

STILL IN CAPTIVITY

11 SCHOOLGIRLS OF FGC, BIRNIN YAURI

591
DAYS

1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA

563
DAYS

Banks short of new notes as ATMs dry up

- Reps tackle commercial banks over new currency policy
- We are constrained by CBN guidelines – Bank Executives

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20th *Daily Trust* Dialogue:

Candidates' 'blueprints' cannot solve Nigeria's problems – Panelists

- Two major parties lack ideological identity – Onaiyekan
- 'Manifestos mere academic work'
- There are more desperados than democrats among candidates – Kabiru Yusuf
- We have full confidence in INEC – US



By our reporters

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The event, chaired by the Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, had as Royal Father of the Day,

the Sarkin Karshi, Abuja, His Royal Highness Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed.

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Troops neutralise 84 terrorists in NE/NW, rescue 122 victims in 2 weeks

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Death toll from Nasarawa bombing rises to 40 – Gov Sule

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Group Managing Director/CEO, United Bank for Africa, Mr. Oliver Alawuba and Vice President of Zambia, Mutale Nalumango, during the visit of UBA Management to the Vice-President towards deepening UBA's support for Zambia's economic development, especially in the areas of agriculture, mining and energy, in Lusaka on Monday

PROMOTIONAL

Mafab adds Kano, Kaduna, PH, Enugu to 5G network rollout plan

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When you control your anger, you earn His pleasure. It's a test of the strength of your character. Be conscious of it so you won't regret

- Mufti Ismail Menk



AFRICAN SAYINGS

"Although the snake does not fly it has caught the bird whose home is in the sky"

(African Proverbs)

Source: BBC collection of listeners' proverbs

WEATHER

Compiled by JAMIL H. SALIM

| ABUJA | KADUNA | KANO | MAIDUGURI | Jos | SOKOTO | IBADAN | ENUGU | P/HARCOURT | LAGOS |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD | PARTIALLY CLOUD |
| 36 21 | 36 16 | 34 13 | 36 14 | 31 14 | 37 17 | 37 23 | 38 22 | 31 18 | 33 25 |
| MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN | MAX MIN |

(Temperature in centigrade)

PRAYERS TIMES

RAJAB 5, 1444 AH

| PRAYERS | ABUJA | ENUGU | KADUNA | KANO | KATSINA | LAGOS | MAIDUGURI | P/HARCOURT | SOKOTO |
|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|------------|--------|
| FAJR | 5:39 | 5:38 | 5:40 | 5:37 | 5:41 | 5:57 | 5:19 | 5:42 | 5:50 |
| DHUHR | 12:47 | 12:51 | 12:48 | 12:43 | 12:50 | 1:03 | 12:27 | 12:50 | 01:00 |
| ASR | 4:02 | 4:06 | 4:03 | 3:58 | 4:05 | 4:18 | 3:42 | 4:05 | 4:15 |
| MAGHRIB | 6:32 | 6:32 | 6:32 | 6:27 | 6:27 | 6:51 | 6:09 | 6:36 | 6:42 |
| ISHA | 7:37 | 7:38 | 7:37 | 7:32 | 7:35 | 7:56 | 7:14 | 7:41 | 7:47 |

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna



PHOTO OF THE DAY

■ A woman filling portholes with sand in Area3 in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja yesterday

Photo: Onyekachukwu Obi

STOCK INDEX

| GAINERS | GEREGU | WAPIC | CHELLARAM | INTENEGINS | TRIPPLEG | LOSERS | RTBRISCOE | ROYALEX | COURTVILLE | LINKASSURE | TRANSCORP |
|---------|---------|-------|-----------|------------|----------|--------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|-----------|
| OPEN | N147.40 | N0.45 | N1.81 | N0.58 | N0.96 | OPEN | N0.30 | N0.78 | N0.47 | N0.48 | N1.21 |
| CLOSE | 13.40 | 0.04 | 0.16 | 0.05 | 0.08 | CLOSE | -0.03 | -0.07 | -0.04 | -0.02 | -0.01 |
| CHANGE | 10.00% | 9.76% | 9.70% | 9.43% | 9.09% | CHANGE | -9.09% | -8.24% | -7.84% | -4.00% | -0.82% |



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Money laundering: Court okays service on Atiku, others

By John C. Azu

A Federal High Court in Abuja has granted an application seeking leave to serve the court papers on the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, over money laundering allegations.

The court on Thursday granted

the application directing the service of the papers through the Atiku Abubakar Campaign Organisation at Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.

