighted to have been personally in a number of activities especially your maritime. This building makes a whole set of different actors and capabilities to address any criminal activity.

"We're delighted to continue our support for the NDLEA and the Nigerian government to tackle what is sadly a global industry, which needs a global response. I'll like to join the chairman in affirming our continued support, our continued cooperation and indeed our continued pride in working together with ladies and gentlemen of this agency, the NDLEA."



Pa Sunday Solomon Aleshinloye

## Prof Gwarzo Mourns Pa Sunday Solomon Aleshinloye

By; IMRANA ABDULLAHI, Kaduna

The Founder and President of MAAUN Group of Universities, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo has expressed deep shock over the passing of Pa Sunday Solomon Aleshinloye.

Late Pa Alesh as he was fondly called, passed away at the age of 80 in his hometown, Ilesha, Osun State. The condolence message was contained in a statement personally signed by Prof. Gwarzo and made available to newsmen in Kano on Monday.

Prof. Gwarzo described the death of

Pa Alesh as a great loss not only to his immediate family, but to the entire Ilesha community.

He also described the deceased as humble, kind hearted and devoted Christian who had respect for all people he came across with.

"On behalf of myself and the Management of MAAUN Group of Universities, I wish to extend our condolences to his wife, children as well as relatives and friends of the deceased.

"The Management of the universities wishes to also commiserate with Mrs. Folashade Olanike Tijani, the wife of Professor

Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani over the demise of Pa Alesh," Prof. Gwarzo said.

He prayed that the deceased's family will have the emotional courage to bear the huge loss.

The deceased who was a pioneer road safety volunteer Marshall in the then Oyo State, was also a design and paint architectural master as well as a businessman.

Late Pa Alesh who left behind one wife and four children, including Mrs Folashade Olanike Tijani, the wife of Prof. Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani would be buried on May 11th at his house in Ilesha, Osun State.

# Put Your House In Order Before Attacking Tinubu, Arewa Group Tells Northern Elders

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Following a recent "regret" comment against President Bola Tinubu credited to the Northern Elders Forum (NEF), Arewa Progressive Forum (APFO) on Monday, told the said elders to first put their house (North) in order before pointing accusing fingers.

NEF had in a media report, claimed to have regretted its decision to vote for President Bola Tinubu in the 2023 elections, with a threat that the North had learned its lesson over heightened security challenges under the Tinubu-led administration.

National Secretary of the forum, Magaji Abbas Danbatta in a statement on Monday regretted that the recent outbursts of the Elders forum did not represent the Northern agenda for peace and national unity of the country which is not negotiable.

To Danbatta, it was an error for any group or political association to come out openly and announce their regret over



President Tinubu

majority decisions, warning that northern elders are derailing from their counseling and advisory role to the government on national issues as it affects the region.

The group further supported Minister of State Defense, Bello Mohammed Matawalle over his mature response to the NEF outbursts against President Tinubu, saying, the people

behind the claim were more interested in personal gains than the unity and survival of Nigeria.

"We wholeheartedly endorsed the reactions of Minister of State Defense, Bello Mohammed Matawalle to some members of this group. They are not in tune with the current reality in the North.

"Northern elders should be seen as mediators or opinion shapers on national unity, cohesion, and progress without regional bias. This is key because Nigeria's unity can't be negotiated on the page of newspapers.

"The same elders that ignored and failed to unite some of our political gladiators that are fighting one another in Kano, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kaduna States are talking about the region being abandoned to its plights", he queried.

"Where were they when Zamfara Governor, Dauda Lawal was attacking his predecessor Bello Mohammed Matawalle over issues that could have been amicably resolved? The same with Umar Ganduje and Rabi'u

Kwankwaso or Aliyu Wamakko and Bafarawa before going into a fight with Aminu Waziri Tambuwal?

"In Kaduna, there is brewing misunderstanding between Governor Uba Sani and his predecessor Nasir El-Rufai. All the Northern elders cared about was President Tinubu.

"We are concerned that, the northern elders have one of their members as an adviser on political matters to the Vice President, the person of Dr. Hakeem Baba-Ahmed who could have facilitated a meeting with who and who in the seat of power to discuss issues affecting the region or the country in general rather than rushing to the press.

The forum however, noted and commended the joint and unrelenting efforts of the National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, and Minister of State (Defence), Bello Muhammad Matawalle whose proactive measures have helped improve security in the Northern region.

# Police Parades 21 Yoruba Nation Agitators, Displays Recovered Arms, Ammunition

By: BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Oyo State Police Command on Monday paraded the 21 Yoruba Nation agitators arrested on Saturday during their invasion of Oyo State Government Secretariat to forcefully take over the secretariat.

The Commissioner of Police, CP Adebola Hamzat at a press briefing at Oyo state Police headquarters, Eleyele said the Nigeria Police is committed to ensuring continued united corporate existence of Nigeria as a country.

CP Hamzat said the arrested 20 males and one female are now in the custody of the state Police command in connection with the invasion of the Oyo state Government Secretariat last Saturday.

Re-assuring the people of Oyo State that the command remains solidly unwavering to the protection of their lives and property as constitutionally required by the laws of the land declared that the invasion act was "criminal, unpatriotic and a clear case of treasonable felony and terrorism to be meted with adequate sanctions through purposeful prosecutions,

"The continued existence of Nigeria as a sovereign indivisible entity is a task that must be accomplished. The labor of our heroes past shall never be in vain. Oyo State Police Command will be unrelenting in ensuring the continued united corporate existence of Nigeria as a country", he said

CP Hamzat added, "On Saturday, 13/04/2024 at about 0855hrs, information was received that some men dressed in military-like camouflage, armed with pump action semi-automatic rifles, riding on motorcycles, were sighted moving into the main city from Olomi axis of Ibadan".

"At about 0915hrs, the hoodlums later known as Yoruba Nation Agitation Group were trailed to the State Secretariat, spreading from the Flyover to within the Premises of the Governor's Office, and hoisted their Flag at the House of Assembly, proclaiming the creation of a "democratic republic of the Yoruba."

CP Hamzat stressed "With Police re-inforcement, the miscreants were warned to disband. The agitators turned violent and opened fire on the Police and a detachment of Amotekun corps present. The Police responded and were joined by Operation Burst Patrol teams and Personnel of other security agencies who suppressed the treason and dealt with the agitators in line with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)"

"A Total of (21) Twenty-One Suspects were arrested, (7) Seven rifles made up of



Some of the arrested Yoruba Nation Agitators at Oyo Police command headquarters in Ibadan

(5) Five English Pump Action semi-automatic rifles, (2) Two Wooden double barreled guns and other items of exhibits as displayed, were recovered.

CP Hamzat then charged Parents, Guardians and leaders in every sphere of political, religious and socio-economic influence to prevail on their children, ward, protégés and followers against being used by unpatriotic individuals to promote anarchy in the State and by extension, Nation.

While warning criminally minded people

to stay away from Oyo state, he said "Oyo State is home to many responsible, hospitable and extremely intelligent individuals who pride themselves with creativity, hard-work and resourcefulness",

"Under my watch, it would not be reduced to a playground for the criminally minded and obviously misguided individuals or group who intend making their livelihood from distorting the relative tranquility enjoyed by the good people of the state.

## Shila Criminal Group: Fintiri Warns Parents, Community Leaders To Caution Wards

*\*Vows to deal with those harbouring such criminals -Vows*

By; **TINA PHINEAS, Yola**

Concerned over the rising activities of Shila boys gang, Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State has issued a stern warning to parents and community leaders to call their children to order as the state has taken drastic measures against those who engage in criminal activities.

Fintiri, who gave the warning during a press briefing, said, "We are warning parents across the state to control their children and stop them from associating or engaging themselves with the criminal Shila Gang."

Governor Fintiri who was represented by his deputy, Professor Kaletapwa Farauta said, "We have noticed a sharp increase in Shila Boy criminal activities in the state. Such activities have robbed unsuspecting law-abiding

citizens of their valuable possession and in some instances, their lives.

Fintiri also urged parents and relevant stakeholders to stop shielding children who are members of Shila from arrest.

He disclosed that the government cannot fold its hands and watch the group drag the state into a state of lawlessness.

"Since they have chosen a life of crime, they should be ready to face the wrath of the law", he stated.

The governor maintained that any parent or community harbouring members of Shila gang will be seriously dealt with.

New Nigerian reports that the criminal activities of Shila boys group is like a cancer to the state.

The gang attack, injure unsuspecting residents with dangerous weapons, and cart away their valuables.

## Ilana Omo Oodua Disowns Yoruba Nation Agitators Militia Says They Are 'Hoodlums'

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

The apex body of the Yoruba self-determination group, Ilana Omo Oodua Worldwide yesterday, said Yoruba Nation Agitators that attacked Oyo State Government Secretariat last Saturday are 'hoodlums' trying to hide under the foliage of the association.

Ilana Omo Oodua in a statement titled, 'Important disclaimer,' signed by Yemi Akindele, General Secretary also disowned arrested members of the Yoruba Nation agitators.

According to the apex body of the Yoruba self-determination group, the attack by the impostors was needless and uncalled for.

"The attention of ILANA OMO OODUA Worldwide has been drawn to the unfortunate incident of a needless attack on the Oyo State House of Assembly by hoodlums disguised as Yoruba Nation agitators on the 13th of April, 2024", it said.

Ilana Omo Oodua added, "The entire membership of ILANA OMO OODUA Worldwide, the umbrella body representing all agitating groups under the leadership of the founder and chairman, Prof. Emeritus Banji Akintoye, hereby

denies any knowledge of such individuals and wishes to inform the public that the attackers are not members of Ilana Omo Oodua worldwide. "These criminal elements are not known to us and, as such, are not part of any genuine agitating groups demanding freedom for the Yoruba people".

Ilana Omo Oodua stressed, "Our movement is devoid of any form of violence or confrontation with any arm of the government. Self-determination is backed by international law, and we are committed to achieving it without resorting to war".

The body maintained "It is on record that all rallies organized by genuine agitating groups in Yorubaland have been conducted with proper notifications, peacefully and without any form of violence".

"We, therefore, condemn the needless attack on the Oyo State House of Assembly facility and urge the government to thoroughly investigate the incident, expose the sponsors and collaborators, and charge them with treasonable felony and terrorism. This action will serve as a deterrent to others who might contemplate such a deplorable act in the future."

## Time For Ganduje To Quit APC National Chairmanship, Party Chieftain, Others Advise Tinubu

*\*Hails suspension by Ganduje Ward leadership*

By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Kano State, Engr. Muaz Magaji Dawakin yesterday, advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to withdraw his support from the National Chairman of the APC, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, as his continuous stay will adversely affect the masses support to the APC-led administration.

Engr. Magaji Dawakin Tofa, former political ally and kinsman of Ganduje, said the former governor has lost political credibility and should be allowed to resign for new blood to inject fresh air into the APC leadership at the national level.

The APC chieftain who served as Commissioner for Works during Ganduje's administration, said even before the suspension of Ganduje by the leadership of Ganduje Ward in Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area, Ganduje's time to leave the stage as APC National Chairman was long overdue.

According to him, "I know Ganduje very well. He is my kinsman and I served under him as Commissioner. I have never believed that he has required pedigree to serve as APC National Chairman in the first place.

"I am of the opinion that

President Tinubu's administration and the APC as a party need a generational change. People like Ganduje should not only resign, but retire from politics and allow the younger generation with focus to pilot the affairs of the party.

