

Power Supply:
Ango Abdullahi
Fumes, Says Only
2,600 Megawatts
Generated
In 62 Years

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**150-Hour Guinness
World Record Nigerian
Marathoner In
Mathematics
Explains Ambition** **P.3**



**42nd AGM: Odu'a Investment
Declares N1.961bn Profit** **P.6**

*Group Chairman says dividends of N428m payable for financial year 2023

Group Plans Blocking Villa Gate If Tinubu Fails To Sack NNPC Boss

■ Disagree with Reps committee over fuel scarcity



L-R: Osun State TUC Chairman, Comrade Bimbo Fasasi, Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, Head of Service, Osun State, Mr. Ayanleye Aina and Osun State NLC Chairman, Comrade Christopher Abimbola Arapasopo @ the 2024 worker's day celebrations held @ the Osogbo Stadium, Osogbo, Osun State. Photo: AKINOLAARIYO

By; AMOS TAUNA,
Kaduna

The Tinubu/Shettima Mandate Actualization Group, has said that it will stop at nothing from leading Nigerians to block the seat of power, villa gate if President Bola Ahmed Tinubu fails to sack Mele Kyari-led NNPC for inflicting suffering on Nigerians.

A statement issued by its President and Secretary, Abiodun Abdulrazaq and Aliyu Muhammed

yesterday, noted that their attention has been drawn to a press conference held by House of Representatives Committee on Downstream and Midstream, led by Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere and Odianosen Henry Okojie, hailing the NNPC Ltd's intervention in the ongoing fuel scarcity across the country.

According to the statement, "We totally disagree with the contents of their press release and condemn their action because Nigerians are still

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NEMA Distributes KSrelief Food Items To 33,636 Persons

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has distributed food items donated by Saudi Arabia based international humanitarian organization King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) to a total of 33,636 persons in Kano, Jigawa and Katsina states as well as at an educational foundation in Maiduguri, Borno State. The food items distributed were in baskets that consist of 25kg rice, 25kg beans, 4kg masa vita flour, 2litres vegetable oil, 2kg tomato paste, 0.8kg seasoning cubes and 1kg salt.

The distribution was done per households with each receiving a total of 59.8 kg of the food basket. A total of 5,606 households being

the same as 33,636 persons benefitted from the gesture.

Beneficiaries of the food items were jointly enumerated by NEMA and the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) of Kano, Jigawa, Katsina.

The number of households that received the items in Kano State were 2,056 households, with 1,750 households each in Jigawa and Katsina States. 50 food baskets were given to the vulnerable persons in camps and host communities identified by the non governmental organisation in Maiduguri, Borno State.

The food items were distributed directly to the beneficiaries by staff of NEMA and SEMA of Kano, Jigawa and Katsina states. However, the distribution in Borno State was done by a local non-

governmental organization, Taibah Educational Foundation and supervised by NEMA staff.

The Director General National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Mrs Zubaida Umar through the Director Special Duties Hajiya Fatima Suleiman Kasim flagged-off the food distribution in Kano and Jigawa States.

In Kano State, the Deputy Governor Comrade Aminu Gwarzo who represented Governor Kabir Abba Yusuf appreciated KSrelief for the kind gesture, especially with the distribution was carried out during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

A beneficiary Malama Maryam in Kano State said she received the food items at the time that it was much needed. She thanked

KSrelief for the kind gesture and the Federal Government through NEMA for facilitating the distribution.

In same vein, another beneficiary in Katsina State Malam Sani appreciated the Saudi Arabia based international humanitarian organization for coming to the aid of the indigent and vulnerable persons in the state.

In a similar reaction, a beneficiary of the food items in Jigawa State Saidu Umar, after thanking KSrelief for the gesture requested for more supports to the vulnerable persons in the state.

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre has previously donated food baskets, which were successfully distributed by NEMA in Zamfara, Borno, Yobe and Kano states.

Katsina Ulamas Council Affirms 1445 AH Zakkat

By; SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Katsina State Chapter of the Nigeria council of Ulama has affirmed two million one hundred thousand Naira as zakkat nisab for the 1445 AH Islamic year.

This is in addition to thirty one thousand five hundred Naira as minimum sum to be given out as dourey.

A statement issued by the secretary general of the council, Shehu Abubakar Adoro, said compensation for death otherwise called "Diyah" now stands at one hundred and twenty six million Naira.

It said the dourey, compensation for death and zakkat nisab were arrived at based on the current value of Dirham not Dinar as the case with other nations.

FRN V. Ali Bello, 3 Ors: Court Adjourns To May 27 For Continuation Of Hearing

Justice Obiora Jegwuatu of the Federal High Court in Abuja has adjourned further hearing in the alleged money laundering charges against Ali Bello and three others to May 27, 2024.

The Judge, on Thursday, adjourned the trial following the conclusion of evidence in chief by the second witness of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC), Olomotane Egoro.

The adjournment was to allow counsel to Ali Bello, Abubakar Aliu, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria SAN, to cross examine the witness in his testimony against the defendants.

At Thursday's proceedings, in the suit marked: ABJ/CR/573/2022 (FRN Vs. Ali Bello and 3 others), Egoro, a Staff of Access Bank, tendered Bank Statements of Keyless Nature Limited, Fasab Business Enterprise and Ari Consulting and Integrated Limited and

testified of cash lodgements into the accounts from 14 Local Government Areas of Kogi State.

The witness, who did not state the purpose for which the monies were transferred into the accounts, also testified as to withdrawals from the said accounts.

The lodgement and withdrawals were said to have been made from between 2017 and 2022.

At the end of the Witness' testimony, Counsel to the 1st Defendant, Ali Bello (A. M. Aliyu SAN) prayed the Court for an adjournment to enable him cross examine the Witness. By agreement of Counsel, the matter was adjourned. Rotimi Oyedepo Iseoluwa, SAN, appeared for the Prosecution.

Nureini Jimoh SAN appeared for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Defendants.

Ali Bello and three others are facing trial on an alleged N3 billion fraud charge brought against them by the EFCC.



Lagos Police Apprehends 50 Suspects Over Youth, Hoodlums Bloody Clash

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

At least, 50 suspects are now in police net in Lagos over the bloody clash that ensued between some youths and hoodlums in Abule Egba area of the state.

Several items were said to have been vandalised during the clash which occurred on Thursday over yet to be ascertained disagreement.

Unconfirmed sources attributed the scuffle to supremacy fight between some youths of Yoruba

and Hausa extraction over who collects tolls on the shanties where refuses are dumped.

While confirming the arrest of the suspects, the Lagos State Police Command Spokesperson SP Benjamin Hundeyin hinted that they were apprehended by operatives attached to Oke-Odo Division led by its DPO CSP Lekan Ogundare.

He disclosed that normalcy has been restored in the area, while the shanties have been destroyed and the

hoodlums effectively dislodged.

It reads, "Following reports of clashes among some youths and hoodlums in the Ile-Epo area of Lagos State, the DPO Oke-Odo swiftly led his men to the scene, and have since restored normalcy.

"Over fifty suspects have so far been arrested while the shanties they occupied have been destroyed, effectively dislodging them.

"The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Adegoke

Fayoade, mni has directed the prompt prosecution of the arrested hoodlums and has equally warned that the Command would decisively deal with anyone found breaching the peace, in accordance with the law."

Meanwhile, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations), Area Commander Alagbado and other Divisional Police Officers under the Area Command are currently on ground to forestall further breakdown of law and order.

150-Hour Guinness World Record Nigerian Marathoner In Mathematics Explains Ambition

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

New GUINNESS World Record of a 150 hour non-stop mathematics lesson by an individual, Uduak Nanga says he needed a platform to demonstrate to the world that Mathematics could be fun.

Nanga, who recently concluded the challenge held at Kings Kid Christian International High School, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State earlier in the week, is a native of Ikono Local Government Area of the State

During a chat with our correspondent in Uyo yesterday, Nanga said he desires to reawaken passion for mathematics on the minds of young ones.

The new record breaker, an Electrical/Electronic Engineering graduate of Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, had before the Guinness World Record attempt partnered international bodies including UNESCO to cultivate interest in mathematics among young students in the state.

He said his passion for mathematics was initiated by his mother, Mrs Rose Edet Nanga who maintained a daily routine of checking his maths notes from his primary education level.

The marathoner, fondly called Mc Calculus who lost his first 10 hours on the world record attempt to technical

challenge said he was not deterred by the setback because mathematics as a course is designed to provide solution to complex issues of life.

"To me, it is a dream come true. Mathematics is passion to me and when I see people around the world dreading mathematics, sometimes feel bad and would ask myself, "how can I show to the world that mathematics is fun? So I thought of a platform to do that globally.

"That was why I went into the Guinness world record attempt, so what I did is beyond the record. Just the platform that I needed to show the whole world that they should have passion for mathematics.

"Doing so would enable the young ones, students and everyone to understand that mathematics is good for everyday life. Because beyond using it in academics, mathematics can be used in time management, planning and solving complex problems in life.

"When we talk about mathematics, anything in life that you have a solution to is mathematics, because in mathematics you must have solution no matter how complex it is. So in everyday life, you need perseverance, a follow-up, step by step. In the course of doing this mathaton, I see a lot of people having a rethink about mathematics.