The order followed a motion ex parte for substituted service brought by the spokesperson of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council, Festus Keyamo (SAN), through

his counsel, John Ainetor, to serve the papers on the defendants in the matter. In the writ filed on January 20, Keyamo sought an order compelling Atiku to provide to anti-corruption agencies details of a bank account belonging to a company, Marine Float, and two undisclosed companies described as Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) allegedly used for money

laundering during his tenure as vice president between 1999 and 2007.

The anti-corruption agencies listed by Keyamo included the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

He sought the court declaration

that Atiku was under obligation to make public details of the SPVs "which information he disclosed to a certain close aide of his called Michael Achimugu, as to how the said accounts were used as "Special Purpose Vehicles" to secretly divert and misappropriate public funds between 1999 and 2007 when the 1st defendant (Atiku) served as Vice President of Nigeria."

Ajaokuta Steel aborted concession cost FG \$496m – Lai

By Maureen Onochie

The federal government yesterday said it paid \$446m out of the \$496m settlement claim to Global Steel Holdings Limited following the termination of a contract to resuscitate the Ajaokuta Steel Company. The Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, who disclosed this in Abuja during the 19th edition of the President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration Scorecard Series (2015-2023), said the balance of \$50 million would be paid next month.

He noted that Ajaokuta Steel Company was concessioned to Global Steel Industry in 2004 by former President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration during which the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, was in charge of privatization programme.

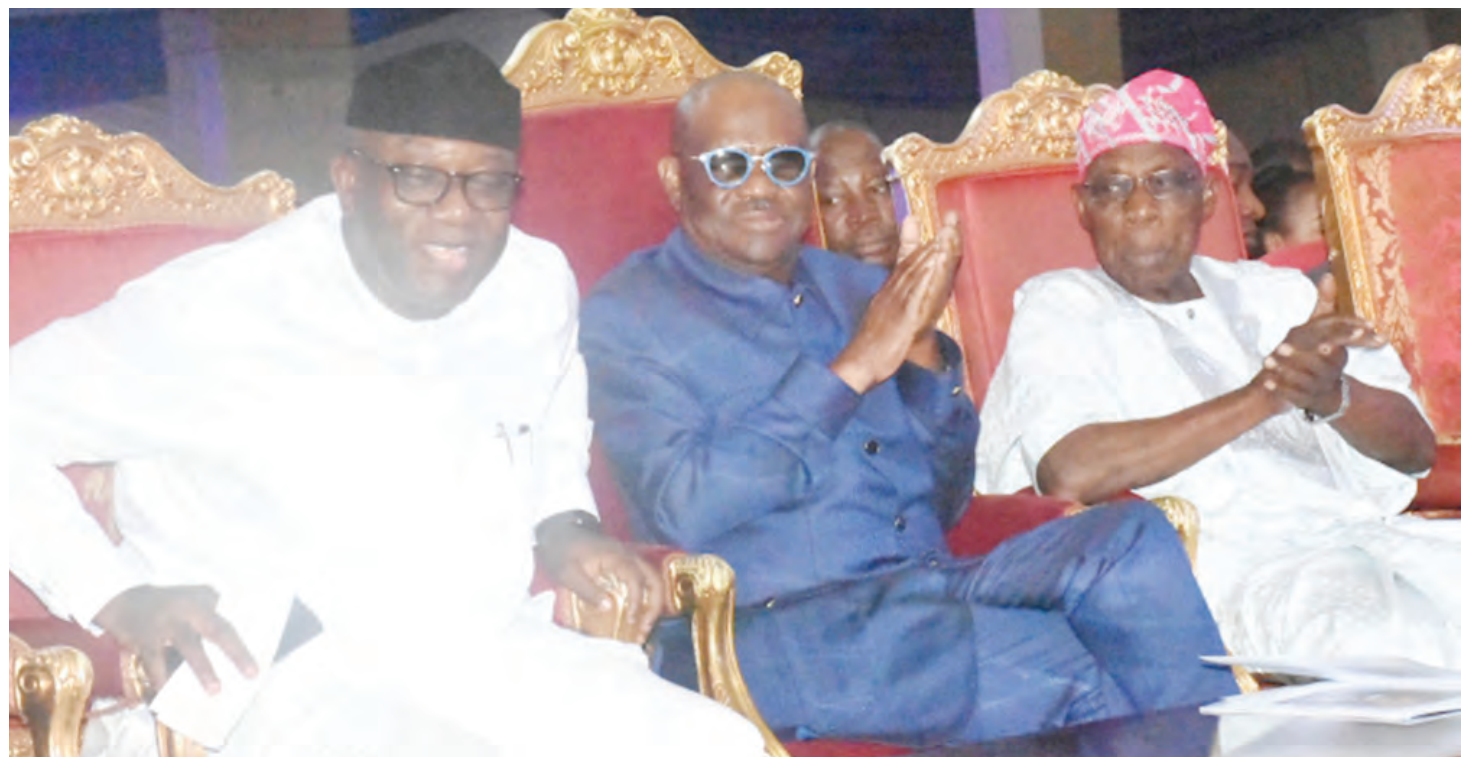
The minister said, therefore, the promise by Atiku to resolve the problems facing Ajaokuta Steel Company was deceitful and borne out of desperation for power.