"I read in the news that he has been suspended by the party at the Ward level, I also read that there was a denial of his suspension from the Local Government and state levels. I am not in town. I am a party chieftain, when I return I will find out the borne of contention from both parties, but my take is that Ganduje should voluntarily resign to allow a party have a new direction."

Engr. Magaji Dawakin Tofa who said Ganduje should be allowed to defend himself over allegations of bribery and financial misappropriation, insisted that even without such cases against him, Ganduje was not fit to serve as the National Chairman of APC.

Also reacting to the suspension of Ganduje as the APC National Chairman, a former leader of the party in Sabon Gari, Hon. Kingsley Onyekachi Godwin, hailed the leadership of APC in Ganduje Ward for exhibiting the courage to suspend him from the party, following the



Ganduje

gravity of corruption charges leveled against him at the court.

Hon. Kingsley Onyekachi Godwin who revealed that his exit from APC to Labour Party (LP), was as a result of injustice meted to some members, "by Ganduje and his boys during his time as Governor of Kano state," said in civilized society, people like Ganduje should not be allowed to hold public office after his "dirty" political escapades as Governor of Kano state. The LP chieftain who was the party's House of Assembly candidate for Fagge Constituency during the last general election further hailed Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf for setting up Commission of Inquiry to recover looted government properties in the last administration.

According to him,

"though we are in the Labour Party, we admire with joy the leadership style being exhibited by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf. We are in total support of his decision to probe the financial dealings of the past administration, including the recovery of stolen government property. This shows that he has the interest of the people at heart.

"For the eight to nine months he has been piloting the affairs of Kano state, Governor Yusuf has shown love and compassion to the people. And I want to use this opportunity to say that we are solidly behind him. We are closely watching his giant strides in all sectors of the economy, and don't be surprised to hear our official announcement as part and parcel of his government very soon."

## Nasarawa Govt Proscribes Kungiyar Zaman Lafiya, Other Ethnic Vigilante Groups

By; **SAMSON YAKI, Lafia**

Nasarawa State Government has declared all ethnic vigilante groups and other similar organisations in the state as unlawful societies and issued an executive order to proscribe them.

A statement from Government House Lafia said governor Abdullahi Sule took the drastic decision based on the advice of the State Security Council.

The groups affected are Kungiyar Zaman Lafiya

Nomad Group, Bassa Vigilante, Eggon Vigilante and other ethnic group, association, movement, organization or society affiliated with the group operating under the guise of Vigilante.

The similar organisations include any association, movement or group of persons or society in whatever name called or form, with the aim and objectives of providing security amongst ethnic group within Nasarawa State through the use of form or arms.

The Proscription order

dated April 15 and issued by Governor Sule in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 97A of the penal code noted the groups are dangerous to good governance in the state.

The affected groups were therefore directed to hand over all weapons or arms in their possession along with their uniform to the state Commissioner of Police within two weeks. New Nigerian recalls that controversies had brewed up in the state following the establishment of

Miyetti Allah Vigilante group and subsequent arrest of the miyetti Allah's president Alhaji Bodejo early this year.

Other issues that the matter to the head was the recent confession by Bodejo, indicting Governor Sule as brain behind the Fulani vigilante group.

Though statements from Government House Lafia and Bodejo's lawyers countered the confession, the general public is not blindfolded by such crocodile tears.

# 33,360 Fulani Leaders Gather In Abuja, Demand Wike's Removal,

- Say he is a draconian leader
- Insist they worked for Tinubu in 2023
- Threaten to stop supporting Tinubu if....,

the national president, Ardo Aliyu Yola said they had mobilized Fulbe in millions and cast their votes for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu after they had a meeting with him before the presidential election when he was the sole candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He boasted that their help to mount vigorous campaigns for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to succeed in the presidential elections in 2023, was the fulfillment of the traditional oath they took in February and wholeheartedly delivered on election day.

Ardo Aliyu recalled how the Fulbes had a meeting with Tinubu on a cold February evening on the campaign trail where he spent quality time interacting with Ardos across the country towards a national movement that ensured massive votes for his candidacy within the Fulani community in Nigeria.

"It is with utmost pride that we recount the huge success recorded at the polls in 2023," Ardo Aliyu said.

He expressed worries that the appearance of Wike from the blues to champion the cause of the FCT has made the ethnic profiling of the Fulbe a pastime keep.

He stated that in recent times, Nyesome Wike came out with a draconian policy against herdsmen and grazing, without providing any alternative as is done in civilized climes.

Ardo Aliyu further recalled the alleged unconstitutional revocation of the contract agreement being handled by their Patron, Senator Ahmad Abubakar Moallayidi, Managing Director of Integrated Facility Management Services Ltd (IFMSL), managers of the International Conference Center (ICC) Abuja.

He said the unwise decision by Wike on their kinsman is a pure show of ethnic profiling against the emergence of Tinubu as the sitting President of Nigeria.

"Our recent concern is the onslaught of the FCT Minister's unilateral, unconstitutional impunity with which he



*The Ardos at their meeting in Abuja*

pronounced a revocation of the management contract of our patron Sen. Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi who is also the convener of Arewa New Agenda (ANA).

"This profiling is contrary to promise made by Mr President on the campaign trail where he assured the FULBE of fair hearing and promotion of the welfare of the FULBE alongside other Nigerians

"The targeting of our Patron, Senator Ahmad Abubakar MoAllahyidi by the Minister is a slap on our face, and we are very concerned that the action of the Minister is putting a wedge in the support we give to you Mr Presidentnt

"The minister did not follow due process and, a subsisting contract was illegally revoked by a newspaper publication; this injustice, impunity, and character assassination against our patron is something that cannot be accepted in a democratic society." He said

He continued to say that Wike is unnecessarily causing great havoc to this administration because he had little or not

knowledge at all who is Senator Moallayidi and the huge contributions he made to support the winning election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

He said; "Where was Wike when our patron, Sen Ahmad MoAllahyidi mobilized the Ardos and hosted the then presidential candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu accompanied by the Chief of Staff Femi Gbajabiamila, the NSA, Mal Nuhu Ribadu, the APC Chairman, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, the Deputy Senate President, Sen Jibril Barau, minister of Defence Abubakar Badaru, the NAHCON Chairman, Barr. Jalal Arabi, the SA to the VP, Aliyu Umar Modibo, among other prominent leaders of the current administration at the same International Conference Center ICC to make a pact with the Fulbe leading to the resounding success at the polls.

"We all know that Minister Wike was then and still is in the opposition party, proudly a card-carrying member of PDP, and what he is doing is more of fighting President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu."

He urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to intervene by calling Minister Wike to order and demanded that Wike be compelled at all times to follow due process in whatever is doing. Aliyu who spoke on behalf of the Ardos further demanded that the FCT Minister desist from profiling the Fulbe group or any group of people or individuals, especially those who have worked to bring the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to be.

In their demands, they also asked Tinubu to intervene by stopping Minister Wike from shutting down the ICC and tempering with the lawful contract agreement the IFMSL has which has a ten-year life span.

"We remind the President to fulfill the promises he made to the Fulbe regarding the setting of a livestock agency to cater for the migrant cattle rearers, to make the name of the Fulani a very respectable name and provide social welfare for them alongside other Nigerians.

"We are concerned that such an

onslaught on our leaders is a direct repudiation of the effort that we contributed to bringing your administration to power. We kindly urge you to use your good office to call Minister Wike to order or remove him from the office he occupies to avoid the negative impact he is creating for your administration.

"We look forward to your very positive intervention as we continue to pledge our support and loyalty for the continuing success of the Barkindo of Fulbe Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR as you lead this great country of a good people." He demanded

Ardo Aliyu however, said that the entire Ardos of the Fulbe United for Peace and Development commend the efforts of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, whose administration is providing good leadership for the country.

He also appreciated him for the giant strides he is taking in leading the country and will continue to support him for the good he is doing, if their demands are met.

# Bullion Records Reiterates Commitment To Youth Development, Talent Hunt

## \*Unveils GyC

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bullion Records, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo at the weekend, disclosed that Bullion records is committed to the development of youths in the country

Ambassador Ajadi who said this at the official signing of the Lagos based Singer, Song writer, Actor, and a music producer , Fortune Kingsley, a.k.a. GyC stressed that the management of Bullion Records is showing the commitment by developing and discovering talents among youths, considering the fact that there is the need to dissuade Nigerian youths from drugs and other bad vices

He maintained that on his part, he is committed to youth development and discovery of talents from any part of the country, adding, he is always

concerned about youths who are roaming the streets, calling on government to create Vocational Centres across the country to engage the youths.

"You know I have always advocate that our youths must be actively engaged because idle hands are usually devils' workshops. We need to dissuade our youths from drugs and other bad vices and the only way to achieve this is for them to be engaged with something tangible with which they can develop themselves", he said.

Managing Director of Bullion Records, Mr Femi Ajibola said Bullion Records epitomizes innovation and excellence across diverse industries, including manufacturing, sports, real estate, and hotel Management.

"With a visionary approach ingrained in our corporate ethos, Bullion Records has emerged as a beacon of opportunity for aspiring artists both within Nigeria and abroad. Our

unwavering commitment to nurturing talents and fostering creativity has propelled us to the forefront of music industry", he said.

The Managing Director added, " Driven by the provisions in our Memorandum of Association, Bullion Records has established itself as a dynamic force in the realm of musical records labels".

Commenting on the signing of GyC, he said the partnership symbolises the Bullion Records unwavering dedication to empowering artists and facilitating their ascent to the pinnacle of success, adding, " as we embark on this journey together, Bullion Records reaffirms its commitment to excellence, creativity, and the relentless pursuit of musical Innovation'.

" With our collective efforts and shared vision, I have no doubt that the future holds boundless opportunities for both Bullion Records and the artist we represent".

GyC , a songwriter has worked with various A-List Musicians and has performed on major international platforms like the Glo Rock and Rule Tour and the Annual Calabar Carnival/ Festival among others. GyC who has vowed to take music to the next level, said apart from entertaining the people, he wants to use music to impact knowledge.

He also has an annual carnival in Ikeja, Lagos where he gives room for upcoming artists to perform freely, something he does as his own way of giving back to the society. Some of the personalities at the unveiling includes Kenny Ogungbe of Kennis Music, Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo, Chairman Bullion Records; Eedris Abdulkareem; Alhaji Ademola Otolowo, Kilamuwaye Badmus, Omokehinde Olowu, Ibrahim Taofeek Kegbegbe, Isaac Dale Izunya and others.



Alhaji Bello Matawalle

## Attack On Tinubu: Northern Group Backs Matawalle's Reply To NEF

\*Says NEF has no reason to fight Tinubu

By; ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

Apparently dissatisfied over recent attacks by Northern Elders Forum on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu the Progressive Northern Elements have come out strongly to back the Minister of State for Defence, Alhaji Bello Mohammed Matawalle for lambasting the Northern Elders Forum.

The Northern Elders Forum came under fire for saying it regretted supporting President Bola Tinubu in the 2023 general election and will not support him in 2027 if he decides to contest.

Reacting to the comment , the Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle had described NEF as political burden on the North.

However, the Progressive Northern Elements in a press statement signed by the Chairman ,Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Modibbo and made available to journalists in Kaduna today, the group said it's too early for Northern Elders Forum to start finding fault lines in a President it supported to win election.