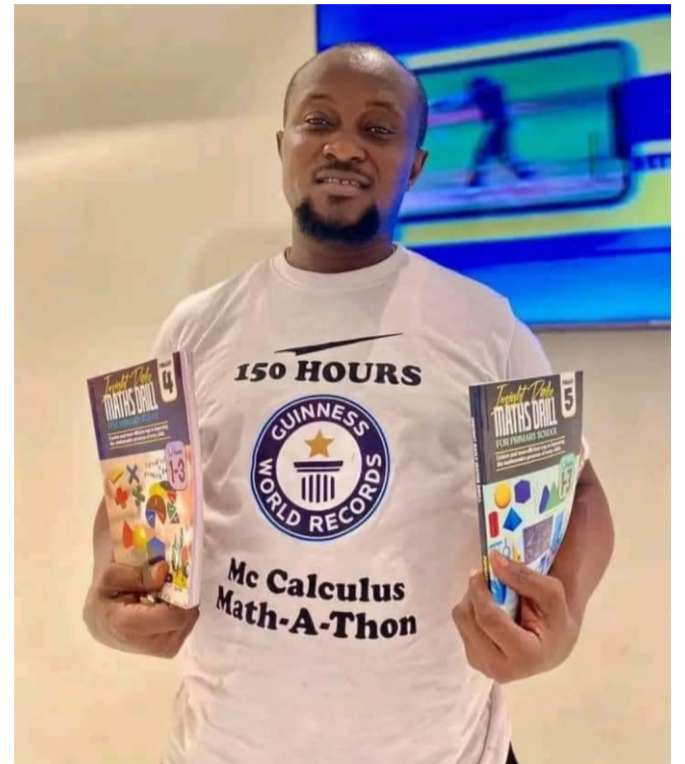
The Mathatoner who teaches

mathematics in one of the private secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State says he desires to encourage students across schools in the state and Nigerian at large through programmes to encourage coaching in mathematics.

He disclosed plans to launch a programme called Ultimate Brain Search which will draw students from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. The programme, according to Nanga will involve organizing quiz competition, debates, symposiums in mathematics.

He appreciated Akwa Ibom State Government and other corporate and private bodies who supported him during the 150 hour record attempt and pledged to wholeheartedly partner the state government on any of its programs to encourage excellence in mathematics

He specifically appreciated his alma mata the Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic for the support accorded him throughout the



duration of the challenge, and the engagement as ad-hoc mathematics teacher in the institution, a platform he deeply appreciated. He recalled that he had, even before his admission into the institution as student, organized tutorials for ND students of the polytechnic.

Police Invades Baga Road Fish Market, Halts Congress Meeting

*Carts away chairs at the venue

*Fish producers, marketers seek Zulum's intervention

By: SADIQ ABUBAKAR, Maiduguri

Crisis rocked Baga Road Fish International Market yesterday, as Police disrupted the market congress meeting while in session trying to elect new exco members, raiding the market and congress meeting venues, while shooting teargas at the members and carting away chairs.

The Baga Road Youth and Elders Fish Producers and Marketers Association congress numbering about 8,000 out of the total registered membership of about 13,000 members, who want a new constitutional exco on board and moved to have a new exco, had accused the "forcefully and illegal sitting exco" of dictatorship, refusal to account for N300 million revenue generation for the past 21 years. It also claimed that police invaded and raided the market congress meeting, shooting

teargas, whit allegedly hit an old man after disrupting the meeting and carting away their chairs while seeking the immediate intervention of Governor Babagana Umara Zulum before the situation gets out of control.

The spokesman of the forum who is also the Youth Leader, Abdullahi Alhaji Idi Bako who lamented this on Thursday at a press conference with journalists at the NUJ Press Center Maiduguri, further decried the poor leadership and mismanagement of the activities and revenues of the Baga Road Fish International Market Producers and Marketers Association for a long time without intervention.

He said the association which comprises of both Youth Fish Producers and Marketers Forum, Elders Fish Producers and Marketers Forum and the Board of Trustees, have been in a mess and deserves urgent government attention and intervention before the situation gets out of control

as invisible forces are interfering and instigating internal crisis.

He also called on Governor Babagana Umara Zulum' of Borno State to as a matter of urgency, intervene on the lingering conflicts and attacks on the members of youths and elders of the Fish Producers and Marketers Forums as the situation is bedeviling the survival and sustainability of the famous market and its revenue generation.

Abdullahi added that, "the refusal of the imposed and illegal leadership of the association to vacate office after its first and second constitutional tenure has been expired about 13 years ago was shamelessly rubbished by some internal forces who cannot account for and be responsible to the over N200 million generated by the members in the past 21 years from the N1,500 tax being collected per carton daily.

"Even the over stayed exco are collecting daily levy of N100 on

each carton as market revenue and collaborating with the government newly constituted ad hoc committee on revenue collection selfishly at the market which their presence and activity has been ineffective, selfish and non transparent as well as the N30 million being generated from the N100 bevy being charged daily on every consignment at the market," Abdullah said

The Leader of the concerned members of the Baga road fish producers and Marketers forums also alleged that the long serving Chairman of the association, Alhaji has been on the seat for over 21 years instead of 4 years single tenure and 8 years second tenure of re-elected Exco oppressing over 13,000 members of the association within and outside the state dictating on them contrary to the provisions of the constitution.

He also accused the Chairman of diversion of over N200 million revenue generated by the fish

market members in the past 21 years without accountability at the detriment of the association members.

"We generate daily on every carton of fish in the market tax of N1,500 per carton and N100 levy in each carton for the association, which is both the youth and elders producers and Marketers forums but up till now. All these years we didn't see any development or progress in the market, neither anybody accounting for the over N30 million which we generate monthly.

"I don't think government, or Governor Zulum is aware of this embezzlement or fraud, despite the corruptive way and manner the revenue generated in the market is being mismanaged without transparency and accountability because the leadership of the market association has failed to comply with the provisions of the constitution of the association and all efforts and procedures to

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Group Plans Blocking Villa Gate If Tinubu Fails To Sack NNPC Boss

Disagree with Reps committee over fuel scarcity

suffering and have not felt the impact or intervention of the Kyari's Led NNPCCL."

It described as unfortunate, that a Member of the House of Representatives and using other CSOs would come out in defence of a person who has subjected millions of Nigerians to an avoidable state of suffering, stressing that Mele Kyari's incompetency and lack of leadership qualities, has caused difficulties around the country,

sky rocketing of prices of food items and other essentials, exposing the masses to untold suffering and hardship.

It noted that Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere is ought be leading the fight for emancipating the poor Nigerians from the shackles of slavery and suffering put around their neck by Mele Kyari and his accomplices, alleging that he chose to look the other way for his personal benefits.

The group also called on the

speaker to sack him from chairman Downstream and midstream committee, saying that the appointment given to him is of no use to the benefit of Nigerians instead, he is using it for his selfish reasons.

The group cautioned Mele Kyari to not be deceived by the advise and support of Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere, stressing that he has a reputation of mis-leading people down to the pit as he did same to the then CBN Governor,

Mr Godwin Emeziele and look where that has gotten Mr Emeziele, from all indications.

The statement stated that NNPCCL claimed of having over 1.5 billion litres of petrol products by the NNPCCL in its storage facilities that can last for 30 days is laughable, asking what happens after the 30 days It stated that it is neither the first nor the second time fuel scarcity is rocking the country under

Kyar, saying that Nigerians are fed up and want a change of NNPCCL leadership or is Kyari the only qualified Nigerian to lead the NNPCCL.

According to the statement, until and unless Kyari resigns or is sacked, queues would never disappear in filling stations, as normalcy will never return and the sufferings of poor Nigerians will continue.

TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation Celebrates Workers; Salutes President Tinubu's Salary Increase Approval

By: ISAAC ODEH, Kaduna

The TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation has recently expressed jubilation and gratitude towards President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his approval of a significant salary increase ranging between 25% and 35% for civil servants on the remaining six Consolidated Salary Structures.

Additionally, the foundation also applauded the President for approving a pay rise for pensioners under the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS).

This was expressed in a statement signed by the Chairman of the foundation, Amb Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani Sadaukin Garkuwan Keffi and Betara of Biu.

The statement highlighted the foundation's Grand Patron, His Excellency, Ambassador Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai (Rtd) CFR, former Chief of Army Staff, who expressed confidence in President Tinubu's renewed hope agenda.

The Grand Patron emphasized that the salary increase would undoubtedly

bring smiles back to Nigerian workers, acknowledging their relentless dedication to the nation's progress.

Buratai further stated that the salary and pension increase are a step in the right direction and hope for more increases in the nearest future in order to further cushion the inflationary trend in the economy on the workers.

Furthermore, General Buratai urged the public to rally behind President Tinubu's administration, expressing concern over prevalent issues such as fuel scarcity and the escalating prices of goods in the market.

Despite the Naira's appreciation against the dollar, the Grand Patron noted that these economic challenges persist, calling for solidarity and support from all citizens.

General Buratai extended his heartfelt salute to Nigerian workers for their unwavering sacrifices towards the nation's prosperity.

Their dedication and commitment do not go unnoticed, and their efforts are instrumental in shaping a brighter future for all.



Gen TY Buratai

Police Invades Baga Road Fish Market, Halts Congress Meeting

address the illegality through lawful and legal ways have been truncated by political powers or otherwise in the past five years," Abdullah said.

According to him, "the issue was ever reported to EFCC, NPF DC Headquarters, NSDC, DSS and others by the congress of the fish producers and marketers association but without

positive result as the 21 years sitting exco of the fish market association who has been imposing itself on the members and this is tarnishing the image of members not only destroying the activities of the association.

"Presently, as we hold this press conference, we gathered that over 100 policemen have been deployed to the

market and on surveillance round the market depriving buyers and sellers into the market especially, the fish shop and store owners who the producers and Marketers of in the market", Abdullahi added

Efforts at the time of going to press to get the police headquarters press statement or

respond through the Borno State PPRO, ASP Daso Kenneth couldn't yield any positive result, he replied all phone calls by journalists to him in the matter to comment or give newsmen brief on what transpired at the Baga Road Fish Market, he replied, "I will contact the DPO and get back to you."