"That concession that turned out to be a mess was terminated by another PDP administration. Following the failed concession, the concessionaire, Global Steel Industry, took Nigeria to court, asking for \$7 billion, and that case lingered for 12 years until the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari stepped in and the company finally settled for \$496 million.

"Out of the amount, we made a bulk payment of \$250 million and agreed to pay the balance in five instalments. To date, we have paid a total of \$446 million out of the \$496 million. "We will make the last payment of \$50 million next month and Ajaokuta will revert fully to us, ending the shameful and failed concession by the administration in which Alhaji Atiku Abubakar served as the VP.

"What I am saying in essence is that the problem facing Ajaokuta was the poorly-thought-out and poorly-executed concession by the regime in which Alhaji Atiku was vice president, and a regime under which he presided over the failed privatization programme.

"If the former vice president had any solution to the Ajaokuta challenge, and he didn't execute it in 2004, why should Nigerians trust him to do so in 2023, almost 20 years later?"



■ From left: Former Governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi; Gov. Nyesom Wike of Rivers and former president Olusegun Obasanjo at the Port Harcourt International conference 2023 'Theme Deepening Democratic cultural and institutions for sustainable development and security in Nigeria' in Port Harcourt on Thursday

Photo: NAN

159 Nigerians renounce citizenship, 1.8m get passports in 2022

By Muideen Olaniyi & Joshua Odeyemi

The federal government has said no fewer than 159 Nigerians renounced their citizenship and 1,899,683 passports were issued in 2022.

The Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, and the permanent secretary in the ministry, Dr Shuaib Belgore, stated these on Thursday at the 64th session of the State House Ministerial briefing organised by the Presidential Communications Team at the Aso Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Belgore, who revealed that 150 Nigerians renounced their citizenship between 2006 and 2021, however, said 159 renounced their citizenships in 2022 alone.

Aregbesola said the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)

processed and issued 9.31 million passports from 2015 to 2022. He explained that 1,899,683 passports were issued in 2022 alone.

He explained that the massive exodus of Nigerians in search of greener pastures influenced the high demand for passports.

The minister also said property worth N3.19 trillion were lost to various fire incidents nationwide between 2015 and 2022 including N46.1bn lost last year.

He, however, said valuables worth N25.32tn and 2,244 people were saved from fire incidents nationwide in the same period while 366 people died.

Speaking on correctional centres' security, Aregbesola said attempts were made to break into another correctional centre after that of Kuje in July 2022 but the attackers were killed.

Aregbesola, who did not reveal

the location of the correctional centre where the attempt was made, said the inmates who fled the Kuje Correctional Centre could not hide forever as their biometric had been captured.

He blamed the waves of crimes on the global economic meltdown and COVID-19 lockdown, adding that Nigeria was not immune.

He said, "It is the season. Don't say ha! I know you don't want to hear it. Have we had what we are having in Nigeria today before? It is the season and it's global.

"Why are we having assassinations in America? Bad as it is, it is horrible but in America, people get killed every second. In California, within the last one week in America, 20 people have been killed. Did you ask why? It has nothing to do with technology; it could even be linked to climate change.

"When things are hard, people who cannot manage their own stability resort to those types of things.

"The question you are asking, you know the answer. There is tension. Nigerians, just like the rest of the world were kept incommunicado for 90 days straight. Let's not look at COVID-19 alone, the remaining 120 days were on and off. Don't you think that those things will have impact on the society?"

On what was being done to ensure custodial facilities no longer come under such attacks, Aregbesola said, "We are equipping our men to defend those facilities. And those sister agencies are equally upping their capacity to protect and defend our facilities. And we're improving the design of our facilities to make it almost impregnable."