According to the group, President is doing well in our estimation and there is no reason for this attack from NEF.

The statement further reads : "Rather than stirring unnecessary up tension and over heating the polity without recourse to the sustained efforts to make Nigeria, especially the north ,a more economically vibrant region, we expect the north to rally round President Tinubu led administration to succeed.

"We have noticed Tinubu's sincerity and commitment to tackling the prolonged security challenges facing the north and frantic efforts towards revamping the economy the entire country . "So,we were worried to hear

our northern elders speaking too early when former President Buhari from the northern extraction, exhausted 8 years in office with several unresolved challenges ranging from severe insecurity, high unemployment , collapsed of agriculture activities due banditry,and bad economy, yet the voice of the Northern Elders was not heard.

"At this point,we have no option than to join Matawalle to say members of NEF lack the authority to speak for the entire region as they have become political burden to Northerners.

"We also agreed with Matawalle when he said the so-called Northern Elders Forum are a group of political paperweights and selfish individuals,who cared less about development of the region.We vow that any destructive journey that will bring the North to disrepute by NEF for personal and selfish gains will be met with stuff resistance.

"The former Zamfara Governor was equally right, when he said NEF is just a group seeking to erode other people's rights in order to be recognised or made relevant in the scheme of things despite the failure of their sponsored candidates in the 2023 general elections."

While stating that the Northern Elders Forum should know that an average northerner is wiser now and can't be cajoled to fight any southerner in power as President, the group said, "Our position is clear , we believe in any government or leader that will the north and every other region better. Nothing less"

" President Bola Ahmed Tinubu won the February 2023 presidential election convincingly and has a four-year tenure to execute his campaign Promises to Nigerians, until then , he must be allowed to work without distractions."



Ambassador Ajadi, Eedris Abdulkareem and others at the event

# Nigeria Has Performed Below Its Founding Expectations - el-Rufai

*\*Says country yet to achieve economic progression*

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Immediate past Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasiru Ahmed el-Rufai has opined that Nigeria has performed below its founding expectations: and is yet to achieve economic take-off because it is saddled with poverty and poor human capital development indices.

He also said that leadership has effectively moved several countries to highly developed status in a few decade but sub-Saharan Africa is yet to record any similar success story, although Botswana is on its way. el-Rufai stated this at a special lecture titled, "Borno.State Government Capacity Building Workshop Leadership & Public Policy: Managing Challenges & Lessons" as special guest speaker in his lead paper presentation titled, "Capacity Building Workshop on Enhancing Skills of Government Officials In Policy Implementation and Productive Human Resources Management held on Monday in Maiduguri. The five days capacity building workshop holds from Monday, 15th- Friday, 19th April, 2024 at Usman Musa State Secretariat International Conference Hall Maiduguri organized by the Borno State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement.

He added that countries with comparable economic indices at independence have performed better like Malaysia, South Korea, etc, stressing that, sustained democratic rule since

1999 provides hope for breakthrough, despite stop-start reform efforts across the year.

"But challenges to political stability persist from violent non-state actors amidst the many problems in the polity where leadership has to decide on the most fundamental, prioritise and sequence the solutions that led the society to embrace a forward march.

"Policy is the primary tool for translating governance goals and objectives into reality.. Leadership can inspire, but it needs effective policy to deliver where new social, political and economic pressures have focused more emphasis on the importance of governance at the sub national level.

"It is clear that centralisation cannot deliver optimal outcomes for Nigeria and Nigerians.as delivery of public goods such as education. Primary & secondary education, healthcare services for the people is best conceived, designed and managed at state and local government level."

He suggested that discharging these governance obligations requires an efficient public service, consistently guided by public interest, policy-making and implementation, devoted to effective communication, that is responsive and dynamic enough to make pragmatic adjustments.

According to him, this require building the team, setting the goals, identifying the problems, . choosing the solutions and monitoring delivery as leadership exercises responsibility for setting the

direction, managing output, tracking the results and correcting course of monitoring pace where necessary and resolving disputes and communication.

el-Rufai explained further that leadership is challenged when change becomes necessary as people fear change because it is a departure from the familiar.

"This fear often leads to such fierce opposition that many leaders seek to avoid by following, rather than leading, the people. Leadership should help people see that change can deliver better outcomes.

"To exercise their responsibility, leaders often deploy a toolkit with instruments to: build and manage high performance teams, develop sound policy, track results and adapt how to manage stakeholders.

"This is crucial in setting up efficient team for the following reasons: to achieve the leadership's goals where an efficient team can help the leadership achieve their goals and objectives by working together towards a common vision.

"Managing crises: Be it a natural disaster, public health emergency or an economic downturn. A well prepared team can respond quickly and decisively, by ensuring that the leadership can provide the



necessary leadership and support to the community.

"Building trust and confidence. As the leader's team is a reflection of their leadership and management skills as they tend to mirror their commitment to transparency, accountability and collaboration which in turn builds the trust and confidence among the public, stakeholders and other leaders.

"Fostering innovation and creativity because with the right team in place, the leadership can encourage new ideas, experimentation and problem solving which will lead to better outcomes for the community," el-Rufai said.

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum' of Borno State, represented by SSG, Hon. Bukar Tijani in his remarks, said the workshop is both apt and timely as it is coming at this critical

period of our nation drive towards economic recovery and civil service rebirth.

"Indeed, any effort such as this one aimed at improving the skills of civil servants is highly laudable especially during this period of national development.

" I urge you to listen attentively and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the civil servants in the performance of their duties in the state.

"The development of human capacities and capabilities are sine-qua-non to social development as it is an established fact that only human capacities and capabilities can effectively harness the environment no matter the natural endowment.," Zulum said.



# Youth Must Unite To Salvage Nigeria - NYA

## \*Inaugurates Oyo State Chapter

**By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna**  
**T**he urgent need for youth in Nigeria to unite to set the country on the path of sustainable growth and development has been emphasized. The charge was handed down by the President of National Youth Alliance (NYA), Ambassador Aliyu Bin Abbas, while inaugurating the Oyo State Chapter of NYA on Monday in Ibadan. This was contained in a

statement signed by the SA Media and Publicity to NYA President, Okpani Jacob Onjewu Dickson, made available to newsmen on Tuesday April 16, 2024. "The youth are the future of Nigeria. Hence we must resolve to move this country forward through deliberate patriotic zeal. " Key to achieving the desired goal of transforming the country to a global decider, is unity. We must be united knowing that our present crop of elders deviated

from the path set by our founding fathers and the ruling class, mostly capitalize on our disunity to keep the country in the dark," the statement quoted Ambassador Abbas. According to the statement, he therefore, charged the Oyo State NYA exco to be a shining light and serve as individual role models to all they come across. In his remarks, NYA To Oyo State Coordinator, Adeniyi Ojo Adeniran assured that alongside his team, they would be

committed to reaching out to other youth in the state through programmes that will make them see the need to be patriotic and project Nigeria positively to the world. Speaking further, he thanked NYA President for the confidence reposed on them, assuring that it would not be taken for granted. Others inaugurated in Ibadan, were, Morufu Alabi Kasumu (Vice State coordinator), Sulaiman Kolawole Nurudeen

(State Secretary) and Mrs Oluwasehun Elugbaju (\*Assistant State Secretary). Moruf Olanrewaju Abdul Azeez was inaugurated as State PRO, Akintunde Alliy Ogbonyabiona (Treasurer), Yusauf Sodiq (Organizing Secretary), Taiwo Ajasa (Financial Secretary), Yemi Elegbeda (Auditor), while Hammed Eniola Ajoke and Muftau Mumini Ajagbe, respectively serve as members.





## 2024: Ondo Female Aspirant, Funmilayo Rejects Zoning Of APC Guber Ticket

By; ADEBOYE ADO, Akure

A female governorship aspirant, on the platform of the All Progressive Congress, in Ondo state, Engineer Funmi Waheed-Adekojo, has frowned at the way some politicians are hiding under the slogan of zoning ahead of the next week Saturday governorship primary election in the state.

Waheed-Adekojo said competency should not be sacrificed on the altar of any unwritten zoning arrangements.

According to her, all senatorial districts of Ondo State have completed the entire cycle of zoning, hence there is no need to place emphasis on such arrangement.

She said, "Whosoever picks first now starts the race of zoning again. The aspirant, asked politicians to stop exploiting the electorate who voted them into power.

According to her, they should help the needy and provide succour for the downtrodden.

She declared that "Our politicians should stop selfish tendencies and change the attitude of exploiting the people who voted for them.

Speaking on her experience since joining the race, Waheed-Adekojo, said that "My experience with the grassroots people is interesting and challenging. The majority of the politicians at the grassroots do not care about the poverty level in

the state.

"The majority do not care about the future of their kids, and they do not bother about having an enabling environment for the next generation.

"We should focus more on uplifting the under privileged people in the society. For me, I am in politics to help the needy and provide succour for the downtrodden.

"Our politicians should stop selfish tendencies and change the attitude of exploiting the people who voted for them.

"It is highly disgusting that politicians don't care if you are a family member, long-term neighbour, or friend. Everyone has this sickness of let me quickly grab whatever I can grab and waka pass.

"I am grateful to God for the few innocent and genuine ones who still protect the interest of the state, but they are so few that their voices are covered with the lousy voices of these greedy ones.

"How I was able to manage the experience was to stop giving my hard-earned money to people of such calibre, not minding if they vote for me or not.

"I always let them know that I can't waste my money. I worked very hard for my money, and I must give value to it.

"People don't care about you when you are doing great things, so I am not disappointed that despite all the rich and powerful women in Ondo state, none came out to sponsor me.



Engineer Funmi Waheed-Adekojo

"Even the men showed their support more than the women. "In the coming election, I am not expecting much from anyone with the proper understanding I have now about the so-called grassroots people and politicians within the state. "That is why I called it a game of chess. If I win the primary, that means God himself made it happen.

"If otherwise, I won't be disappointed because I have seen the actual behaviour of the so-called people that I so much have passion for to rescue from their state of poverty, and

realise that they don't care about their lives themselves.

"Many politicians in my Constituency are not supporting my ambition. But, I am not disappointed at all that my own acclaimed brother did not support my aspiration but decided to sponsor another candidate rather than his own sister.

"I want to appreciate everyone out there that has the same passion like me for our dear Ondo state for change and good governance."

## Alleged Illegal Operations: NCAA Suspends Three Private Jet Permit

By AMOS TAUNA, Kaduna

The permit of three private jet owners have been suspended by the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) for engaging in illegal operations.

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority, said the sanctioned jet operators have violated the terms of their permits for using their jets for commercial purposes.

The suspension of the three private operators was announced via X yesterday by NCAA's acting Director-General, Chris Najomo.

In a statement yesterday, Najomo said that as a consequence of the heightened surveillance, no fewer than three private operators have been found to be involved in violation of the annexure provision of their PNCF and Part 9114 of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations 2023.

He explained that the riot act is also directed at existing Air Operator Certificate (AOC) holders, who utilize aircraft listed on their PNCF for commercial charter operations.

According to him, "It

must be emphasized that only aircraft listed in the Operation Specifications of the AOC are authorized to be used in the provision of such charter services. Any of those AOC holders who wish to use the aircraft for charter operations must apply to the NCAA to delist the affected aircraft from the PNCF and include it into the AOC operations specification."