42nd AGM: Odu'a Investment Declares N1.961bn Profit

*Group Chairman says dividends of N428m payable for financial year 2023

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Board of Odu'a Investment Company yesterday, declared N1.961 billion as Profit Before Tax and dividend of N428 million payable for Financial Year 2023

Group Chairman of Odu'a Investment, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru while speaking during the 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company held at Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, said that despite the economic headwinds of 2023, the conglomerate was able to achieve the modest 7% growth in operating revenue from N3.68 billion in 2022 to N3.95 billion in 2023.

Expressing satisfaction that with improved collaboration and synergy within the group and leveraging shared services, cross selling, joint marketing and astute business innovation, he said "Odu'a Investment is translating the timeless vision of the founding fathers of the company into reality by the implementation of the Group's 5-Year Strategic Plan which aims to sweat, create and revive businesses and assets to deliver continuous growth and value to shareholders and stakeholders".

He highlighted notable events in the year under review as the commissioning of the Phase 1 of Westlink Iconic Villa, Alakia, Ibadan comprising 67 residential units of 3-bedroom apartments, 4-bedroom and 5-bedroom duplexes; the launching of the Odu'a Investment Foundation and its flagship Educational Intervention Project tagged "Digital Education for Innovation & Economic



Group photograph from Odu'a Investment AGM

Development (DEFINED)".

"Odu'a Investment also secured its first ever Credit Rating in 2023 with Augusto & Co awarding it "A" Rating with a Stable Outlook attributed to its deft management and "... good operating cashflows supported by its diversified income streams and portfolio of subsidiaries and associates".

The Group Managing Director/CEO of Odu'a Investment, Mr Adewale Raji while speaking commended the shareholders for the opportunity given to him to serve the company for two successive terms lasting 10 years during which the Group with their support enthroned a new corporate governance framework that depoliticized its operations, appointments and management.

Mr. Raji stressed that his review of the operating environment, Mr. Raji expressed optimism that President Bola Tinubu

administration's pursuit of a market-driven approach to resolving underlying problems of the economy will attract long-term investments into the country to fund infrastructure and social services that includes roads, rail, power, healthcare, education, etc that will translate into sustainable economic and human capital development.

Expressing confidence that under the leadership of Mr. Abdulrahman Yinusa, the incoming GMD/CEO of OICL, Mr Raji said the company will deliver on the ongoing redevelopment of the hotels in the Group, new pipeline of premium residential and commercial redevelopment projects, securing viable joint venture partnerships for the agriculture portfolio, achieve "The Group in this past ten years witnessed repositioning that was driven by her SRC - 2025 Strategy (i.e. Sweat, Revive & Create) to be a lean

non-operating investment holding company focused on 8 sectors of Real Estate, Hospitality, Financial Services, Agriculture, Energy/Power, ICT/Digital, Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals and Logistics/e-Commerce.

"It is such focus on "Sweating" that necessitated the consolidation of the entire Group real estate portfolio under our Wemabod Limited subsidiary leading to the massive redevelopment either through own resources or joint venture partnerships of our real estate portfolio to optimize yield and return.

"Revive" is manifesting in our renovation and redevelopment of Premier Hotel at Ibadan with significant progress made in both the existing building and new developments on the site with phased re-opening starting in H1 of 2025. Create" reflects in the significant step up in our BITA Exploration and Production Ltd marginal field (PPL 249) funding thrust

to implement the Field Development Plan with our partner, Pioneer Global Energy Resources. The company expects that once these funding and regulatory requirements are met; it will be able to achieve "First Oil" within Q1 of 2025. All these translated to remarkable success in its financial performance, corporate governance, risk management, and asset optimization across its chosen sectors.

Mr Raji noted that in real terms, OICL Profit Before Tax for 2023 actually increased by 62% to N1.772 billion from N1.092 billion in 2022 if we strip off Revaluation Gains arising from our Investment Properties portfolio in both years. He also recounted that the financial year 2023 will be the 10th consecutive year that the company will be paying dividends to Shareholders with the cumulative amount paid in this past decade amounting to N3.11 billion.

Prof Innocent Ujah Bags Chieftaincy Title In Umuahia, Calls On Nigerians To See Themselves As One

By ARCHIBONG ESUENE, Makurdi

The Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo (FUSHO), Prof Innocent Ujah was last weekend, conferred with the Chieftaincy title of Nwannedinma 1 in Ezeleke, Umuahia South Local Government Area, with an appeal on Nigerians to embrace one another.

His Royal Majesty, Eze Godfrey Ibeakanma, Ezeukwu Ezeleke, Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State who made the passionate appeal during the chieftaincy investiture of Prof Ujah in his palace, explained that Nigeria is stronger and better if Nigerians are united as one put together by God.

On the confirmation of Prof Ujah as the Nwannedinma 1 of Ezeleke Autonomous Community Umuopara, Umuahia South Local Government of Abia State, his royal majesty said Prof Innocent

Ujah, OON, was honoured for his contributions to the growth and development of education and humanity in Nigeria.

According to the royal father, Prof Ujah is a true Nigerian. "He is a detribalised Nigerian who has gone beyond religion, ethnicity and other primordial sentiments," he said.

Eze Ibeakanma, the Ezeukwu Ezeleke Prof Ujah going through his records have not only contributed immensely to the development of medical profession in Nigeria, but equally to the development of humanity irrespective of the divide which according to him is what Nigeria needs.

"We are happy, we discovered him because of his contributions on medical education and human capital development in Nigeria and in our community here in Abia State. So we decided to honour him with a chieftaincy title of Nwannedinma 1 of Ezeleke Autonomous Community, Umuopara, Umuahia South Local

Government of Abia State because we have equally benefitted from his large heart".

Speaking further, he said Ezeleke Autonomous Community traditional council recognizes people based on their sound track records and antecedent expectations that they will do more tomorrow," therefore, we have recognised him to encourage him in expectation that he will be able to do more for the benefit of our dear country and humanity."

In his response, the VC of FUSHO, Prof Innocent Ujah thanked his royal majesty and his traditional council members for the honour done to him and his family, stressing that what the country needs is oneness irrespective of tribe or religion. While he commended Eze Godfrey Ibeakanma, the Ezeukwu Ezeleke Autonomous Community for his visionary leadership he said, "this is what is called transformational leadership because this is not in Idoma land, not Benue State, not

even in Enugu State that is closer to us, but in Abia State. And again, it is good to keep relationship, we need to open up because we are all human beings and one Nigeria".

Prof Ujah revealed that prior to his recognition by Royal Majesty, Eze Godfrey Ibeakanma and his traditional council, he had no personal contact, "but through interaction with other processes, they decided that I deserve to be honoured. I have resisted this for a long time, but the way this one has been celebrated because is about the belief that I deserve and I really appreciate".

He however, noted that there is a great lesson to be learnt for the friendship across border lines because of the tribalistic, nepotistic attitudes makes it difficult for us to trust one another," but this an attestation done that we are still one. My belief is that you don't need to know anybody to help him/her probably it is my weak point which has turned out to be my strength. I met Chief (Barrister

Iroham Ezerendu at the National Institute of Medical Research, I didn't know him from anywhere, but he was hard working, my Hallmark of excellence is that you must work hard and get result."

The colourful event was attended by top government functionaries and diverse ethnic nationalities which included, the Chief Medical Director, Federal Medical Centre, Umuahia, Prof Azubuike Onyebuchi, the Major of Umuahia South Local Government, Barrister Obike, the Special Adviser on Politics to the Governor of Abia State, Hon Iheanacho Obiama, the Registrar and Bursar of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo, Mallam Aminu Abba and Mr John Aba and Dr Anthony Abah, acting Director, Health Sciences and delegations from Okpoga Development Community in Benue State and Idoma representatives in Imo and Abia states.



Kwara CJ Excited As Gov AbdulRazaq Presents 12 New Toyota Jeeps To Judges

**Five jeeps earlier presented in February*

By **BILIQIS ONAOLAPO OLAJUMOKE, Iorin**

Kwara State Government took the welfare of judges at the state High Court a step higher on Tuesday, as Governor AbdulRazaq presented 11 top-of-the-range Toyota Fortuner Jeeps to the judges.

The Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Abiodun Ayodele Adebara also got a 2024 Toyota Land Cruiser for the use of his office, in what underlined the administration's efforts to make the judges more comfortable in their service to the state and the country.

At the official presentation of the vehicles to the affected judges at the State High Court Ilorin, the Hon. Chief Judge of the state, Hon. Justice Abiodun Adebara, disclosed that earlier in the February this year 2024, five Toyota Fortuner Jeeps were allocated to five of the state High Court Judges from the money made available by the state government under the 2023 Budget.

The Chief Judge added that five new Toyota Fortuner Jeeps procured under the 2024 approved budget are to be allocated to another five of the judges of the state High Court today, the 30th of April, 2024

"Also, this morning, His Excellency Governor AbdulRazaq released another seven Toyota vehicles to the judiciary. Six of which are meant for the six new judges to be appointed," Justice Adebara announced.

The Chief Judge explained further that the purchase of a brand new vehicle is a condition precedent for the appointment of a new judge.

"These appointments are in the offing, and this is

one of the requirements of the National Judicial Council (NJC). There must be a vehicle on the ground before the appointment of a new judge for inspection. His Excellency has supplied six vehicles, and the seventh one is for the office of the Chief Judge," he said.

"I want to sincerely thank His Excellency, Governor AbdulRazaq CON who has been so friendly to the judiciary of Kwara State. He has been treating our requests with despatch in positive ways.

"What we are witnessing today is another positive impact of his administration on the money allocated to the judiciary in the 2024 budget under vehicle procurement. He promptly approved it.

The money was released to the judiciary," Justice Adebara explained.

The CJ recalled that the last time judges received vehicles from the government was eight years ago apart from the judges appointed on 2020 and applauded AbdulRazaq for his care for the state judiciary.

"The last time these judges had vehicles from the government was eight years ago. How will eight-year-old vehicles look like today in term of efficiency? Some of our judges are not even within Ilorin. It will enhance our jobs and the dignity of the office of a judge. So, it will complement our jobs and boost the morale of judges.