Kano-Maradi rail: FG, Niger Republic sign MoU

By Chris Agabi

The Federal Government of Nigeria has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Republic of Niger on the Kano-Maradi rail line.

The MoU was signed in Abuja by Nigeria's Minister of Transportation, Muazu Jaji Sambo, and his foreign counterpart, Alma Oumarou.

Speaking at the event, Sambo reiterated that the project

would boost trade and other socio-economic interactions between the countries and in the continent.

The minister noted that the rail line, which will start from Kano State in Nigeria and end at Maradi in Niger Republic, would facilitate the realization of the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement to which the two countries are signatories.

"I am aware that people have blood relationship across the

borders so the project will expand historical cultural relationship between the people of Nigeria and those of Niger Republic.

"The project is also very important in enhancing inter-nation and continental trade," Sambo added.

On the implementation of the project, the minister said a technical committee would be set up within seven days in accordance with Article 3 of the MoU.

He added that nomination of members and inauguration of the technical committee to take charge of the facilitation and implementation of the project would be concluded by the first week of February.

Speaking earlier, the Nigerian minister corroborated that the rail project would promote inter-nation as well as continental trade, strengthen cultural ties between the two countries and create jobs.

Katsina residents protest 'hardship' during Buhari's visit

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

Some residents of Katsina State yesterday expressed anger over the naira redesign policy during President Muhammad Buhari's visit to the state.

The residents staged the protest at Kofar Kaura, Kofar Kwaya and on Yahaya Madaki way in Katsina, saying the economic policy of the government was not working.

The protesters lit bonfire and threw stones and other items at some government vehicles.

The protesters said they were displeased over fuel scarcity, inflation and insecurity.

An eyewitness at the scene told our correspondent that immediately the president left the Kofar Kaura, some youths who were shouting 'Bamayi' began to burn tyres and pelt stones at some security agents who fired teargas in response.

"My name is Mustapha Muhammad Boss. What happened was after President Muhammadu Buhari had commissioned the underpass, some youths who we don't know where they came from, began to chant 'Bamayi', stoning security operatives and branded APC vehicles as well as setting tyres on fire.

"That is why as you can see, we decided to close our shops for safety. This act is improper and condemnable, because it is affecting those that have nothing to do either with the visit or the party," he said.

However, as at the time of filing this report, the security personnel have dispersed the protesters with tear gas and normalcy returned.

Reacting to a question on the incident on a Police/Media WhatsApp platform, the police spokesperson in Katsina, SP Gambo Isah, denied the occurrence of the protest.

"The president was not booed and there was no protest at all. Katsina State people came out en masse, welcomed and celebrated the arrival of the president," he said.

However, the Chief of Staff to the state governor, Alhaji Bature Masari, said the incident was in response to the high-handedness of the security agencies against the crowd that went to welcome the president.

"It was a problem between the crowd and the security agents that prevented them from reaching the spot where the commissioning took place and that was even after Mr President had left for another location," he said.



Earlier, the President began a two-day state visit in his home state of Katsina where he commissioned some projects.

The president, who flew in from Daura, began his official duty by commissioning

the Kofar Kaura Underpass constructed by Governor Aminu Masari as one of his legacy projects, from where he proceeded to Katsina Water Supply booster station.

He thereafter went to the Revenue House, Metrological Institute established by the federal government and Darma Rice Mill, a private company established by a business mogul, Dahiru Bara'u Mangal.

The president later went to Kofar Kwaya where he commissioned another Underpass constructed by the Masari administration and then to the Presidential Lodge, Katsina Government House, where he would rest for the day. Part of the presidential itinerary for today (Friday) includes the commissioning of General Hospital, Musawa, GDSS Musawa, Gora-Makauraci-Malamawa Road, rehabilitated and asphalted Sandamu-Baure-Babban Mutum Road and Gurjiya-Sandamu-Karkarku Road.

**COLONEL (RTD)
SANI BELLO**

GUEST

THE JULY 1966 COUNTER COUP

GENERAL AGUIYI IRONSI

REMINISCENCES

THE JULY 1966 counter-coup that toppled the first military government of General Aguiyi Ironsi has one living witness: his ADC, then Lieutenant Sani Bello, who was with him that fateful morning in Government House, Ibadan.

For the first time, now Colonel Sani Bello, former Military Governor of Kano State and multi-millionaire businessman, speaks to Trust Television on how Ironsi and his host Colonel Fajuyi lost their lives and how he survived to tell the story.