NCAA reiterated to the travelling public not to patronize any airline charter operator who does not hold a valid Air Operators Certificate issued by the NCAA, when they wish to procure charter operations services.

NCAA, therefore, encouraged the legitimate players in the aviation industry to report the activity of such unscrupulous elements to the authority promptly for necessary action.

The country's aviation authority had initially deepened surveillance on holders of permit for non-commercial flights (PNCF) over several reports of using their aircraft for hire and reward thereby violating their permit.

## Boat Mishap: Gov Oborewori Mourns Junior Pope, Others

By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba

Governor Sheriff Oborewori of Delta State has expressed grief and condolences the families of the victims of the Nollywood boat mishap, saying their deaths were excruciating and unfortunate.

He said that the state government was agonised over the unfortunate and untimely passing of Junior Pope and others in the boat mishap.

Governor Oborewori in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Festus Ahon, in Asaba, urged Nollywood fans and stakeholders to accept the passing of the actors as an unfortunate incident.

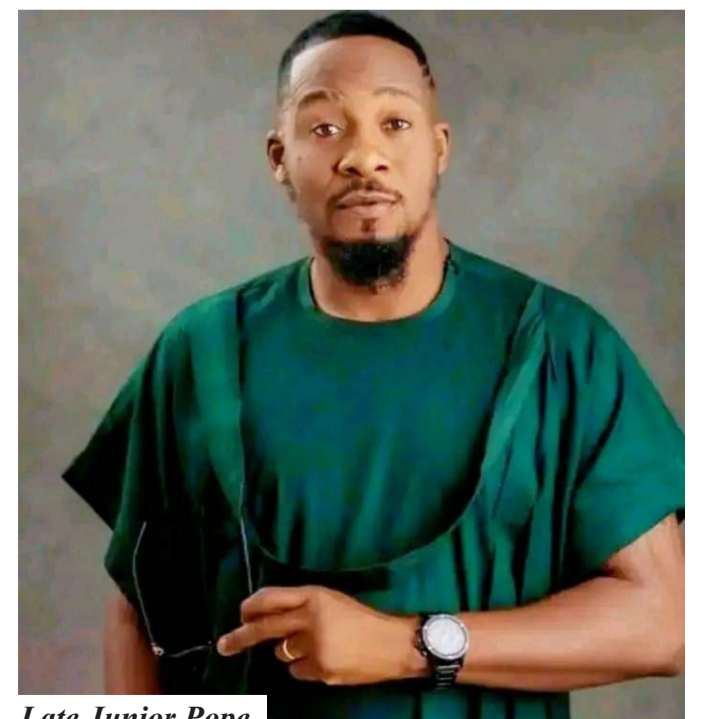
He prayed God to grant the families, friends and associates of the victims the fortitude to bear the unfortunate deaths.

"On behalf of my family, the government and people of Delta

State, I commiserate with the Nollywood industry and families of those who lost their lives in the unfortunate boat mishap.

"Perhaps, the deaths could have been avoided if the necessary safety measures were adhered to.

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in eternal peace," Governor Oborewori stated.



Late Junior Pope

# Governor Inuwa Yahaya Mourns, As Maidalan Gombe Loses 6 Family Members to Road Accident

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has conveyed his deepest condolences to Maidalan Gombe over the loss of 6 of his family members in a ghastly motor accident along Azare- Gombe Road, yesterday.

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

Governor Inuwa, who attended the funeral prayers alongside the Emir of Gombe, Alhaji Dr Abubakar Shehu Abubakar III and hundreds of other sympathizers, noted that, the loss of family members in such a tragic manner is quite devastating.

He said the entire Gombe community is deeply affected by this sad event.

" Our heartfelt condolences to Maidalan Gombe and the entire bereaved family members during this incredibly difficult time. The loss of 6 family members in such a tragic road accident is not only a profound loss to your family but it also deeply affects the entire Gombe people".

"Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt for the immense grief you and your loved ones are experiencing. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers as you pass through this heartbreaking time".

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



# Several Diseases On Verge Of Eradication In Borno - Commissioner

## \*WHO assures of support

By: SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

**B**orno State Commissioner of Health and Human Services, Professor Baba Malam Gana has said that several diseases are on the verge of eradication and elimination, including polio, guinea worm as well as maternal and neonatal tetanus in the state. He also added that the number of new HIV infections and AIDS--related deaths decreased across the state, and the number of TB deaths have also decreased. Professor Malam Gana stated this at an event to commemorate 2024 World Health Day in Maiduguri, held at Pinnacle Hotel and Luxury Banquet Hall

Pompomari with the theme, "2024 World Health Day is My Health My Right." Represented by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Alhaji Babagana Kadai, the Commissioner further confirmed that maternal mortality ratio and mortality of child under five have also reduced. "The number of new HIV infections and AIDS--related deaths decreased across the state, and the number of TB deaths also decreased. "We will continue to work with you all to strengthen health governance and combat discrimination and inequalities in health; we will continue to collaborate across sectors on bold situations toward the

universal coverage of high-quality healthcare for everyone. "Several infectious diseases such as polio, guinea worm, maternal and neonatal tetanus are at the verge of elimination in the state," Gana said. He however, noted that the state government has recorded significant progress in ensuring better health outcomes for the people who have suffered more than ten years of insurgency. World Health Organization (WHO) State Coordinator, Dr. Ibrahim Salisu, also said the organisation and other partners have been providing technical and financial

support to the Borno State government to rehabilitate health facilities, provision of drugs and commodities including routine Immunisation. He assured that WHO will continue to sustain its support to the state government to enable Borno state achieve universal health coverage and the people access affordable services. "Disparities in the coverage of key reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health interventions remain significant, with the rural dweller, the poor and those in hard-to-reach areas being the most disadvantaged " Salisu stressed.



# Borno Committed To Agricultural Development, Zulum Vows

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

**B**orno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum has reiterated his administration's commitment to developing agriculture in the state.

Zulum also gave assurance of his continuous assistance to farmers in the state, saying, "This, I believe, will go a long way in enhancing the productivity of our farmers. The government is, therefore, poised to ensuring that our farmers are assisted in every way to increase their agricultural productivity."

The governor stated this on yesterday in Maiduguri, during the flag-off ceremony of the Renewed Hope Initiative Women Agricultural Support Programme (RHI-WASP) which is the initiative of the wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to support women engaged in agricultural activities and contribute to the food

sufficiency agenda of President Tinubu.

"As you are aware, the Borno State Government has given top priority to the development of Agriculture in the state, and that is why concerted efforts are made to mobilise both human and material resources to boost agriculture in the state.

"Towards this end, the state government has procured agricultural machinery and inputs such as tractors, chemicals and fertilisers, among others.," Zulum' said.

The First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, was represented at the occasion by the wife of the Vice President, Nana Kashim Shettima.

About 220 women farmers and people with disabilities benefited from the programme which include, 120 women farmers, 20 from each of the six northeast states received N500,000 each and 100 people with disabilities from Borno each

received N100,000.

"Today, we are supporting twenty (20) women farmers per state in the Northeast zone with the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) each, the first lady said.

She added, "The draft cheque will be handed over to the first ladies of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States who are also RHI State Coordinators for onward disbursement to all beneficiaries in their respective states. These farmers are those in the agricultural sector, animal husbandry, poultry and fish farming."

Earlier in a goodwill message, the wife of Borno State Governor, Dr Falmata Babagana Umara Zulum, expressed gratitude to the first lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, for the gesture to support agricultural women in the northeast and

over 100 people with disabilities from Borno.

The occasion was attended by the Deputy Governor of Borno, Umar Usman Kadafur; wives of the governors of Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States; and the APC Deputy National Chairman (North), Ali Bukar Dalori.

Also in attendance are Senators for Borno North and Central, Muhammed Tahir Monguno and Kaka Shehu Lawan, members of the House of Representatives, Engr Bukar Talba and Dr Zainab Gimba, Deputy Speaker of Borno House of Assembly, Engr Abdullahi Askira, Secretary to the Borno State Government, Bukar Tijani, commissioners and other senior officials of government.



# Borno Committed To Agricultural Development, Zulum Vows



# NASS Will Support Better Policing Of Nigeria - Senate President

By; **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

**P**resident of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio on Monday, assured of the full cooperation and support of the National Assembly for better policing of Nigeria. Senator Akpabio said this while speaking at the maiden edition of the Nigeria Police Awards and Commendations Ceremony held on Monday evening in Abuja. The Senate President maintained that the National Assembly recognised the importance of a well-equipped and motivated police force in ensuring the security and well-being of our citizens. "As the leader of the National Assembly, I pledge our full cooperation and support for the better policing of Nigeria. We recognise the importance of a well-equipped and motivated police force in ensuring the security and well-being of our citizens", he said.

Senator Akpabio added,

"We will continue to work tirelessly to provide the necessary legislative framework and resources to enable the police to carry out their duties effectively."

Commending the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun and the entire leadership of the Nigeria Police Force for organising the event, the Senate President tasked them to use the occasion to celebrate the achievements of the Nigeria Police Force and to reiterate the commitment to working together for a safer and more secured Nigeria.

"I commend the Police for this maiden effort in organizing this awards ceremony. It is a testament to IGP Egbetokun's commitment to giving honor to whom it is due. By recognizing the gallant, selfless and patriotic contributions of individual officers, we not only motivate them for higher performance but also reinforce the new policing agenda of the

Force"

Senator Akpabio said " This agenda focuses on internal ethical regeneration, restoration of professional standards and the enhancement of the anti-corruption drive, adding,, "However, let us not ignore the challenges faced by the police in Nigeria. The ever-evolving landscape of crime and the increasing sophistication of criminal gangs pose significant obstacles".

"Moreso, as we honor the good officers, let us weed out the bad ones because a chain is as strong as its weakest link. It is crucial that we address these issues and work together to find solutions. The Police need the support and cooperation of all stakeholders to overcome these challenges and build a stronger and more effective Police Force. I congratulate the awardees who have excelled in their respective fields of policing. Their dedication, bravery and integrity have set them apart and made them deserving of this

recognition.

Senator Akpabio noted "I commend each and every one of them for their outstanding performance and commitment to the service of our nation. I urge them to remember that to whom much is given, much is expected". While making the presentation of the posthumous awards on behalf of the Nigeria Police, Senator Akpabio announced that he would support each of the families with one million naira to pay their way back home while the Senate as an institution made a commitment to support the families of the deceased with N20 million.

Kano State Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf also announced a donation of N20 million to support the families of the deceased while the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima commended the Senate President and Kano State Governor for their "show of empathy" to the affected families.



## Dawakin Tofa LG APC Sacks Ward Exco That Announced Ganduje's Suspension

By; **JABIRU A. HASSAN, Kano**

**T**he Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area All Progressives Congress (APC) Chapter has sacked the Ganduje Ward executive for announcing the suspension of immediate past governor of the state and National chairman of their party, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje. Speaking to journalists shortly after the alleged suspension of the APC national chairman, the APC chairman of Dawakin Tofa Local Government Area Chapter Inusa Sule Dawanau said that they have no merit to suspend the party's national chairman due to their bad record on anti party activities.

"I wish to announce that those who suspended our

national chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje were caught red handed in the anti-party activities and other related activities, therefore, the local government chapter sacked them and an investigation panel has been set up to bring out full details of their offenses". He added. Similarly, the Kano State chairman of the party, Honourable Abdullahi Abbas announced that the state working committee has adopted the suspension of the Ganduje Ward executive as resolved by the local government chapter. He therefore, called on APC supporters across the country to disregard the news spreading about Dr. Ganduje's suspension by the enemies of the ruling party.