"I give glory to God, and I appreciate the amiable governor of the state for prioritising this important needs of the judiciary among other competing needs in the state.

"We are very grateful. We still have some judges who are yet to have their vehicles. I believe very soon, we'll have their own."



ICH Celebrates 26th Anniversary With Gift Items For Over 400 Pregnant Women, Patients

By: **BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan**

As part of activities marking its 26th anniversary, Ibadan Central Hospital (ICH) on Wednesday, organized a health gathering for over 400 expectant mothers at Ososami in Ibadan.

At the health gathering, various gift items, including baby essentials as well as the star prize of an all-expenses-paid delivery package for one lucky winner.

Speaking at the gathering,

ICH General Manager, Olajumoke Caxton-Martins appealed to the government to increase funding for infrastructure development and address the brain drain of healthcare professionals.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by pregnant women, Caxton-Martins emphasizing the need for adequate nutrition and access to affordable medical care during pregnancy.

The Hospital Medical Director, Dr. Kareem Adeseye while speaking

highlighted the challenges faced by the hospital, including unreliable power supply, poor infrastructure, and transportation issues, which have made basic healthcare inaccessible for many.

Dr Adeseye appealed to the government to partner with the hospital to address these challenges. Pregnant women who benefited from the program, including Mrs. Adeloye Titilayo and Mrs. Ibiroinke Omotade, appealed to the

government to provide facilities in government hospitals and create an enabling environment for private hospitals to thrive. They emphasized the need for affordable healthcare, food, and baby items, which are essential for pregnant women.

The celebration was a testament to Ibadan Central Hospital's commitment to giving back to the community and providing quality healthcare services to those in need.



Pregnant Women and others at the ICH programme in Ibadan

Power Supply: Ango Abdullahi Fumes, Says Only 2,600 Megawatts Generated In 62 Years

By; SANIALIYU, Zaria

Professor Ango Abdullahi has rated power supply in Nigeria as the same as foreign exchange as it only generates 2,600 megawatts in 62 years.

He stated this at the 20th anniversary of the operation of Nigeria's First Research Reactor held at the Center for Energy Research and Training, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria.

Abdullahi, a former vice chancellor of the university, said that Nigeria is facing a scarcity of power generation, while engagement about development.

According to him, agriculture is the major benefiting from the Nuclear Reactor in Nigeria.

He tasked Nigerians, particularly the scientists to move the country forward in terms of energy development for Nigeria to develop, warning that if that is not done, Nigeria will be under developed.

Professor Ango Abdullahi warned that it is not tertiary institutions that can change the narratives alone, because they are an important instrument.

In his message, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume said Nigeria will continue to collaborate with agencies in agriculture, environment, energy among others.

Represented by Prof. Bolaji Babatunde, his Special Adviser on Technical issues, he said, Center for Energy Research is the first of its kind in Nigeria when established.

He said Nigeria is a registered member of international Atomic Agency since 1964 and in 1976, ABU was selected as the Center for excellence and established CERT.

According to him, Nuclear Reactor is 20 years old in Nigeria.

In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University

(ABU) Zaria, Professor Kabiru Bala said that Nigeria is matured in using nuclear reactor for electricity generation.

He said, nuclear reactor is one of the pillars of Nigeria's economy particularly in agriculture and oil and gas sector.

Prof. Bala also said, the center received trainees across Nigeria and African countries.

According to him, previous administrations have indicated their desire to improve the Nuclear Reactor in the Center for Energy Research and Training.

In his remarks, the Chairman/CEO Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof. Yusuf Aminu Ahmed said that with the numerous opportunities in several other places both within and outside the country they chose to remain in the center to continue in the national efforts towards deploying the reactor facilities for Nigeria's socio-economic development.

He said ABU has been

very supportive to Nigeria's Nuclear programmes and deserves a special commendation for their immense support to the center.

Prof. Ahmed said, the commission was privileged to be charged with the responsibility of funding and supervising the activities of the reactor and the center that gave him a great opportunity to contribute to the safety operation of the research reactor to meet its objectives.

The Director of the Center, Professor S. A. Jonah said that in line with NIRR-1 achievements that the center has been designated as a guest recipient of the IAEA Reactor Laboratory activities, which has enhanced the teaching of reactor physics and engineering in Nigeria.

Prof. Jonah said that with regards to the future prospects, only recently, NIRR-1 was used to carry out soil fertility and geochemical mapping of arable lands in four local government areas of Kaduna State.

Lagos Federal Parliamentarian Tasks Workers On Fair Labour Practices

By; RAYMOND TEDUNJAYE, Lagos.

Nigerian workers have been urged to collaborate with government to promote fair labour practices, safe working conditions, and equal opportunities for all.

They were also charged to strive in building a nation where every worker is valued, respected, and compensated fairly for their labour.

A Lagos Federal Lawmaker, Hon. Dr. Adedayo Adesola Samuel (Jim Sam), representing Apapa Federal Constituency at the Green Chambers made the call in his goodwill message to commemorate the Workers Day celebration.

In the message personally signed by him, made available to our correspondent in Lagos, the parliamentarian lauded the efforts of Nigerian workers, saying their labour is the backbone of the nation's

progress.

He therefore urged them to continue to work together with government to promote fair labour practices, safe working conditions and equal opportunities for all.

The message titled "Happy Worker's Day from my office as an honourable member of the House of Representatives!", reads, "Today, we celebrate the contributions and hard work of workers across our great nation. We recognize the dedication, perseverance, and commitment that you bring to your jobs every day."

"As a representative of the good people of Apapa Federal Constituency, I am proud to acknowledge the vital role that workers play in building our economy, our communities, and our society as a whole. Your labour is the backbone of our nation's progress, and we are grateful for your tireless efforts."



Hon. Dr. Adedayo Adesola Samuel

Support Groups Mark 2024 World Press Freedom Day, Urge Governments To Protect Media Freedom

By; HAUWA ADAMU KIDAH, Kaduna

Four human rights and media support organizations have called on federal and state governments to take urgent measures to ensure media freedom and the safety of journalists in Nigeria, saying the deteriorating state of media freedom in country is potentially harmful to its system of democratic governance.

It was made known in a statement announcing their collaborative activities to commemorate the 2024 edition of World Press Freedom Day (WPDF 2024) through separate events taking place in Lagos and Abuja on Friday, May 3.

According to the statement, Media Rights Agenda (MRA) and Global Rights: Advocates for Sustainable Justice, in collaboration with the International Press Centre (IPC) and the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO), will hold a hybrid convening in Lagos under the theme: "The Imperative of Media Freedom for Democratic Governance", to underscore the vital role that the media play in promoting transparency, accountability, good governance, and democracy.

The event will have media stakeholders

drawn from among journalists and editors, media owners and managers, civil society organizations, the academia, and others participating physically and virtually and will include activities such as sharing of experiences by journalists who have faced various forms of attacks, a presentation on the importance of counselling for journalists who have been victims of attacks, as well as presentations on various civil society efforts to ensure the safety of journalists and protect media freedom, which are designed to strengthen the media as they strive to promote democracy, human rights, and social justice.

A separate event will be hosted in Abuja by Global Rights in collaboration with MRA and the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR). The event will be a Webinar titled "Freedom of the Press in Peril - Raising the Bar for Press Freedom in Nigeria", which is aimed at sparking a conversation on how to safeguard press freedoms in Africa and how the operational environment for the press can be improved in Nigeria and across the continent.

The event will identify global best practices that create a conducive and

enabling environment for the press and share experiences of how they can be domesticated in a way that makes them more easily accessible to journalists and other media professionals in Nigeria.

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, World Press Freedom Day is celebrated around the world on May 3 every year as a reminder to governments of the need for them to respect their commitment to press freedom and create a safe and conducive environment for journalism and media practice.

Commenting on the collaborative efforts by the various organizations, Mr. Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director of MRA, said: "As the world celebrates World Press Freedom Day on May 3, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of free speech, independent journalism, and the protection of press freedoms worldwide knowing that a free and independent media is the oxygen of democracy. We are determined to work with like-minded individuals and organizations towards the emergence of an environment where media professionals can carry out their

professional functions without fear or intimidation and where the media can realize its true purpose."

According to Mr. Lanre Arogundade, Director of IPC, "We recognize the challenges facing journalists and media professionals across the country, including censorship, intimidation, violence, and online harassment. In the face of these threats and attacks, we commend the resilience and courage of journalists who continue to pursue the truth, often at great personal risk."

"We also promise that we shall continue to render whatever support we can to ensure that the atmosphere is made conducive for them to ply their trade."

Dr. Akin Akingbulu, Executive Director of CEMESO, said: "We take the opportunity of this important occasion to once again call on governments, civil society organizations, and individuals everywhere to join us in defending press freedom, protecting journalists, and ensuring that information remains a public good accessible to all. Together, let us stand united in support of press freedom and the fundamental principles of democracy."