CATCH UP ON THIS BIT OF LIVING HISTORY ON TRUST TELEVISION, SATURDAY, 28TH JANUARY (8-9pm); REPEAT THURSDAY BY 10PM AND IN SUNDAY TRUST, JANUARY 29TH.

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It'll be shameful for Northern APC govts to work against Tinubu – Gov Sule

By Abdulyassar Abdulhamid

Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State has said that it will be shameful for Northern All Progressives Congress (APC) governors to work against the presidential candidate of the party, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Sule stated this during an interview on Channels TV's Politics Today.

He added that APC northern governors came out clearly and stated that they wanted power to go to the South, saying that was how Tinubu emerged.

He said, "I came across an insinuation that some APC governors in the North are not working for Asiwaju Tinubu. I will be shocked and surprised if there is any governor.

"If you remember, it will be a shame for APC northern governors in particular to turn around and say they don't want Asiwaju. People will even laugh at us. The reason is that when it became absolutely necessary to take a position, the APC northern governors came out clearly without any ambiguity to say that we want this position to leave the North and go to the South.

"That was how Asiwaju emerged. So to say that these same governors that worked hard and put their lives on the line to say they wanted rotation in order to have fairness in this country are the same people not working for the southern president (is wrong). The governors are not part of that."

History will be kind to me – Buhari

President Muhammadu Buhari says he believes history will be kind to his administration, going by the situation inherited on security and economy, and the difference that has been made.

Buhari, according to a statement by spokesman Femi Adesina, stated this when he inspected and inaugurated some projects in Katsina State on Thursday.

He extolled Governor Aminu Masari for silently growing the state via effective management of resources.

"I have done my best and I hope history will be kind to me," he declared at a lunch after the inauguration of the projects in Katsina town.

The president also inaugurated the Muhammadu Buhari Meteorological Institute undertaken by the Ministry of Aviation, the Darma Rice Mill in Batagarwa, and the Katsina State General Hospital.

Buhari, who is on a two-day official visit to the state, also inspected ongoing work on the



■ President Buhari

first flyover in Katsina which had reached 90 per cent completion in the Government Reserved Area.

While noting that former military Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha, had been criticized for his leadership style, he regretted that the critics had ignored the contributions of the Petroleum Trust Fund, which he chaired.

He particularly noted that the PTF implemented many developmental projects in the health and education sectors, with some of them still evident in many parts of the country. (NAN)

We foiled 66 attempts to hack FEC virtual meetings – FG

By Maureen Onochie

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami, yesterday says 66 attempts by hackers from Europe to compromise the virtual meetings of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) were foiled. Pantami said all the cases were reported to the appropriate authorities for the record and actions.

He spoke in Abuja at the 19th edition of the President Muhammadu Buhari (PMB) Administration Scorecard Series (2015-2023).

He noted that no fewer than 108 virtual federal cabinet meetings had been held since the National Policy on Virtual Engagements for Federal Public Institutions in October 2020 to formalise government online meetings including those of the FEC

and the Council of State.

He said that for the implementation of the virtual meetings, Nigeria would have spent over N47 billion holding physical meetings.

He said no fewer than 2.2 million jobs had been created in the nation's digital sector in the last three years.

Pantami attributed the challenges in telecommunications to infrastructure deficit and vandalism of fibre optic cables.

He said in one particular year about 13,000 cases of vandalism of fibre optic cables were recorded in several locations across the country.

The minister put broadband penetration as of November 2022 at 46.2 per cent, and quarterly revenue generation from the ICT sector at N408 billion.

On why the government had not been able to track kidnappers

who used telephone calls to reach families of captives for ransom negotiation despite the SIM card registration, he said, "This falls under cybercrime. Cybercrime is under the office of the national security advisor and other security institutions.

"Our role in cyber security is to ensure we minimize the possibility of a criminal deploying technology to commit a crime. So our work is proactive. At the same time, if the crime is committed and our intervention is required officially then we are going to intervene.

"So, here when it comes to minimizing the probability of criminals committing a crime, we need to reintroduce the national NIN and civil registrations. Two, we enforce the NIN registration. NIN registration is by our law in Nigeria, NIN is mandatory for all citizens."

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LETTER OF APOLOGY

I **Lawan Modu kawu**, Alimarami, Damaturu, hereby sincerely write to Apologize to the families of Madu Maji Yusufari and Babagana Kyari, over derogatory comments I made. The Regrateble remarks made then were not pronounced in any manner to defame the families of Madu Maji Yusufari and Babagana Kyari. I hope my apology is accepted by the families.