*L-R; Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, presenting cheques to families of Police Officers, who died in the course of duty, during the maiden edition of the Nigeria Police Awards and Commendations Ceremony, held at the Transcorp Hotel, Abuja on Monday.*

# Minister Of Education Congratulates ABU On Assuming IIOE Presidency

By: SANIALIYU, Zaria

The Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, has congratulated Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) on assuming the presidency of the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) for 2024, describing the development as well-deserved.

The Minister rejoiced with the University when the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, recently led a five-member delegation on a courtesy visit to the Federal Ministry of Education where he briefed the Minister on the institution's sustainability plans and other development efforts.

ABU's selection as the 2024 IIOE Rotating Presidency Unit was announced during the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) Global Partners Summit held at Shenzhen, China from 7th – 9th December, 2023. The institution now takes over from University Putra Malaysia (UPM) as the IIOE rotating presidency unit for the year 2024.

With its assumption of the IIOE presidency, ABU is expected to closely collaborate with UNESCO-ICHEI and IIOE secretariat by providing strategic guidance and support for the development of IIOE and digital transformation of higher education in various regions.

Apparently elated over the remarkable feat as academic life is fast becoming virtual globally, the Minister urged ABU to take advantage of the position to further promote online education in Nigeria and Africa.

Prof. Mamman stressed that bringing technology to Nigeria for enhancing tertiary education remained a major focus of the Federal Government, saying that



any effort towards achieving that objective would highly be encouraged.

He disclosed that the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology told him on the sideline of one of the Federal Executive Council meetings that the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology would help Nigerian public universities and other tertiary institutions develop their curriculum for the attainment of technological advancement.

While pledging his Ministry's support

towards enhancing teaching, research and community service, the minister stressed that universities should not wait for industry to come to them but rather they should go to them for research and other practical training.

The IIOE rotating presidency unit plays a crucial role in the governance structure of IIOE and it has been in place since its inception in 2019, rotating annually among partner universities in different

regions.

Since the launch of IIOE in 2019, four IIOE partner universities have successfully served as the rotating presidency unit.

These institutions are Ain Shams University, Egypt (2020); University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan (2021); University of Nairobi, Kenya (2022); and Universiti Putra Malaysia (2023).



## Nasarawa Govt Proscribes Kungiyar Zaman Lafiya, Other Ethnic Vigilante Groups

By; SAMSON YAKI, Lafia

Nasarawa State Government has declared all ethnic vigilante groups and other similar organisations in the state as unlawful societies and issued an executive order to proscribe them.

A statement from Government House Lafia said governor Abdullahi Sule took the drastic decision based on the advice of the State Security Council.

The groups affected are Kungiyar Zaman Lafiya

Nomad Group, Bassa Vigilante, Eggon Vigilante and other ethnic group, association, movement, organization or society affiliated with the group operating under the guise of Vigilante.

The similar organisations include any association, movement or group of persons or society in whatever name called or form, with the aim and objectives of providing security amongst ethnic group within Nasarawa State through the use of form or arms.

The Proscription order

dated April 15 and issued by Governor Sule in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 97A of the penal code noted the groups are dangerous to good governance in the state.

The affected groups were therefore directed to hand over all weapons or arms in their possession along with their uniform to the state Commissioner of Police within two weeks.

New Nigerian recalls that controversies had brewed up in the state following the establishment of

Miyetti Allah Vigilante group and subsequent arrest of the miyetti Allah's president Alhaji Bodejo early this year.

Other issues that the matter to the head was the recent confession by Bodejo, indicting Governor Sule as brain behind the Fulani vigilante group.

Though statements from Government House Lafia and Bodejo's lawyers countered the confession, the general public is not blindfolded by such crocodile tears.

## Federal Workers Demand Approval Of N300,000 As Minimum Wage

*\*Allege apartheid discriminatory wage payment in federal public service*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

Worried by the agitation for new minimum wage, the Federal Workers Forum (FWF) on Monday, asked the Federal Government to pay ₦300,000 monthly as living wage to Federal Government workers

The forum expressed this in a communique issued at the end of an on line meeting of Federal Workers nationwide signed by the Forum National Coordinator Comrade Andrew Emelieze made available to journalists in Ibadan

FWF in the communique stressed that the proposed living wage will reflect the harmonization of wages and pensions in the federal public service, adding, " issues of a fair and just minimum wage will promote social justice, productivity and also help to fight against corruption".

" We are concerned as a federal workforce about the issues of the nascent discussions on the new national minimum wage. We believe strongly that issues of a fair and just minimum wage will promote social justice, productivity and also help to fight against corruption" it said.

The Forum added, " We therefore, while supporting the call for a just living wage for the Nigerian workers, we also demand for a federal living wage that will reflect the harmonization of wages and pensions in the federal public service".

" Over the years, it has been an apartheid discriminatory wage payment in the federal public service. While a few Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) are well paid, majority of the MDA's are discriminated against".

It stressed further " Its so bad that the Directors and their likes in the affected MDA's earns far less than them in the juicy MDA's", adding, "The case has

always been that some MDA's are finance generating and so they must be better paid".

"It is time to stop this discriminatory payment. It is time to terminate this ugly fallacy that promotes segregation and inequality. All work types are complimentary and so their should not be room for any primitive pay discrimination in the federal public service in Nigeria".

While appreciating President Tinubu for the ₦35,000 wage award, the Forum said "we make bold to say that the ₦35,000 palliative did not solve the economic challenges faced by the federal government workers in Nigeria. It has been an hellish existence for the federal workers since the removal of subsidy on petrol and the subsequent devaluation of the naira".

FWF in the communique listed its demands as federal wage structure that will harmonize all salaries and pensions in the federal public service, a federal minimum wage of ₦300,000 monthly, a federal maximum wage of ₦1.5 million monthly, a federal pension that will reflect proportionate changes with workers pay rise."

It listed other demands as " that provisions be made for the return of leave bonus, that the federal government should make provisions for long service award package for workers and that the new national minimum wage takes off officially on April 1st, 2024 and that we expect the announcement of the new national minimum wage latest on Workers' day May 1st, 2024.

,"It has been the story of hardship everywhere ; survival has been very difficult and everything has been nauseating. However, federal workers have been enduring this hardship, and now that the government and labour is discussing the new national minimum wage, we demand that



Governor Inuwa of Gombe during an event recently.

## Gombe Govt Introduces Monthly Mandatory General Sanitation Exercise

*\*Governor Inuwa Yahaya approves last Saturday of every month*

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Gombe State Government has introduced a monthly mandatory general sanitation exercise as a deliberate effort by the Inuwa Yahaya- led administration to ensure sustainable and healthy environment for human habitation across the state. This was contained in a memo conveying Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya's approval of last Saturday of every

month as General Environmental Sanitation Day, starting from this month.

The memo, signed by the Commissioner of Water, Environment and Forest Resources, Mohammed Sa'idu Fawu, further said the exercise will be conducted between 8:00 am and 10:00am during which restriction of movements of all kinds will be enforced except for persons on essential services.

It reads in part, "In line

with this administration's resolve to ensure provision of sustainable and healthy environment for human habitation, His Excellency Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya CON (Dan Majen Gombe), the Governor of Gombe State, has approved the conduct of monthly General Environmental Sanitation exercise in the state to be observed by the General Public on the last Saturday of every month. The exercise is to be conducted from 8:00 am -10:00am".

"Based on the above, there

will be restriction of movements during the period (except those on essential services). Also, all MDAs and the general public are hereby directed to comply strictly with the directive as team of officials from the Ministry of Water, Environment and Forest Resources as well as the Gombe State Environmental Sanitation and Protection Agency (GOSEPA) will monitor strict compliance with the directive, please", the memo further revealed.



# Award: CP Gumel Instrumental To Sustained Peace In Kano - Gov Yusuf

By; BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS, Abuja

Governor Abba Yusuf of Kano State has said that the Commissioner of Police in Kano, Mohammed Gumel is instrumental to the sustained peace in Kano State. Yusuf stated this during the Nigerian Police Awards and Commendation Night, in Abuja, where Gumel received the Community Policing Advocate of the Year Award.

The governor said that his presence at the podium, while Gumel was receiving the award, was a privilege, due to his outstanding performance in maintaining peace in Kano state. He explained that Gumel was able to sustain peace in Kano State through his exemplary community policing initiative. Gumel results in flushing out criminals and confronting crimes in Kano state was unprecedented, through the

cleansing of the notorious Dala Hills of criminal elements. The Kano Police Commander under Gumel also witnessed impressive results through the adoption of technology, working tools and improved welfare. Other strategies included community partnership for robust intelligence gathering, people-friendly policing with respect to fundamental human rights among other result-based strategies.

Gumel began his career in the Nigeria Police as Assistant Superintendent of Police, and was appointed Divisional Police Officer Commander of Police Training College, Minna. He later became Officer-in-Charge, Niger State Police Command Intelligence Bureau and grew through the ranks to become Assistant Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation, Kwara State. The experienced officer was

later posted to Professional Police Service, ECOWAS Peace Support Operation Division and following his commitment, he was drafted into the ECOWAS Standby Force and later the Head, ECOWAS Police Component Peace Support Operation.

On completion of his tenure at the ECOWAS, Gumel was posted to the Technical Intelligence Unit, Force Headquarters, Abuja.

From the headquarters, the exemplary officer was deployed to Sokoto Police Command as Commissioner and from Sokoto to Kano as Commissioner on May 2, 2023.

Gumel career progression was made possible by the series of professional training and specialised courses he attended both home and abroad.

He attended the seminars in Terrorist Financing Investigation International

Course, London; Police Leadership Role Course in Combating Terrorism, USA; and other police courses in Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Germany.

The outstanding police commissioner is also a member/fellow of different professional bodies including fellowship of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria.

He is also a member of the African Union Commission Police Strategic Support Group; African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Defence Safety, and Security; World Intelligence Support System and Global Information Security Council.

This outstanding and exemplary journey of professionalism and a life of service earned him awards and recognition at national and international spheres.

For example, the Homicide

Major Crime Command dignified Gumel with an award, while UK Metropolitan Police Service Operation recognised his outstanding abilities.

Similarly, he was also recognised as a trusted officer by the UN Mission in Liberia Police Contingent Commander, and Effective Policing Award by the African Trust Magazine.

Gumel also bagged the Kano Leadership, Enlightenment & Advocacy for Development Initiative Award, while the National Union of Road Transport Workers recognised him as an effective police officer and leader.

Other groups and organisations that recognised and honoured Gumel include the Grass Root Care Aid Foundation, the Bata Global Village GS Market Kano, the Arewa Consultative Forum and the Herbal and Traditional Berbers Association of Nigeria.