Commander General, Nigerian Hunter and Forest Security Service (NHFSS), Amb. Dr. Osatimehin Joshua Wole addressing the Senior Officers of the organisation during the Annual General Meeting, decorating the new officers and presentation of certificates and plaques at the headquarters in Abuja. *Photo: BASHIR BELLO DOLLARS*



Police Confirms Death Of Suspected Kidnapper, Rescues 2 Victims, Recovers Gun In Delta

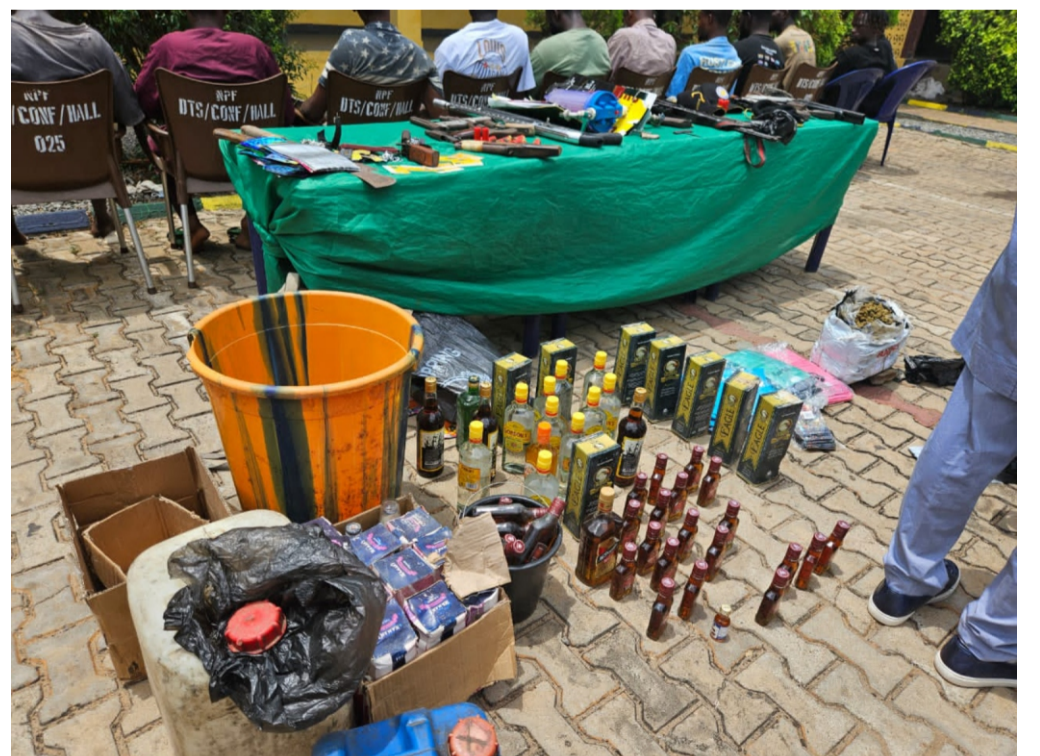
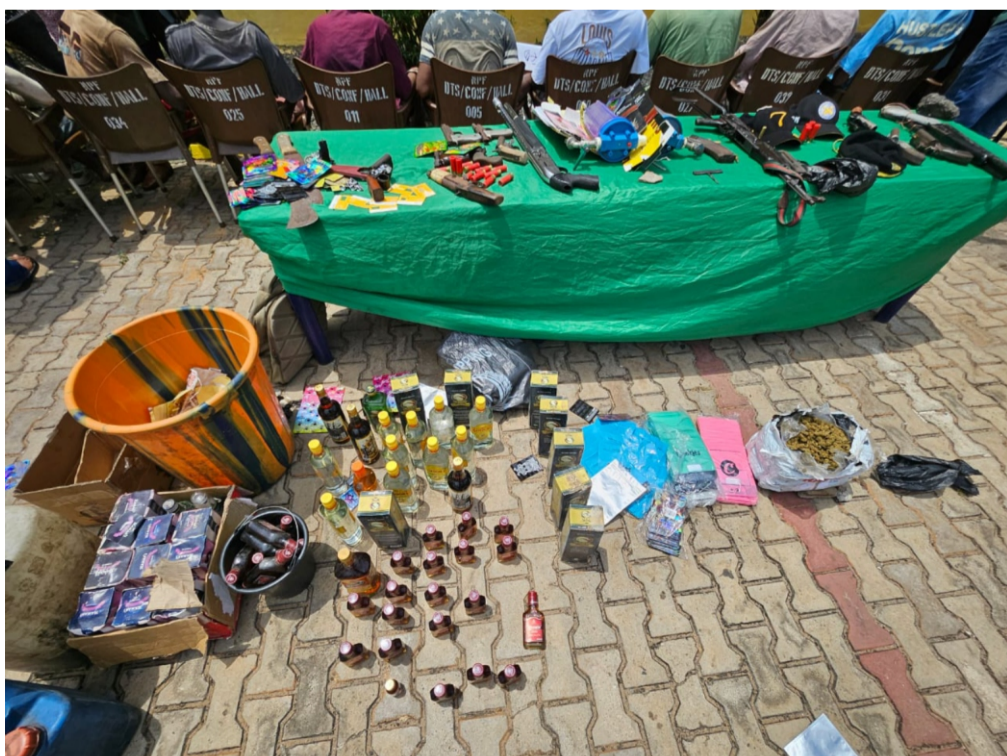
By; UTEBOR PETER, Asaba
The Delta State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of some suspected kidnappers hibernating at Okuno Orogun, Ughelli North Local Government Area of the state. The Delta State Commissioner of Police, CP Abaniwonda

Olufemi disclosed this to journalist in Asaba yesterday, while briefing newsmen on his achievements during the period under review. According to CP Abaniwonda, "at about 0900hours, the Command got intelligence report that some suspected kidnappers were hibernating at Okuno,

Orogun Ughelli North LGA, where they were hiding alongside some of their kidnapped victims. "I directed the DPO Abraka Division to lead Police operatives to their hideout. The DPO swiftly mobilized police operatives alongside members of the Abraka vigilantes, and

hunters group, stormed the bush and engaged the suspected kidnappers in a fierce gun duel during which one of the suspect sustained serious gunshot injuries while others escaped. "One AK-47 rifle, and eleven (11) rounds of 7.62mm ammunition were recovered. "The two kidnapped victims

(name withheld) were rescued unhurt and have been reunited with their families, while the injured suspect was taken to the hospital where he gave up the ghost while receiving treatment. "Manhunt for the other fleeing suspects is ongoing." CP added.



Chief Of Air Staff Lauds Gov Yusuf's Logistics Support To Combat Security Threat In Kano



By; **JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON**

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal, Hasan Bala Abubakar has applauded the support of Kano State Government under the stewardship of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf towards strengthening its operational mandate in the state.

In a statement issued by the Governor's spokesperson Sunusi Bature, said Air Marshal Abubakar made the commendation yesterday when he paid a courtesy visit to Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf at Government house in Kano.

The Chief of Air Staff disclosed the joint force of his troops with sister security agencies in combating internal security in Kano yielded tremendous

successes and maintained peace and stability in the state.

Air Marshal Abubakar noted the impact of Nigerian Airforce personnel in several operations that led to arrest of bandits and kidnapers on wanted list of DSS in Kano. He reassured the state government of NAF readiness to sustain internal stability.

The Kano born Chief however raised concern over encroachment of NAF land and re-allocation of its property. Abubakar pleaded for restoration of the land dedicated for its future expansion.

He also craved the Governor's support in connecting the Kano state water facility to the NAF Base in the state for access to water supply.

Responding, Governor, Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf pledged

readiness to strength partnership with Nigerian Air Force in the discharge of its operational mandate of ensuring internal peace and stability in the state.

The Governor Yusuf disclosed the critical role of the Nigerian Airforce in securing the nation's air security component and providing cover to the ground troops against the internal and external enemies.

The Governor stressed the contribution of Air Force and sister military agencies in sustaining stability in Kano, reassured his administration's commitment to build on the institutional relationship.

He however sought the consideration for Kano indigene in the recruitment exercise of the Nigerian Air Force, indicating the large percentage of youth

population in the state.

The Governor equally requested for the establishment of Air Force Girls Comprehensive Secondary in Kano to complement the existing Boys Comprehensive Secondary School which is located in Kwa, in Dawakin Tofa, a long Kano-Katsina express way.

According to him, "The government of Kano is proud of you and we are proud of your appointment which was based on professionalism and track record. Kano is also proud of your efforts to tackle the security challenges especially the menace of kidnapers, bandits and other criminals.

"Since we took over the mantle of leadership, the administration has enjoyed tremendous relationship and support from Air Force and sister security

agencies and that was responsible for the peace and stability in Kano.

"We assured you, our administration will sustain support to the airforce in Kano especially in the area of operation and welfare of your personnel for optimum performance of your statutory mandate. We also want to request for special consideration of placement into the air force consider our population which is estimated at 25 million.

"It is also noteworthy to request the return of Girls Comprehensive secondary school to Kano. We are aware the girls were relocated due to the security challenge. We are also in need of more personnel to strengthen human capacity of the troops in Kano" Gov. Yusuf noted.



Borno Gov't Bids Farewell To Departing DSS Director, Launches Book On Security

By; SADIQABUBAKAR, Maiduguri
Borno State Government held a grand ceremony last Sunday, to honour M.M. Murtala, the outgoing State Director of Security (SDS) for the Department of State Services (DSS). The ceremony, which took place at the Multipurpose Hall of the Government House, Maiduguri, had in attendance, the Governor of Borno State, Professor

Babagana Umara Zulum. Governor Zulum led the tributes, which acknowledged Murtala's dedication and contributions to the state's security. Others at the occasion included distinguished personalities, notably, the Deputy National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Ali Bukar Dalori, Senator Borno Central, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan and the Speaker of the Borno State House of

Assembly, House Representatives Members, state government officials, APC officials, traditional rulers, religious leaders, among others. In addition to the sendforth, a book titled, "Internal Security In The Face Of Terror In Nigeria/The Role Of Civilian JTF In Borno State," was launched. Murtala, the departing SDS, authored the book, which details his experiences and insights on the Civilian Joint Task Force's

(CJTF) role in combating terrorism in Borno State. The book launch provided a platform for him to share his knowledge and perspectives on this crucial aspect of state security. It is expected to be a valuable resource for understanding Borno's security situation and the CJTF's role in supporting security agencies.