EYE ON BORNO

Co-Created
content

New Naira: Zulum orders emergency establishment of microfinance banks as 25 of Borno's 27 LGAs lack banking services

... Wants branches at Gwoza, Monguno this week



■ Governor Zulum (in golden babanriga) at a multi-stakeholders meeting over New Naira notes and banking services in Borno's rural areas... on Wednesday in Maiduguri.

Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, has directed the State Ministry of Finance and that of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to, in accordance with regulatory procedures, hastily establish branches of Borno's existing Microfinance Bank as well as/and ICT centres across the 27 local government areas.

Zulum's directive followed the CBN's policy on stoppage of old naira notes amid the absence of banking services across 25 out of Borno's 27 local government areas due to over 12 years of killings and destructions by Boko Haram insurgents.

The governor announced the microfinance measures on Wednesday in Maiduguri during an extraordinary stakeholders' meeting

which was attended by the Shehu of Borno, Abubakar Umar Garbai Elkanemi, represented by the Waziri of Borno, Mustapha Waziri Muktar.

Zulum directed that where possible, branches of the microfinance bank should start to be established this week in Monguno and Gwoza Local Government Areas.

"At the moment, we only have two LGAs with banking services and these are Maiduguri and Biu. The distance from most of the local governments to either Maiduguri or Biu is too long.

"Despite a great improvement of the security in Borno, there are still challenges for banks to start operations. Banking is a very delicate industry and I am sure none of them is willing to take the risk of

establishing branches in our LGAs for now. Therefore, to support our people, Borno State Government has to take the risk. I have directed the Ministry of Finance to ensure the recapitalization of Borno Renaissance Microfinance Bank to qualify it to have the capacity to open branches in all the 27 LGAs. This, I believe, will greatly alleviate the suffering of our people", Zulum said.

He also directed the Ministry of Finance to immediately come up with a template to organize and ensure people in rural communities deposit their old naira notes before the 31st of January deadline.

"I have convened this meeting to discuss how our people in the villages can get easy windows of depositing their money to the bank

accounts as stipulated in the CBN's new policy. The Ministry of Finance is hereby directed to mobilize the people and ensure nobody lost his money, you should facilitate ways through which people can voluntarily deposit their money into the banks in the remaining days," Zulum told stakeholders.

Governor Zulum also directed the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation to support mobile telecommunication providers towards improving their network coverage for internet connectivity across all 27 local government areas.

The meeting had in attendance, members of the Borno State House of Assembly, commissioners, advisers, local government chairmen and other critical stakeholders.

Congratulations

DR. SURAJO SALISU

ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS

MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO OF JAIZ BANK PLC

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the entire members of the 1991 set of Bayero University Kano Alumni Association, heartily rejoice with and congratulate our brother, friend, colleague, and classmate, Dr Surajo Salisu, on your well-deserved appointment as Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Jaiz Bank PLC, the pioneer non-interest bank in Nigeria.

We celebrate and appreciate you. We are also proud of you and have confidence in your ability to excel and succeed in your efforts to positively turn the fortunes of Jaiz Bank PLC and take it to greater heights.