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

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- Adverts may not be published if the visuals given are considered too poor as to affect the reproduction.
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### TECHNICAL DATA

<b>6 COLUMNS</b>			
Depth	38.1 (CM)	Depth -	15 (Inches)
Width	25.4 (CM)	Width -	10 (Inches)

### POLITICAL RATE

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

### LOOSE INSERTS

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

### CLASSIFIEDS

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

### Special Position

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

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

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

# Can Nigeria's State Oil Group Become Next Africa's Saudi Aramco?

By **ISHAKA SHITU ALMUSTAPHA,**

Nigeria is Africa's largest exporter of crude oil according to the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC, 2024). Nigeria's state oil group is the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL). NNPCL was recently commercialised in late 2021 by ex-president Muhammadu Buhari and founded in April 1977 by military administration of General Olusegun Obasanjo. In the past, major international oil companies (IOCs) dominated operations in Nigeria's oil Exploration and production (E&P) with limited technological advancement. Now, many Domestic oil companies (DOCs) and servicing companies are working optimally in Nigeria. In one word, theoretically, oil business is in accordance with global best practices mostly in Nigeria.

## AFRICA'S NEW OIL FRONTIERS

In the past, it is possible to count Africa petrostates on your fingertips but now the story is quite changing as oil has been discovered in most places in the continent. A key example is Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and recently Namibia. Industry report revealed that Shell and Total, two biggest Europe's energy companies are stepping up efforts to open a potentially giant oilfield off the coast of Namibia as one of the clearest signs that industry is pursuing new fossil fuel resources.

Despite transition to cleaner sources of energy, oil companies appear investing in drilling more oil wells in most African countries. There is a game plan to capture the market share in case energy transitions global effort fail in most consuming nations. NNPCL must maximize the opportunity to close the gap in energy poverty in Africa through building resilience in the supply chain.

## CHALLENGES OF A SUSTAINABLE PETROLUEM POLICY

Formulating a Petroleum policy is a huge challenge that will set the tune for investment in the value chains. Importantly, implementation of Petroleum Industry Act (PIA 2021) is laudable. A sustainable oil policy is a driving force for investment in pipelines for export, strong financial health, strengthening of security architecture etc. Nigeria must work with key players in the global oil market in driving it proposed oil policy reforms.

Nigeria can start with urgent summit of international stakeholders in the oil industry in New York, London and/or Dubai. The aim of the summit is to spell out Nigeria's oil strategies and challenges of doing business in the oil industry from companies operating in Nigeria. Nigeria is a leader in Africa's crude oil export market and reliable partners such as the IOCs can support this ambitious goal of a global NNPCL for future Africa energy security.

Nigeria has succeeded in separating oil from gas and streamlined oil industry regulation into 2 major aspects of Upstream, Midstream, and downstream sectors respectively. In those days, there were many people doing the same things/jobs, but it is different now. As a



former intern in defunct Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) in Lagos, I will say there is huge improvement in oil regulation in Nigeria from industry report, conferences, and summit respectively. Importantly, major issues are around oil production problems with ageing pipelines, pipeline vandalism, crude oil theft, non-contract disclosures, Nigeria-OPEC policy focused on non-fulfilling of production quota etc.

## NNPCL OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The challenge of full digitally operations for competitiveness advantage implementation is gradually taking place. Most of contracting processes appears online. However, a lot of government interference is still a concern to local and international investors. Bidding processes needed to be streamlined from perspective of digitalisation and financial health of acquisitions companies both domestically and internationally.

Nigeria's major challenges in crude oil export remains around Joint venture (JV) and production sharing (PSC) accountability in relation to accounting for a drop of crude oil exported from all exporting terminals. However, a lot of export terminals are either in JV or PSC. In essence, lots of calculations between stakeholders in dividing shares/revenue, sometimes lead to delay in export and entitlement to stakeholders.

The Nigeria's state oil group needs to institutionalised recruitment processes, particularly review and kick start the abandoned college of Petroleum and energy studies in Kaduna. This will help to train experts in energy studies, with other institutions working together with centre for Petroleum studies, Effurun Delta.

## PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL SUPPORT

Nigeria's president speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2023 depicts a departure from seeking for support economic and financial assistance from most industrialised nations. Already western companies are very familiar with Nigeria's oil industry in the last 60 years.

Although President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was a former oil executive with huge experience in the industry, it safe to say he will provide all necessary support needed to facilitate NNPCL floatation to compete with Saudi Aramco from developing countries perspectives.

## FLOATATION OF NNPCL IN 2025-26

Although NNPCL is fully integrated energy company but what is missing are its valuation, due diligence, increase financial accountability and operational performance etc.

Nigeria has a lot to learn from Saudi Aramco valuation and floatation of energy group in the global stock market. Significantly, it is important to maximize bank loans, bonuses, and as well as elite Nigerians in the oil industry to buy in this strategy and encouraged to prop up floating of the energy group.

I believe major challenges underlies in transparency of financial account, curbing oil theft, strengthening security system, a need for anti-piracy law, sustainable national and private maritime security strategies, vessels and ships management, access to tankers from domestic and international investors respectively.

Remuneration in the oil industry appears to be low in comparison to other counterparts in the Middle East and the North Sea in the UK. It is imperative that Nigeria fast track all intended programmes and administrative procedures to raise remuneration of oil employees and improve better working conditions for all irrespective of status. In addition, there is should be a consensus among workers and key management to curb incessant strikes in the industry.

## NNPC'S CHEMICAL ARM

Petrochemical is an integral part of oil E&P. In essence, Nigeria should acquire a majority stake in this important arm of business. Nigeria needs strong chemical arm like Sabic in Saudi Arabia. Nigeria can borrow from sovereign investment fund. In addition, key in Nigeria's 2050 industrial strategy into making NNPCL an international oil company of repute.

The good news is that Indorama, an Indian conglomerate has received loan worth \$75mn from the African Development Bank (AFDB) to boost petrochemical and increase fertilizer production and to develop a port terminal for export, this will help in supporting food production and food security across regional and international market.

## NIGERIA CRUDE OIL SALES AND THEFT CHALLENGES

The major challenges in Nigeria's crude oil export are crude oil theft, ageing pipelines, and investment issues. The

international oil market had great concerns on non-reliability and steady flow of crude oil from main export terminals. The big question is that how can Nigeria become a reliable source of crude oil in the global market? This was my question during S& P Global commodity insight in mid-October 2023 in London Mayfair hotel, I had huge conversation with key participants on reliability of Nigerian crude oil in the global oil market, the report appears negative, and this posed a challenge to the Nigerian authorities to ensure effective and efficient security strategies are provided for long term crude oil flow to global market. In February 2024, the Nigerian Navy discovered over 40 illegal oil wells in the Niger Delta according to the national daily.

A lot is said around security contract to ex-Niger Delta militants to secure key oil installations and pipelines, however, this has not stopped oil theft and vandalism of pipelines. Over the years, managing insecurity in the oil rich region is huge task for all government since returned to democratic governance.

The restiveness in onshore terminals has led supermajors oil companies to sell their assets to domestic investors such as ND Western, Aradel holdings, First E&P and WalterSmith. Next is for Nigerian authority under the office of National Security Adviser to churn out marshal security strategies agreed by all stakeholders to curb oil theft, violence, and environmental damage in the Delta.

I believe top priority strategy is the ability to changing the narrative of crude oil export supply chain towards strengthening both domestic and export supply chain ecosystems, contributing to NNPCL resilience, reliability, and ability to meet evolving needs of its customers. For its to meet international oil market standards, it must provide suppliers with long-term visibility of demand, enabling them to capture future growth and advance localization efforts.

Finally, oil production has generated billions of dollars for Nigeria since 1956 when the first oil well started production but it is increasingly costly for IOCs and NNPCL to produce oil in recent years. In comparison to Saudi Arabia, the cost of production is extremely low, and with peace and stability of oil flows, it is ahead of Nigeria in all ramifications despite Nigeria's sweet crude oil with less than 0.5% sulphur. Nigeria must act and compete to be Africa's next Saudi Aramco. The journey has begun with PIA 2021 implementation and the tempo need to be maintained.

Managing effective and efficient crude oil export supply chains and financial accountability is critical for NNPCL now.

It is important to set a specific timeframe to end refined oil importation and fully privatise non-functional refineries.

Dr ISHAKA SHITU ALMUSTAPHA, PhD. is a Transport and oil logistics expert, an associate to London based Port and Logistics Consultant and lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, London. Can be reached via email: [ishakashitu@gmail.com](mailto:ishakashitu@gmail.com).

# Are People Losing Hope in Democracy?

By Jibrin Ibrahim

**P**REMIUM TIMES carried a report yesterday posing the question whether people are losing hope in democracy. It outlines findings of an International IDEA survey which shows that voters in 19 countries, including in three of the world's largest democracies and three African countries, believe their political choices don't matter and so they prefer a strong, undemocratic leader.

My view is that the pursuit of democracy is a way to build resilience because of a number of factors. Democracy is in its essence a resilient system because it is a normative system people value for its positive content – political and human rights, civil liberties, participation, equality, rule of law and so on. For this reason, there are always demands for democracy and when countries move away from it, struggle for its return.

The report concludes that: “democratic institutions are falling short of people's expectations.” This is indeed a time when deep introspection is on-going about democracy as many of its values and processes are questioned around the world and analysts ponder about its future.

Here in West Africa, the interrogation has taken the form of four of the fifteen countries in the region; Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Guinea opting out of the democratic framework following coups d'état. Threats and sanctions from the regional organisation, ECOWAS, failed to bring them back. Today, it is ECOWAS withdrawing its sanctions and cajoling them to return without success so far. The normative system of ECOWAS is built on the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (21 December, 2001) which sets out the constitutional convergence criteria to be fulfilled by Community members based on the principles of good governance – respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, the promotion of non-partisan and responsible press and the democratic control of the armed forces. It also commits Member States to ensure poverty alleviation, uphold, defend and promote international norms regarding basic human rights, including the rights of minorities, children, youth and women.

Without doubt, the said crisis of democracy is a statement about the lack of sufficient positive results on these objectives. The Supplementary Protocol also upholds the principle of zero tolerance for the unconstitutional accession to or maintenance of power which is today facing a huge challenge.

Historically, ECOWAS protocols significantly facilitated the transition of West African States from military or single party regimes to multiparty democracies in the post-1990 era. In this context, guarding democratic standards become widely accepted as a common task for ECOWAS. However, the standards of democratic practice began to wane in many of the countries in the zone. A number of incumbent presidents in particular started to interfere with democratic processes, repressing opposition political parties, engaging in electoral fraud and changing the constitution for the purpose of tenure elongation for incumbent presidents.

As these breaches of the constitutional order persisted and spread, many of the West African regimes gradually lost their legitimacy leading to the return of coup d'état in the region. In Niger, ECOWAS had to refuse to recognise President Tandja as legitimate president at the end of his second

term in 2009 when he failed to step down and simply announced he had decided to stay three more years in office in spite of the refusal of the Constitutional Court, which he simply disbanded. ECOWAS was unable to get him to step down opening the doors to military intervention to organise a transition back to the restoration of the democratic order.

It would be recalled that in Africa, the number of de jure single-party regimes fell from 29 in 1989 to zero in 1994. Since then, poor governance, corruption and the decline in the quality of elections created grounds for the return of the military. Military rule and authoritarianism however also find it hard to sustain themselves in the new world because citizens start asking questions and making demands.

Nonetheless, democracy has been the leitmotif for development of ECOWAS and its normative system since the 1981 Declaration of Political Principles. ECOWAS, as a political system, must therefore continue to improve its capacity to cope, survive and recover from complex challenges and crises that represent stresses or pressures that can lead to a systemic failure.