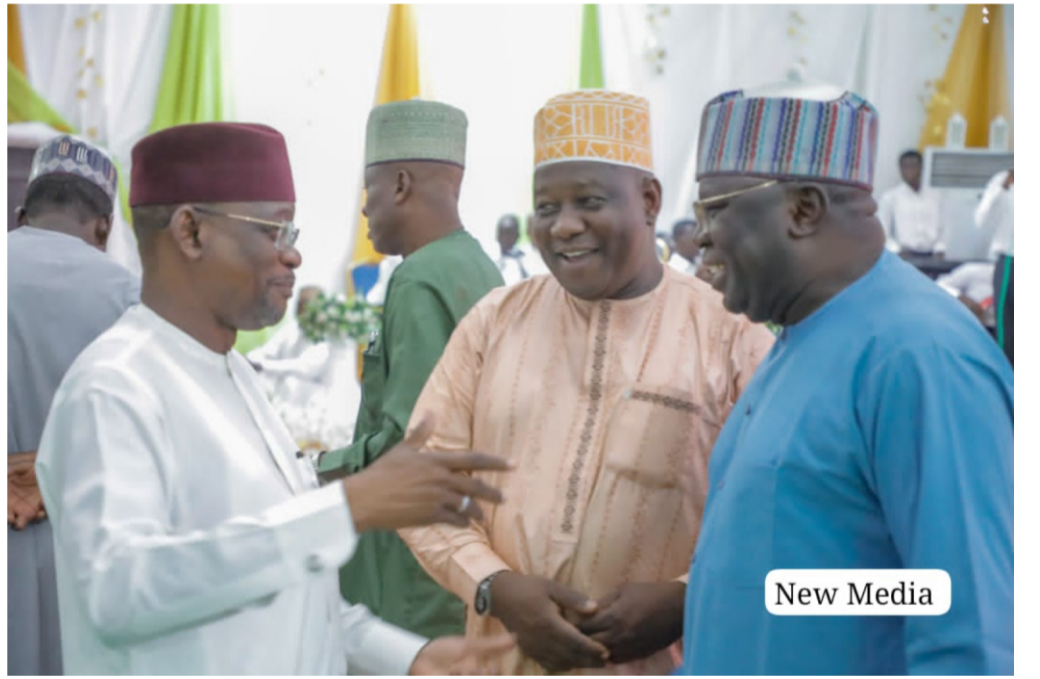
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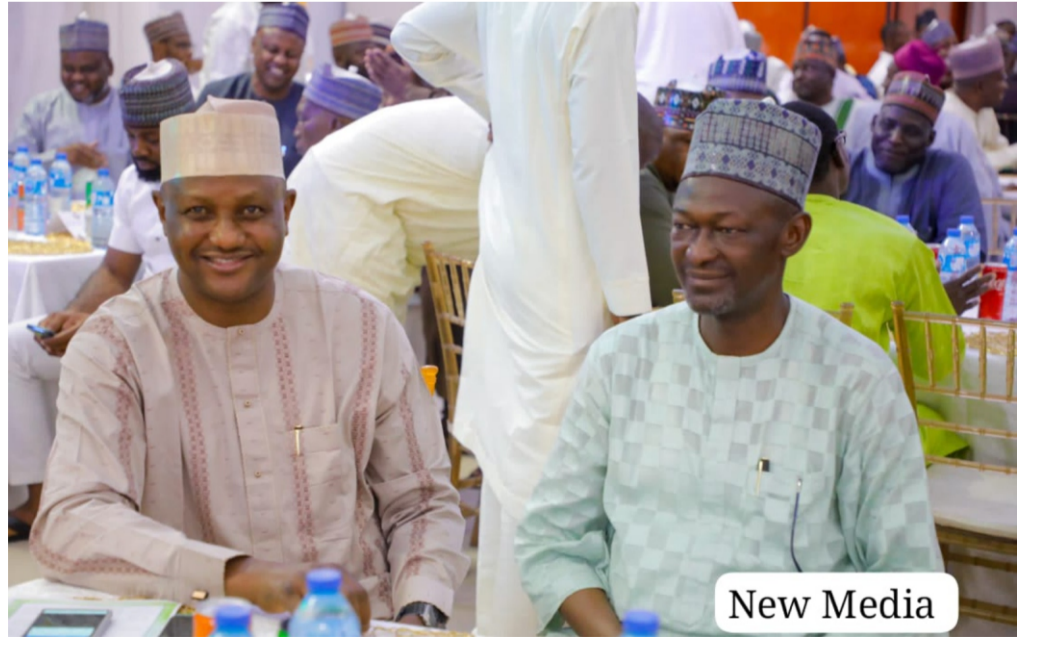
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Borno Gov't Bids Farewell To Departing DSS Director, Launches Book On Security



Buratai Humanity Care Foundation Calls For Expulsion Of Chinese Family Segregates Nigerians From Supermarket

By; JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

In a bold statement released by the TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation, a call has been made for the expulsion of the Chinese family owners of a supermarket in Abuja, Nigeria, who deny Nigerians access to shop. The foundation, led by its Chairman, Amb Ibrahim Dahiru Danfulani (Sadaukin Garkuwan Keffi and Betara of Biu), expressed deep concerns over the discriminatory practices of the supermarket, which only allows Chinese citizens to enter and purchase goods while barring Nigerians from doing the same.

The Grand Patron of the Foundation, His Excellency Ambassador Lt Gen Tukur Yusufu Buratai (Rtd) CFR, former Chief of Army Staff, condemned the discriminatory actions of the supermarket owners, likening it to racism. He emphasized that no foreign citizen should be denied his rights in Nigeria as long as he or she abides by the country's laws. Gen Buratai questioned the audacity of foreigners dictating terms to bona-fide citizens on how to live or stay in their own country.

Gen Buratai further criticized the discriminatory policies of the supermarket owners, stating that there is no valid reason for a

company in Nigeria to refuse to sell to Nigerians.

He labeled the actions of the Chinese family-owned establishment as a clear case of racism and called for decisive action by the federal government against any individuals, foreign or Nigerian, who flout the rules and regulations of the nation.

The TY Buratai Humanity Care Foundation's stance on the issue serves as a strong message against segregation and open hatred towards Nigerians.

The foundation urges the government to address such discriminatory practices swiftly and firmly to uphold the rights and dignity of all citizens in Nigeria and even abroad.



Let's Hope For A Better Country, MULAN Urges Nigerians **Holds 15th AGM in Ibadan*

By; BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

The Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN) yesterday asked Nigerians to hope for a better country.

Addressing a press conference in the 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the association holding in Ibadan between this Friday and Saturday, through its National President, Dr. Kazeem Olajide Olaniyan, MULAN stressed that the increase in prices of food and other commodities was not only the fault of government but also fault of Nigerians.

According to Dr Olaniyan who gave the theme of the AGM as "National Development: The New Dynamics and Nuances", "we must all look at things we can do to solve the current challenges in Nigeria and that is what our annual general conference set out to do,"

He pointed out that despite the current hardship in the country, things could have been worst but for the present government heeding to cries and calls of well meaning Nigerians, adding that the immediate past administration towards the tale end of its tenure subjected Nigerians to many challenges which was later compounded by the fuel subsidy removal by the present administration

"You can attest to the fact that things are not working as we expect, but it would have been worst than now if not for the cries and calls of right meaning Nigerians. As at the time the last administration was going away, we had this crisis of Dollar and Naira swap", he said.

The MULAN National President added, "It caused a lot of havoc. People died because of that. That one is gone forever. The removal of subsidy that came immediately after the swearing in of this government, it was strictly addressed at the AGC and our message was that, whatever

it may cost, with palliative, government must look for a way to cushion the effect, the harsh effect of removing the subsidy.

"And we saw the government coming out with the labour friendly palliative such as 35 percent pay increment, N25,000 to N35,000 each as wage award and some others, to the extent that the galloping and jumping dollars has now come down. We are now at the verge of discussing what next, and that's why we said "New Dynamics", what next when these changes are coming up. Don't forget the acronym and slogan of the ruling

APC government in power, it is called Renewed Hope.

He stressed further, "How hopeless were we that needs to be renewed. Who is responsible for the renewed hope? How hopeful is that person that is responsible for renewing our hope? Then, how far can we move when it comes to hope been renewed?"

"These are the nuances. The new dynamics and the nuances coming together to play a key role in national development, that is what we are set for in this conference and we hope for a better Nigeria out of this.

"It gives me great pleasure to address this press conference at this auspicious time of our 15th Annual General Conference (AGC) of the Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN). MULAN, as you are aware, is a National Association and an umbrella body for all Muslim Lawyers in Nigeria, established and registered in 2006, with the maiden edition of the AGC held in Gusau in Zamfara State.

"I must quickly add that this year's AGC is a three day fully packed event, have been laced and embellished with some side attractions and goodies to water the appetite of all the participants".

Speaking, the Chairman, 2024 Conference Organizing Committee, Musbau Adetunbi said over 1000 lawyers and non lawyers alike across the country will be attending the conference Adetunbi added that no fewer than 13 erudite speakers drawn from all the six geo-political zones of the country as well as eminent gentlemen and lady presenters comprising six professors, three senior advocates, two consultants/physicians, three educationists and a banker will discuss the theme and sub-themes in nine sessions and the grand dinner.



Raid On Criminals: Gov Umo Eno Tips Security Agencies, Donates Patrol Vehicles

By: PATRICK TITUS, Uyo

Bent on making Akwa Ibom State a no-go area for criminals in line with the security management aspiration of the ARISE Agenda, the state governor, Pastor Umo Eno, has donated Toyota Hilux Trucks to security agencies in the State, to boost their operations.

This is in addition to fourteen gunboats recently donated by the Governor for the security of the waterways.

Presenting the vehicles to the State Commissioner of Police, CP Waheed Ayilara, Gov. Eno noted that it was part of government's effort at ensuring that the State is rid of criminal elements and remains one of the most peaceful and safest for its citizenry and investors.

He noted that his administration will stop at nothing to ensure that peace and security in the State is maintained.

Governor Eno hinted that the state was also setting up a Tactical Command Control Centre to enhance information sharing and synergy among the relevant agencies and thanked the service commanders for the



robust relationship between the various security agencies and the state government.