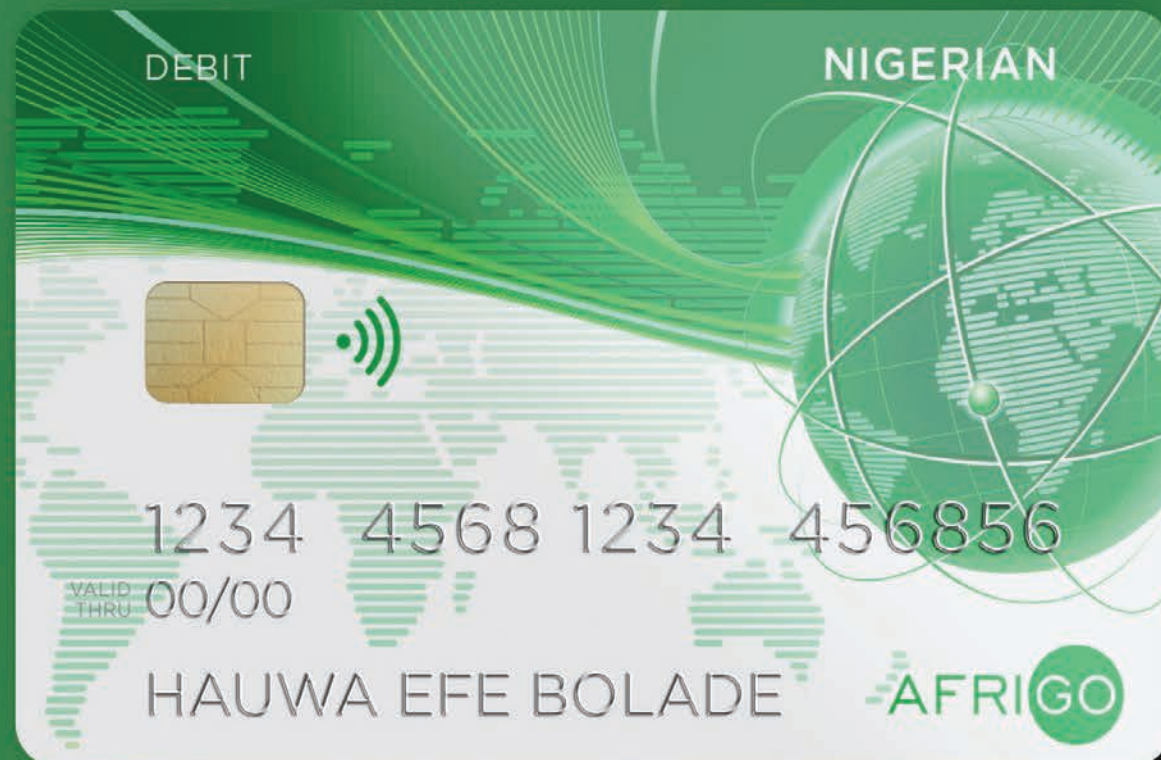
May Allah grant you more wisdom in your efforts to make Jaiz Bank PLC the clear leader in ethical banking in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond and to improve the lives of the bank's clients and customers through ethical financing and zero-interest banking.

Congratulations, Mallam Surajo Salisu, PhD!

For and on behalf of BUK 91 Set Alumni Association:

- 1) Alhaji Muhammad Aminu Ahmad
- 2) Alhaji Sanusi Garba Abdullahi
- 3) Ibrahim Khalil Adamu (Shamakeri)
- 4) Muhammad Sani Haruna (Kawu Rossi)
- 5) Alhaji Nura Aliyu Tijjani
- 6) Alhaji Muhammad Sanusi Danjuma
- 7) Alhaji Auwalu Isa Gwangwazo
- 8) His Excellency (Amb) Bello Hussein Kazaure
- 9) Alhaji Hudu Ado Abubakar
- 10) Dr. Danjuma Mahmoud
- 11) Major General UN Babangida
- 12) Mr Chukwunyere Amaechi
- 13) Alhaji Abdulkareem Shehu Gezawa
- 14) Professor Muhammad Tanko
- 15) Professor Haruna Musa Danbatta
- 16) Alhaji Aminu Hassan Dambazau
- 17) Hajiya Halima Musa, mni
- 18) Hajiya Amina Babba Kaita
- 19) Rt. Hon. Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Ibrahim
- 20) Alhaji Ibrahim Ahmad Abubakar (Radiance)
- 21) His Excellency, Amb. (Dr) Adamu Abdulhamid
- 22) Professor Muhammad Muttaka Usman
- 23) Mrs Dorothy Babua Sako
- 24) Professor Abdullahi Musa Ashafa
- 25) Alhaja Zainab Akanbi
- 26) Brig Gen Sani Usman Kukasheka (rtd) mni
- 27) Hajiya Munira Shuaib Kazaure
- 28) Alhaja Jumoke Dunmoye
- 29) DCP Abbas Sule
- 30) Comrade Bala Muhammed
- 31) Alhaji Muhammad Jafar Na'abba
- 32) Alhaji Ibrahim Musa, Bunturawan Zazzau Suleja
- 33) Prof Yahaya Isa Bunkure
- 34) Brig Gen WD Nasir mni fsi
- 35) Brig Gen AA Paki DSS
- 36) Brig Gen Abdulmalik Aliyu Dansarai fdc
- 37) Alhaji Sa'idu Ibrahim
- 38) Dr Mahmoud Muktar
- 39) Aisha Muhammad Shahada
- 40) Corps Commander Salisu Umar Galadunci rss FISPON CMILT





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Congratulations

On behalf of the major Cement distributors in Katsina State, we write to felicitate with you on your recognition by Vanguard Newspaper as the Personality of the Year.