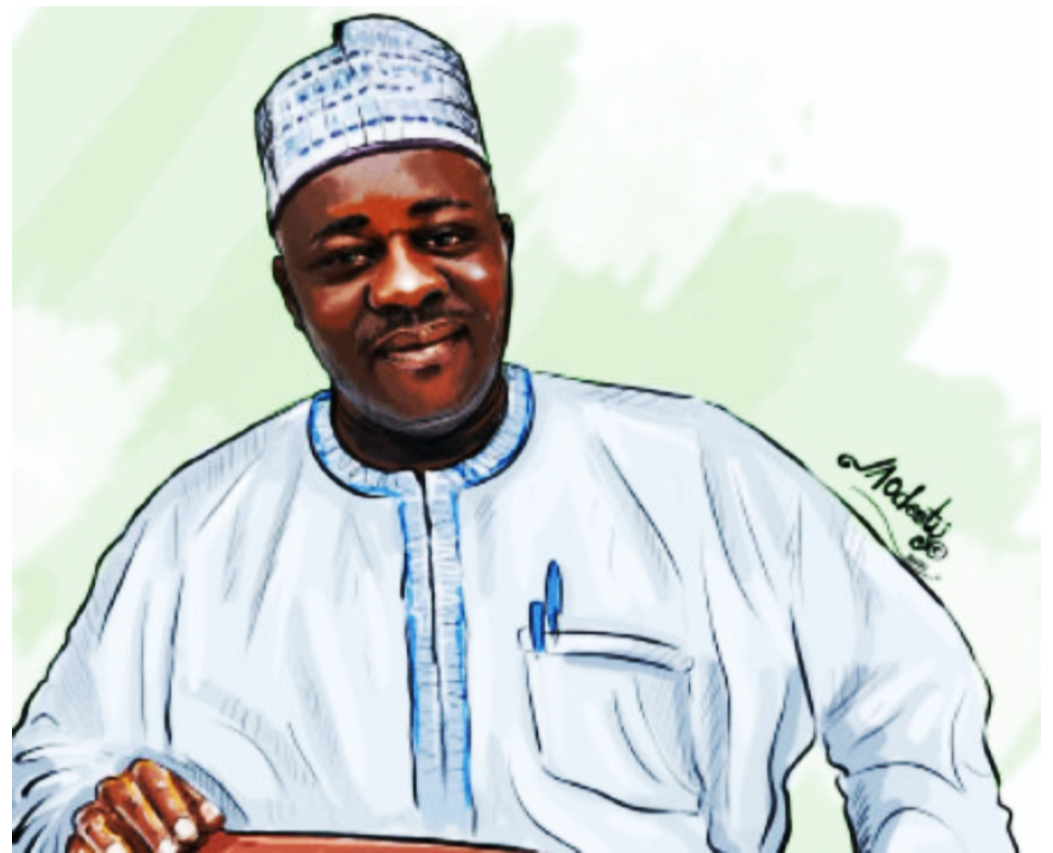
My view is that the pursuit of democracy is a way to build resilience because of a number of factors. Democracy is in its essence a resilient system because it is a normative system people value for its positive content – political and human rights, civil liberties, participation, equality, rule of law and so on. For this reason, there are always demands for democracy and when countries move away from it, struggle for its return.

This demand for democracy is often strengthened by the fact that democracies tend to be accompanied by strong media and civil society movements. Their vocation is to 'protect' democracy through investigation, information transparency and advocacy that contributes to resilience. Democracy's resilience as a consequence of a strong civil society and democracies with a strong civil society are more likely to be durable over time. Encouraging the strengthening of civil society is therefore the pathway to deepening the resilience of democracy.

Generally, the argument is that a vigorous civil society helps to create an underlying trust and social cohesion that in turn allows for contestation and contention in a democracy and strengthens its overall resilience when democracy comes under pressure.

There is evidence that the resilience of democracy can be shown empirically. In their article in the Journal of Democracy, October 2023, Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way argue convincingly that democracy faces challenges in many countries but on the whole, it has proven surprisingly resilient in the twenty-first century: “The extraordinary global democratic expansion of the late twentieth century has ended, and several prominent democracies, including those in Hungary, India, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, and Venezuela, have experienced backsliding or breakdown. But the vast majority of “third wave” democracies — regimes that became democracies between 1975 and 2000 — endure.”

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Jibrin Ibrahim

citizens start asking questions and making demands.

The result is that consolidating authoritarianism has become a more difficult task today than it was in the past. Populists can gain widespread public support initially but they have great difficulties sustaining it because they are unable to deliver the usually exaggerated promises they had made. Citizens have come to expect integrity, security and delivery of public services from democracies but they have the same expectations from the autocrats when they takeover. This is the basis for the resilience of democracies, over time, they have more to offer than authoritarian regimes. Democratic forces almost always have a good fighting chance over the others. It is interesting that in all the countries that had recent coups in West Africa, insecurity is growing, repression is growing, corruption has set in and public service delivery is facing a sharp decline.

It is not therefore clear that democratic recession is ongoing or that there is a “third wave of autocratization. As Freedom House argued in its 2022 annual report, data does not support such claims. In its report covering the year 2013, Freedom House listed 90 countries as Free. A decade later, that number was 84. According to V-Dem, the number of liberal and electoral democracies in the world declined from 96 in 2016 to 90 in 2022. The evidence is therefore for a slight not significant decline.”

The slight decline however looks bigger than it is because of the coming into power of a number of illiberal or authoritarian leaders whose style and voice appeared to exaggerate the phenomenon such as Italy's Giorgia Meloni (whose Brothers of Italy party has roots in Italian fascism) since 2022; Donald Trump in the United States and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil. Many of the elected autocrats who subverted democratic institutions in the twenty-first century lost power within a decade, very often resulting in a “slide back” to democracy. When autocracy comes, people remember the benefits they enjoyed under democracy and begin to crave for it as it were.

The result is that consolidating authoritarianism has become a more difficult task today than it was in the past. Populists can gain widespread public support initially but they have great difficulties sustaining it because they are unable to deliver the usually exaggerated promises they had made. Citizens have come to expect integrity, security and delivery of public services from democracies but they have the same expectations from the autocrats when they takeover. This is the basis for the resilience of democracies, over time, they have more to offer than authoritarian regimes. Democratic forces almost always have a good fighting chance over the others. It is interesting that in all the countries that had recent coups in West Africa, insecurity is growing, repression is growing, corruption has set in and public service delivery is facing a sharp decline.

The core weakness of ECOWAS is the erosion of its normative framework by some presidents who are at the same time its highest-level leadership – members of the Authority of Heads of State. When the issue of tenure elongation started putting strains on the ECOWAS normative framework, ECOWAS decided to include in its Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance a provision disallowing tenure elongation beyond two terms. When it was moved for adoption in the 2015 Summit, the presidents of Togo and the Gambia opposed it.

ECOWAS brought back the same proposal in the 2022 Summit and this time the presidents of three countries – Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo scuttled it. This means that the Commission is not always able to carry its leadership along because some of them have developed political objectives that directly contradict the normative framework they had developed for the organisation. We know where the problem is.

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

# Thirty Years After, Recreating The Rwanda Genocide In Gaza

By Owei Lakemfa

**V**ICTIMS who narrate stories of genocide do so because they survived. Millions perish, whose voices we may never hear again. There are even victims who did not have the chance of being born. Their lives were simply terminated as they grew in the womb.

So, as the world marks 30 years of the Rwanda genocide, we have 1,410 Israelis slain, 33,098 Palestinians killed with over 70 per cent of them being women and children and 90 per cent of the victims being civilians. So, rather than the world shout "Never again!" it is witnessing genocide: "Yet again!" Some years down the line, the powerful who have rationalised the ongoing genocide may be seeking justification, or making excuses for the role they are playing in refusing to recognise genocide.

Humanity witnessed this nightmare 30 years ago in Rwanda. Genocide, as defined by the United Nations (UN), "is a crime committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, in whole or in part".

In 100 days from April 6 to July 15, 1994, over 850,000 persons were massacred in Rwanda. On that occasion, humanity rose in unison: "Never again!" Only to sit back and watch the on-going genocide in Gaza.

As in Rwanda, there are debates whether the Palestinian genocide going on before our very eyes is genocide or a mere conflict by two sides. Powerful countries, especially those who supply arms or occupy permanent seats in the UN Security Council, racists and deluded 'Men of God' rule that what we are witnessing is a mere conflict in which one nation is teaching the other unforgettable lessons.

It took South Africa the wisdom, courage, humanism and sense of history to call genocide by its true name by getting the International Court of Justice to rule there is genocide in Palestine.

One of the witnesses to the Rwanda massacres, and the man who actually led the forces that put a stop to that genocide, is Paul Kagame. This Sunday, which was exactly 30 years that the genocide began, he declared before an international audience, the basic truth: "...It was the international community which failed all of us, whether from contempt or cowardice."

Indeed, when the Rwanda genocide was being planned, the UN, which had its peacekeeping force, the United Nations Assistance Mission For Rwanda (UNAMIR), on ground, was aware. Its Commander, General Romeo on January 11, 1994 sent his "Genocide Fax" to the UN Headquarters reporting the genocide plans. He followed up with five more warnings and sought permission to

intervene, but was ignored.

So, when the genocide began, UNAMIR was an indifferent force. Interventions came down to individual soldiers like Captain Mbaye Diagne, the Senegalese soldier who gave his life rescuing victims. I titled my October 3, 2020 tribute to this internationalist: "Saluting Captain Mbaye Diagne, the Soldier Who Covered UN's Shame."

There are countries like Canada, which regretted their inaction. The Clinton administration in the United States long before the genocide, knew of a "final solution to eliminate all Tutsis", but did not act decisively even when the genocide was on.

I was not surprised by the revelations of Kagame this Sunday, that as he and people under his command raced through Rwanda to stop the genocide, France threatened to annihilate them militarily unless they stopped, and allowed the genocide to go on.

The Kagame story: "One night, in the latter days of the genocide, I received a surprise visit past midnight from General Dallaire. He brought a written message, of which I still have a copy, from the French General Commanding the force that France had just deployed in the western part of our country, Operation Turquoise.

"The message said that we would pay a heavy price if our forces dared to try to capture the town of Butare, in the southern part of our country... he warned me that the French had attack helicopters, and every kind of heavy weapon you can imagine, and therefore were prepared to use them against us if we did not comply.

"I asked Dallaire whether French soldiers bleed the same way ours do; whether we have blood in our bodies. Then I thanked him, and told him he should just go and get some rest and sleep, after informing the French that our response would follow. And it did... We took Butare at dawn. Within weeks, the entire country had been secured, and we began rebuilding."

But not all countries were bystanders as the Rwanda genocide was carried out. Kagame acknowledged the positive roles of countries like Uganda, Eritrea, Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia and of course, South Africa, which emerged a democratic country as the genocide was going on.

The Rwandan President, this Sunday, added an historical gratitude: "At the United Nations Security Council in 1994,



moral clarity came from Nigeria, the Czech Republic, and even as far away as New Zealand. Their ambassadors had the courage to call the genocide by its rightful name, and resist political pressure from more powerful countries to hide the truth. Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria and Czech Ambassador Karel Kovanda are here with us today, and we applaud you."

However, an independent Rwandan Commission Report of August 5, 2008, concluded that France was not only aware of the preparations for the genocide, but also helped train the ethnic militias that carried out the genocide. It accused 33 senior French military and political officials of complicity in the genocide. It also reported that: "French soldiers themselves directly were involved in assassinations of Tutsis and Hutus accused of hiding Tutsis."