He commended their diligence in carrying out changes in the command

without allowing security gaps, adding, "we are determined because the primary duties of any government is to secure the lives and property of its citizenry and their welfare, we

are determined to make sure we don't fail in that regard.

"We'll do anything to ensure that criminals flee Akwa Ibom shores whether it is by sea or land. We are donating these vehicles towards the realization of those goals and objectives of government and the benefit of our people.

"I had promised that I'll give whatever it takes to continue to improve security in this state. We had donated the boats and we will make sure all 14 of them are put to use. We're going to support with land vehicles and other gadgets. We're setting up a Tactical Command Control Centre in Akwa Ibom so that all the services can work together," he said.

The Governor however cautioned that the vehicles were designated for security operations within Akwa Ibom State and not to be taken outside for other purposes that will thwart government's intentions for acquiring them.

Receiving the vehicles on behalf of the security agencies, the Commissioner of Police, CP Waheed Ayilara, commended the governor's genuine intentions and efforts to support security operations, assuring that the vehicles will be utilized optimally to ensure security of lives and properties in the State.

The State Commissioner for Internal Security and Waterways, Gen. Koko Essien (Rtd.), in his description of the components of the vehicles, said the vehicles were fitted with state-of-the-art gadgets to ensure secured communication among the patrol teams, with base stations at the various security offices.

State Executive Council members, Leaders of thought, political stakeholders including Political Leader for Uyo Senatorial District, Senator Effiong Bob, among others witnessed the presentation.



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

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

POLITICAL RATE

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

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
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2	Loss of Documents	2" x 2 Cols	4,400.00	330.00	4,730.00
3	Change of Name	Per Box	2,000.00	-	2,000.00

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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

A Walk In Abuja Amongst Spanish Speakers

By Owei Lakemfa

UNLESS they spoke English or their speeches were translated, to me, they spoke Greek. It was an achievement for my old friend, Juan Ignacio Sell, the Spanish Ambassador who introduces me as his nephew.

The setting on Thursday, April 25, 2024, was the 'Day of Spanish Language'. It was the first time the delegations of Spanish-speaking countries in Nigeria gathered to celebrate the Day. Seated on the high table were Ambassador Sell, Special Guest and Education Minister, Professor Tahir Mamman and the Spanish-Speaking Ambassadors in Nigeria, including those of Cuba, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina.

The spread of the Spanish language owes a lot to the four voyages of Christopher Columbus which began in 1492 and ended in 1504. He travelled mainly in the Caribbean through places like Cuba, Jamaica, Bahamas and the coasts of east Central America, and north South America. In the process, he spread Spanish.

Language divides, it also unites. But the latter is true in this case. The organisers said their aim was to celebrate the richness, diversity and international presence of "one of the most spoken languages in the world, as well as acknowledge the role the Spanish language plays in fostering dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among communities".

So, the assembled countries saw Spanish as a unifier. The gathering aimed to highlight the importance of the language spoken by some 500 million people and studied by almost 22 million persons. Also, with English and Chinese, Spanish is one of the three most spoken languages in the world.

In my conversations with the Mexican Ambassador Alfredo Miranda – in English language of course – he spoke on the impacts of Spain and Spanish on his country. He said: "Mexico was colonised by Spain for 300 years during which we received not just the Spanish language, but also its religion and culture. Today, Mexico, which has a population of 130 million, is the largest Spanish-speaking country. Spain has smaller population: 47.78 million; so, in a sense, the sons have become the parents. Spanish is a very important language and within it, we have developed a new culture. Mexico itself has 68 local languages which we continue to keep and develop."

In his speech at the occasion, Miranda joked that the venue, Casa Mexicana, a Mexican restaurant which collaborated in hosting the Day, is "Mexican territory" to

which he welcomed everyone. The Spanish language, he said, not only provides a good opportunity for business in Latin America, but also in the United States of America (USA), which has 50 million Spanish speakers.

His Excellency Francisco Nguema Mangué, the Ambassador of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, said on a number of occasions, he had been asked why, as a Blackman, he speaks Spanish, and his response often, is to refer such people to Google. He said his country, which has boundaries with Cameroun to the north, Gabon to the east and south, and embraces the Atlantic, was originally colonised by the Portuguese. He explained that Portugal exchanged his country in 1778 with Spain in return for the later ceding large areas of South America to it. He said this was how his country acquired Spanish as its official language, and an official language in the African union (AU).

Argentina's four main languages are Spanish, which is the dominant; Italian, the second most spoken; Quechua and Guarani. Nicolas Perazzo Naon, Counsellor of Argentina, discussed the impact of the Spanish language thus: "Generally, Spanish is the language I live on as an Argentine and diplomat. The thing I love about this language is that it enables me to communicate with millions. The wonderful thing about the language is that although it is coming from Europe, it is very rich and impacts on us all. I am from Argentina, but when I go to Latin America, I have to learn different new words. It is a sign of how the language has developed; this level of development I have not seen in any other language." Naon added on a jovial note: "There is Queen's English, but there is no King's Spanish. We just speak Spanish."

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Cuba Ambassador Miriam Morales Palmero spoke on behalf of the participating countries on what has become of the language after these



voyages: "Spanish is a language very rich in expressions, synonyms, adjectives, words that have entered the language from different contributions. Specialists agree that it has more than 100,000 words, with estimates varying from 195,000 to 300,000 depending on the consideration made of the meanings, Americanisms and other variations established in the different regions and countries where it is spoken.

Education Minister Mamman, who greeted the audience in Spanish, said language is a major vehicle for promoting culture and that it distinguishes human beings from other beings. He commended the organisers for marking the Day despite the diversity of the countries involved. He pointed out that Nigeria is also a country known for its diversity. The Minister said the participating countries have a lot of work to do, promoting the Spanish language in Nigeria.

In analysing the future of Spanish, she said: "Recent estimates affirm that the Spanish-speaking population will increase to 7.7 per cent in the year 2050. The date shows that the future of the Spanish language is promising in the short term and, will continue to expand throughout the planet, despite the dominance of English and the rise of Chinese."

The Spanish Embassy Third Secretary and Head of Consular Section, Patricia Gomez Lanzaco, said the Spanish-speaking populace in Nigeria should popularise the language and make it accessible. She informed that as part of this measure, a Spanish lecturer was brought into the country in September 2023. Lanzaco said the embassy hopes to collaborate with the Nigeria Ministry of

Education, other agencies and organisations to expand the use of Spanish in the country.

The Colombia Honourary Consulate, Maricel Cantillo Romero, said her country wants to expand relations with Nigeria. She informed that Nigerians who want to study in Colombia will be given an opportunity to apply. She added that successful applicants will be offered scholarships to study in Colombia, including undergoing a Spanish language training programme.

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After the Minister declared the Day open, and went through the exhibition of the collaborating countries, a programme of students learning Spanish from various schools in Abuja took off. The organisers said the general idea of this and the follow-up programmes, including with people having a strong interest in the language, the Spanish-speaking community in Abuja, a Gastronomic Exhibition and a Salsa Night, is to "celebrate our language and we want to do it with all Nigerians who are as passionate as we are for Spanish and wish to learn it further."

NOGIG 2024: NNPC Shows Class As LOC Chair Expresses Excitement



By: SUNNY CANTO, Abuja

In a week-long sporting activities that was climaxed with athletics and football matches, the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Games also, known as NOGIG thrilled spectators including dignitaries in Abuja. Excitedly, the 19th edition has lived up to expectations despite the delay due to COVID-19 pandemic, thereby keeping the followers in anticipation before commencing this year 2024 event at MKO Abiola National Stadium in Abuja.

However, the thirteen companies that featured with one thousand, five hundred athletes competed fairly and fiercely.

Team NNPC which emerged

overall winners with 50 medals; won 20 gold, nine silver, 21 bronze while NLNG amass 14 gold, 13 silver, 11 bronze placed second as third place Shell got seven gold, six silver, nine bronze.

Speaking to newsmen, (LOC chair), Dr. Ifeanyiwa Mojo-Eyes said, "I'm so overwhelmed with our excellent performance, we'll not stop here because it's indeed a milestone achievement that we anticipate; now a reality" She added, "I played Golf, did a tee-off, and it was so exciting, encouraging, fitness fill, though its full of technics and discipline but everyone can play" she added.

Earlier in her Speech, she said,

"Well, as a proud participant, I'm welcoming fellow contingents, partners, stakeholders to the 19th edition of NOGIG as we celebrate sportsmanship, camaraderie theme: "Empower Wellness, Ignite Productivity" , will promote athletic prowess and deepens the connections within our vibrant industry also, let's continue the legacy, elevate it to new heights"

Coach Emeji Sunday aka Naked Wire gave his fourteen-man (Volleyball) team a gold medal against Shell opponents, while Oluwadamilola Adisa won gold in (Squash) women single, others gold in team event as Apakama Chioma outstanding skills won them several laurels in

Swimming.

Interestingly, Mrs. Ifeanyiwa Mojo-Eyes previously won gold in Poll-ball games, also competed in Volleyball. Besides her official busy schedules and LOC chair responsibility, the outspoken women played badminton, golf; encouraged other female participation.

Meanwhile, they narrowly lost in the football semi-finals in Port-Harcourt, recording a bronze medal during the colourful closing ceremony.

The historical event which was epoch making, began with table tennis novelty match in the opening ceremony at the indoor Sport Hall of Package B, Stadium in Abuja as Nigeria

cultural heritage was display in the Mouthwatering closing.

Amazingly, team Aradel Holdings Plc that finished below the table got the 'March Past' overall winner as NNPC showcased Rich Igbo heritage traditional attires, dance with so much enthusiasm and smile on their faces.