There are countries like Canada, which regretted their inaction. The Clinton administration in the United States long before the genocide, knew of a "final solution to eliminate all Tutsis", but did not act decisively even when the genocide was on.

President Bill Clinton admitted that had his administration taken some action, at least 300,000 lives could have been saved: "If we'd gone in sooner, I believe we could have saved at least a third of the lives that were lost...it had an enduring impact on me."

Six days into the genocide, Belgium, which had one of the largest contingents in the UNAMIR, announced it was withdrawing its troops. Other nations also did.

Following widespread condemnation of the role of France, the French Parliament enquired into the role of the country in the genocide. After several months, the president of the parliamentary mission, former Defence Minister Paul Quiles, declared in 1998 that France was "not guilty".

The genocide in the Palestine is taking a similar shape. First, the perpetrators in order to have a rationale to slaughter their victims, classify them as non-human beings. In Rwanda, the victims were labelled "cockroaches", while in Gaza, Israel refers to the Palestinians as "human animals". Secondly, the UN Security Council, as in Rwanda, held long debates whether the on-going genocide is really a genocide. It is also unable to agree on a permanent ceasefire.

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# Kajuru LG: Sports Committee Chairman Reiterates Commitment To Harness Potentials

**By: AUSTINE EMMANUEL, Kaduna**  
Following the need to harness human potentials in the world of sports, the House Committee Chairman on Sports Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams has met with sports stakeholders in his constituent. Honourable Ekene, Member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency Kaduna state in the meeting held with Kajuru Sports Leaders in Kaduna on Tuesday said he remain determined to give every young child the opportunity to showcase what they have got in the world of sport. According to the Lawmaker, Sporting activities remained the panacea to unite

members of every society, and as such there are plans on ground to bring every constituent members together in a fora for dialogue tantamount to sustainable growth and development, through talent. He said for Kajuru LGA, he has provided atleast 20 balls and four sets of jersey that would be handed over to the various teams any moment from now and therefore urged the Football Association, (FA) and the Local Organizing Chairman, (LOC) in Kajuru to imbibe a team spirit in other for them and the teams to be able to record maximum success. In his response, the Chairman, LOC Comrade AA Hosea's Peace Cup in Kajuru LGA, Mr. Michael Ajibola said that they have been doing everything

possible to see that peace is achieved between the two major dominant religions in the LG. Ajibola said that they just had a competition aimed to bring peace and unity to revitalize the spirit of sportsmanship in Kajuru so as to be able to form a formidable team that will always represent the LG in any competition, both in Kaduna and outside the state. He further stressed that the gesture will also encourage people who are in the village to know that truly they can succeed in football through academy and must not necessarily be through education, "and lastly to encourage the professionalism and FA in Kajuru LGA. "There are challenges in the sense that

some of the teams have to travel from the village to come so they encounter financial challenges. "We also have security challenges that have stopped others from coming that's why the registered teams are 16 and some of them don't have jersey, boot. "I want to thank the Member representing Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency Hon Ekene Abubakar Adams for the Honor done to us to come before him to interact with him to know more about football and other challenges. We want to thank him for the balls , the jersey that he is ready to give freely and the gray areas we noted down we will go home and work on them." He said.



# After 20 Years Of Arsenal's Unbeaten Title, Two Nigerians Also Win Bundesliga Title Unbeaten

By ; JOSEPH ODOEKWU

Two Nigerians made history on Sunday with Bayern Leverkusen to win the club's first ever Bundesliga title, after going unbeaten in a match that have made them champions with 5 matches to end the season. The duo of Super Eagles forward Victor Boniface and Nathan Tella, were part of the golden Leverkusen squad who did what Arsenal did 20 years ago when they win the title unbeaten.

With five matches left to

end the season, Leverkusen who have 79 points from 29 matches go 16 points adrift Bayern Munich, which makes it practically impossible for the champions of the Bundesliga to lose the title. Leverkusen have become the second club in European top flight league to accomplish the invincible feat.

Meanwhile, Arsenal who were looking forward to winning the title after 20 years lost to Aston Villa by 2-0 today, to hand the title over to Man City.



# INEC Tenders Incriminating Documents Against SDP, Kogi Guber Candidate

By: ADAMA JOHN, Lokoja

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Monday, tendered electoral documents that are against the petition by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and its candidate, Murtala Ajaka.

The duo are challenging the election victory of Gov. Usman Ododo, whose election was declared after the November off-circle election by the Independent

National Electoral Commission.

INEC's counsel, Uchenna Njoku, who stood in for Chief Kanu Agabi, SAN, tendered the documents before the Kogi State Election Petition Tribunal sitting in far away, Abuja.

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

Some of the documents tendered on Monday by the commission's lawyer before the three-member panel of

justices led by Justice Ado Birnin-Kudu, include INEC Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of the Election; INEC Manuals for Electoral Officers and INEC Form EC8C.

Others include INEC Form EC8B; INEC Form EC8E; List of Accredited Agents for SDP; List of Accredited Ward Agents; Receipts of Payment for Forms, among others.

Having tendered the documents, Justice Birnin-Kudu admitted them in

evidence and marked them as exhibits.

However, Njoku applied for an adjournment to enable the electoral umpire present its witnesses on the next adjourned date.

Granting the request of the counsel, the judge adjourned the matter until April 16 for continuation of hearing.

Earlier, Justice Birnin-Kudu, who observed that the SDP's petition would elapse on May 29, said there was the need to amend the number of days

earlier given for the 2nd and 3rd respondents to present their case and for the filing of the final written addresses of the parties.

He therefore, reduced the number of days to five instead of the earlier 10 days granted the respondents' lawyers to present their case.

He assured that where five days would not be enough, the panel would not hesitate to give additional more days while he solicited the cooperation of the parties in this regard.

But APC's counsel, Emmanuel Ukala, SAN, pleaded with the tribunal not to reduce the earlier days given to prepare their defence. Ukala, who pledged the cooperation of the respondents in ensuring timely completion of their case, pleaded that the order on the schedule for hearing should not be amended.

J.B. Daudu SAN led the team of Gov. Ododo's counsels.

The panel, however, clarified that the amendment to the order was done off record.

It could be recalled that SDP and Ajaka had, on April 5, closed their case after calling 25 witnesses.



After 20 Years Of Arsenal's Unbeaten Title, Two Nigerians Also Win Bundesliga Title Unbeaten

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## Kwara Open For Collaborations To Process Solid Minerals Locally - Gov AbdulRazaq

*\*Chinese mining firm ER-KANG invests in Kwara*

By; BILIQIS ONAOLAPO  
OLAJUMOKE, Ilorin

**K**wara State Governor, AbdulRazaq yesterday, said the administration is always open for partnerships and engagements that attract investments and pave the way for local processing of solid minerals in the state.

He also said that the government is committed to making the ease of doing business a major selling point for Kwara in the country.

The governor spoke in Ilorin, when he received a delegation from the ER-KANG Mining Nigeria Company Limited led by the Managing Director, Sun Qing Rong.

The governor promised to provide the mining company and others with all the necessary support to thrive.

"Our government is here to work with you to make sure you succeed in what you are doing. Your success will be our success. We will continue to promote a business friendly environment and make sure that our ease of doing business is next to none, such that Kwara becomes a destination and center for solid minerals and mining in Nigeria," he said.

"Your investment shows the way to go in terms of solid minerals

processing. As a policy which the federal government is also looking into, solid minerals should be processed before export. What you are doing shows that direction of processing the minerals before exporting or before further processing into other uses within Nigeria."

AbdulRazaq said the location of the company near the state industrial park, which is under construction, is apt and will serve mutual benefits.

"You are located near our Industrial Park, which will soon become an export processing zone. If you are within that zone, all your mining equipment will have been imported duty-free into Nigeria," he stated.

"Your safety is always guaranteed. We look forward to good engagements between us and your company; we also want you to be an ambassador of Kwara in China, where other Chinese companies can come and invest in Kwara."

Rong, on his part, said they chose Kwara for their investment because of its peaceful nature, requesting the government to assist them in getting necessary legal papers and documentation.

He said their company will create employment opportunities by engaging the services of the locals and



**L-R: Production Director ER-Kang Mining Nigeria Ltd Lit Cun Hai; Financial Director Guo De Ring; Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology Hon. Damilola Yusuf; Managing Director ER-Kang Mining Nigeria Ltd Sun Qing Rong; Kwara State Governor AbdulRazaq (CON); Chief of Staff Prince Mahe Abdulkadir; Legal Consultant Ibrahim Atanda; Geologist ER-Kang Mining Nigeria Ltd Liu Jain Liang; and Project Architect Architect Olaiyitan Yekeen; during a courtesy visit by management of ER-Kang Mining Nigeria Ltd to Government House, Ilorin, on Tuesday.**

increasing the revenue of the state.

"Our company is investing in this state because it is a business friendly and peaceful one. It is a good business environment. We can make our market decisions here. We can set good examples and encourage more foreign

companies, particularly Chinese companies to invest in Kwara State," he said.

Also speaking, the Legal Consultant to the company, Ibrahim Atanda, said the firm is ready to maintain the best corporate practices, comply with relevant regulations, and work with appropriate agencies of the

government.

An indigene of Ilorin, Atanda recalled the Governor's public statement where he advocated a local processing for solid minerals and said the coming of ER-KANG Mining company is an answer to the age-long quest in the state.

## Bauchi Govt Appoints Emir Of Dass Amirul Hajj, Leads 13 Team Members To Saudi Arabia

By; ABBASSHEHU, Bauchi

**G**overnor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has confirmed the appointment of His Royal Highness, Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman, the Emir of Dass, as the State Amirul Hajj for the year 2024 operation in Saudi Arabia.

This was indicated in a letter of appointment signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Ibrahim Mohammed Kasim, which named him alongside 13 other prominent citizens of the state

based on their devotion, exemplary dedication, discipline and divine service to Almighty Allah with a view to overseeing the smooth coordination and facilitation of pilgrims from Bauchi State during the holy pilgrimage.

Governor Bala Mohammed expressed confidence in the capabilities of the appointed team, emphasizing their capacity to uphold the highest standards of service delivery and professionalism throughout the Hajj exercise.

He reiterated the state

government's keen interest to supporting pilgrims and ensuring their welfare throughout the journey.

The thirteen members of the Amirul Hajj Team are, Hon. Jamilu Umaru Dahiru Bauchi, State Deputy Speaker, as well as Deputy Amirul Hajj, Hon. Justice Rabi Talatu Umar (Chief Judge of Bauchi State) Khadi Umar Ahmed Liman State Grand Khadi, Hon. Yakubu Ibrahim Hamza Commissioner for Religious Affairs Bauchi and Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Jalam, Commissioner of Local

Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Others are, Ibrahim Y.M. Baba, Surv. Ibrahim Saidu Jahun Galadiman Bauchi, Yayanuwa Zainabari and Sheikh Zubairu A. Madaki.

Also in the team, includes Sheikh Salisu Sulaiman Ningi, Sheikh Ibrahim Dahiru Bauchi and Mallam Ahmad Inuwa Na'ibi, while Muhammad Haruna Barde serves as secretary of the team.

According to the SSG, the team will work in collaboration with

relevant authorities, such as the State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and the Saudi Arabian government, to ensure hitch free and successful hajj operation.

Governor Bala urged the appointed team leader and members to discharge their duties diligently with utmost sincerity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, equity, and justice.