Dignitaries like former House of Representatives Speaker; Honorable Yakubu Dogara, former Plateau State Governor; Honorable Simon Lalong; Senator John Enoh, Sport Minister; Fidel Pelpole; Senator Shehu Baba, FEAD Director, Mr. Olumide Bamiduro; among other oil and gas industry sector leaders graced the remarkable event.



SWAN Full Council Ends In Kano, 34 States Attend



By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

The 2024 Full Council Meeting of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has ended in Kano, with 34 states present.

The meeting which was initially billed for Kaduna, was later moved to Kaduna due to some factors including logistics and was held yesterday at the Global Luxury Suits, Kano.

The well attended meeting was also graced by several dignitaries and key stakeholders.

Notable among those at the opening, were, Minister of Sports Development,

Senator John Enoh represented by acting Zonal Coordinator North West, Mohammed Danmallam.

Others are ex SWAN President, Alhaji Saidu Abubakar, ex SWAN Secretary Generals, Olawale Lawanson Alabi and Jude Opara, ex NFA Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima and Alhaji Dr. ISiyaku Umar Tofa, among others.

At the event, several Nigerians who distinguished themselves in sports development were honoured.

They include,

1. Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau - SWAN Football Development Icon Award

2. Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Galadima - SWAN Excellence Award

3. Senator John Owan Enoh – SWAN Sports Outstanding Leadership Award

4. Hon. Abubakar Ekene Adams – SWAN Sports Grassroots Development Award

5. Alhaji Dr. ISiyaku Umar Tofa – SWAN Sports Philanthropy Award

6. Alhaji Halilu Dantiyye MNI – SWAN Sports Legendary Award

7. Mr Moses Adisu – SWAN Sports Development Award

8. Rabi Ali – SWAN Sports Legendary Award

9. The Chairman, Nigeria Nationwide

League One – SWAN Most Improved League

10. Alhaji Dr. Rabi Inuwa – SWAN National Merit Award

11. Senator Barau Jibrin - SWAN Excellence People's Representation Award

12. Senator Kawu Sumaila - SWAN Distinguished Service Award

13. Kano State Governor, Alhaji Kabir Yusuf - Nigeria Sports ICON

14. Mal. Ibrahim Shekarau CON, PEN. (SARDUNAN KANO) - Award of Excellence for Sports Development.



NOGIG 2024: NNPC Shows Class As LOC Chair Expresses Excitement

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Gombe Governor Reiterates Support for Workers' Welfare, Pledges to Prioritize Workplace Safety

By: JACOB ONJEWU DICKSON

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, CON has reaffirmed his commitment to the welfare and well-being of workers in Gombe State, emphasizing that his administration recognizes the importance of a fair and adequate wage.

A statement signed by the Director-General (Press Affairs) Government House Gombe, Ismaila Uba Misilli, said that this is just as he pledged the firm disposition of his government to ensuring that workers earn a living wage, expressing confidence in their resilience and dedication to supporting his efforts in building a brighter future for Gombe State.

In a goodwill message to the hardworking workforce on the auspicious occasion of the 2024 International Workers' Day, the Governor acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the organized labour and workers in general as indispensable partners in the progress and development of the state.

He noted that the theme of this year's celebration, "Ensuring Safety and Health at Work in a

Changing Climate," resonates deeply with the efforts of his administration to prioritize the well-being of all workers.

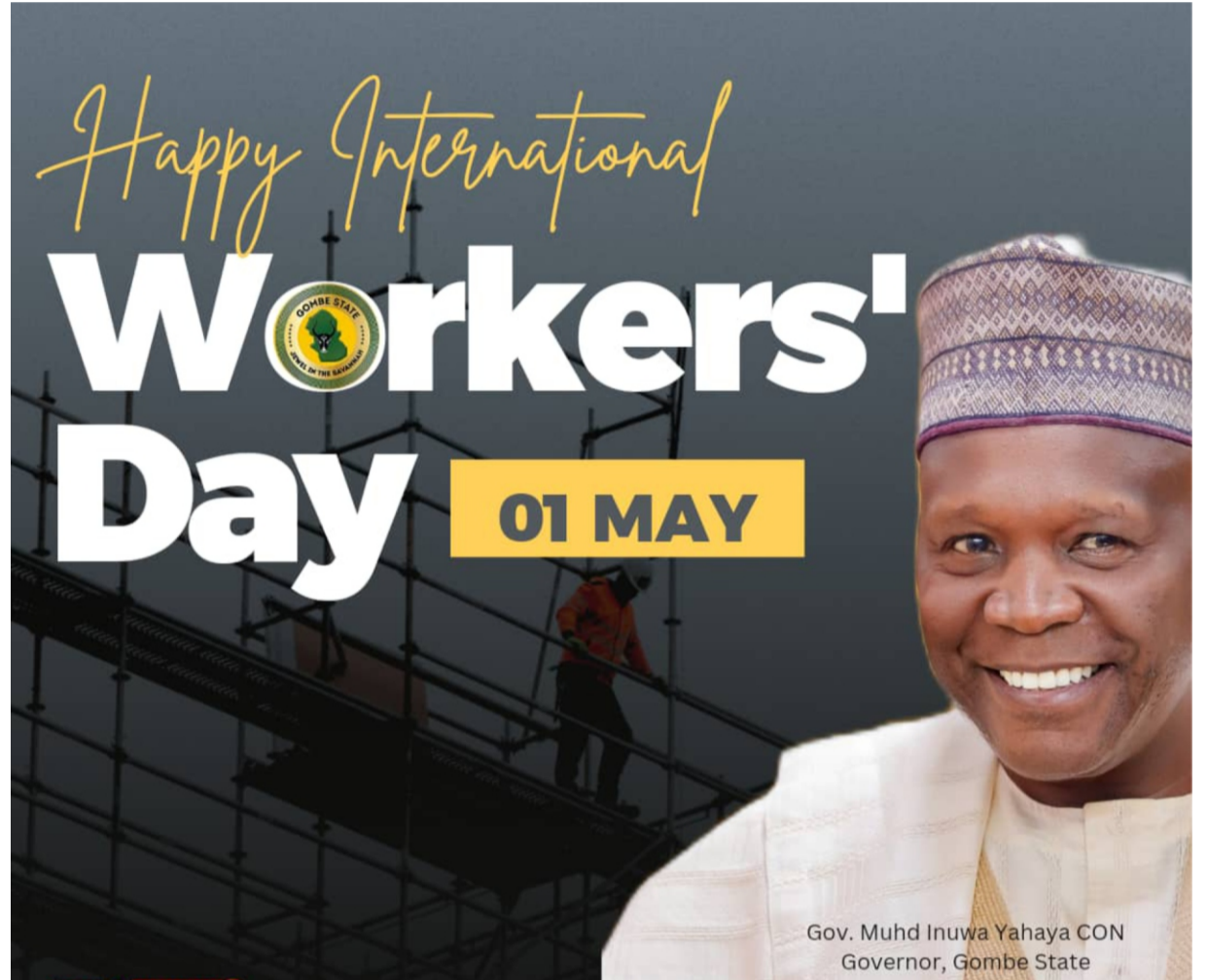
The Governor is proud to highlight the strides made in this regard and pledged to continue to champion initiatives that will safeguard the safety and health of every worker.

He stressed his commitment to fostering a conducive working environment and harmonious relations with the workers aimed at enhancing productivity and advancing good governance.

He expressed profound gratitude to the organized labour for their steadfast cooperation, emphasizing that their support has been instrumental in achieving significant milestones in Gombe State.

The Governor assured that the welfare of workers remains a top priority, underlined by the prompt and timely payment of salaries, wages, and pensions, as well as ongoing efforts to settle the backlog of inherited gratuity for both state and local government retirees.

He acknowledged the prevailing socio-economic challenges but called for collective sacrifice and solidarity to overcome them,



Gov. Muhd Inuwa Yahaya CON Governor, Gombe State

emphasizing the critical role of workers in driving industrial growth, fostering ease of doing business, and advancing key sectors such as agriculture and

infrastructure. He urged workers to sustain their dedication and commitment to service delivery, assuring them of his administration's resolve to

continue to cater to their needs within the constraints of available resources.

Ex-Katsina Governor Shema Dumps PDP For APC

By: SULAIMAN AHMED MISAU, Katsina

Former Governor of Katsina State, Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema who ruled the state for eight years under Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in

2007 to 2015 has decamped to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) with hundreds of his followers in a very colourful ceremony.

Governor Dikko Umaru Radda welcomed Former Governor Shema to the APC, describing his defection as a

homecoming and a reunion with political family members.

Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema was presented with a membership card of serial number 26551 by Shema Ward Executive of the APC in Dutsinma Local Government Area.

Governor Dikko Radda who was represented at the occasion by his Chief of Staff, Alhaji Jabiru Abdullahi Tsauri called on other patriotic citizens of the state to join hands in repositioning the state for greatness, reiterating that his doors are open to anyone willing to contribute to the state's development.

The membership card, according to Chief Press Secretary to Governor Dikko Radda, Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed was filled out by the state secretary of the APC and

issued to the former Governor at the Shema Ward Party office in Dutsinma by the state chairman of the APC, Alhaji Sani Aliyu Daura.

Alhaji Abdullahi Tasuri received the membership card on behalf of the Katsina Governor, who would personally present it to former Governor Ibrahim Shema.

Upon receiving the card, Alhaji Jabiru Tasuri declared the APC's momentous achievement in welcoming such a prominent figure from the opposition, marking a historic shift in the political landscape.

Earlier, the state chairman of the APC, Alhaji Sani Aliyu Daura, commended Governors Radda and Masari for their role in securing the defection of the influential figure and pledged equal treatment for the former governor. He assured the former Governor of equal treatment, just like any other party member.

In a welcome address, the state secretary of the APC, Suleiman Nanadi, stated that having former Governor Barrister Ibrahim Shema join the party further proves APC's success and popularity.



Left: Shema, Gov Radda and ex-gov Masari at an occasion recently