Alhaji Aliko Dangote founded the Company which is the largest conglomerate in West Africa and one of the largest on the African continent. The Group employs more than 30,000 people.

Sir, your dedication has remained a source of inspiration to all entrepreneurs in Nigeria, Africa and around the world.

Your life has been full of the blessing of Allah (SWT). We hope that this award will bring you more happiness and success in your life.

We are proud to be your partners in the distribution and sales of your cement products.

Congratulations sir!



Alhaji
Aliko Dangote, GCON

Signed:

Katsina State major Cement distributors

- ▶ Alhaji Samaila Usman (Fortunate Cement Nigeria Ltd) – Katsina
- ▶ Alhaji Ashiru Sani Kurfi (Ihsan Blocks Industry) Katsina
- ▶ Alhaji Lawal Mani Dandagoro (LMD Petroleum Ltd) Katsina
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| <p>LEKKI 5: Bourdon Road, Falomo Roundabout, Ikoyi 090-7117-0555</p> | <p>LEKKI 6: Sangotedo Shoprite, Lekki 090-498-4294, 0915-558-8140</p> | <p>IBADAN 1: 42, Oba Adesimpe Street, Back Of Cocoa House, After Radio Nigeria 090-2666-6609</p> | <p>IBADAN 2: Black and White House Opp. Cargo Filing Station, Oba-Bola, Ibadan 090-2666-6610</p> | <p>IBADAN 3: Shoprite Mall, Ring Road 090-1561-4906</p> |
| <p>PH 1: 13, Ken Saro Wiwa Road, (No. 8 Stadium Road) 090-2666-6621</p> | <p>PH 2: 32, Aba Road, After CPC Busstop, Opp Road Safety 070-8307-1444</p> | <p>ABUJA 1: Falcon Mall (Former Russell Centre) Plot 2425, Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja 090-2666-6613 / 090-2666-6614</p> | <p>ABUJA 2: Plot 1056, Ahmed Bello Way, Area 11, Abuja 090-2666-6619 090-2666-6625</p> | <p>OWHE: Lifemate Industrial Park, KM 48 Lagos Ibadan Express Way, After Youth Centre of RCCG Camp, Mowe, Oshodi/Deede LGA, Ogun State 081-0028-5448</p> |



Congratulations

On behalf of myself and my family, I join millions of Nigerians to congratulate you and the entire Dangote family on your recognition by the Vanguard Newspaper as the Personality of the Year.

Over the decade Aliko Dangote has proven to be a man of integrity, dedication and a successful business mogul in Nigeria and Africa at large.

As you received the Vanguard Newspapers personality award of the year 2022. I pray Almighty Allah (SWT), to continue to guide, protect you, and your entire family.

I celebrate you today and always and on what you stand for.

Congratulations

Alhaji Aliko Dangote

Signed: ▶
Alhaji Kabiru Isah Ahmed
(Chairman) Kabiru Isah Ahmed Nigeria Limited
ByePass Hotoro – Kano State





Alhaji Aliko Dangote

Felicitations

On behalf of the major Cement distributors in Kano State, we congratulate you on your recognition by Vanguard Newspaper as the Personality of the Year.

Alhaji Aliko Dangote founded the Company which is the largest conglomerate in West Africa and one of the largest on the African continent. The Group employs more than 30,000 people.

You are a great team leader and achiever of repute that we are all proud to be associated with and your success story.

Sir, we wish to express our heartfelt and special felicitations on this wonderful and well deserved award with a special wish for many more feats of achievements.

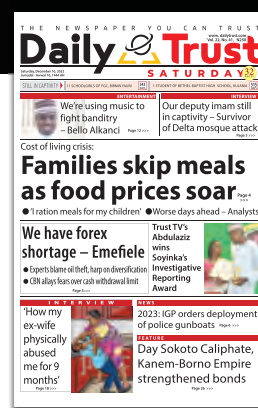
Congratulations

SIGNED:

Kano State major Cement Distributors based at Ajasa/Railway, Kano

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alhaji Abdullahi Usman | 4. Alhaji Kabiru Magaji | 7. Alhaji Abubakar Abubakar |
| 2. Alhaji Isa Umar Musa | 5. Alhaji Hassan Abdullahi Mohd | 8. Alhaji Muhammad Buza |
| 3. Alhaji Dauda Bakare | 6. Alhaji Aminu Magaji | 9. Alhaji Hassan Ibrahim |

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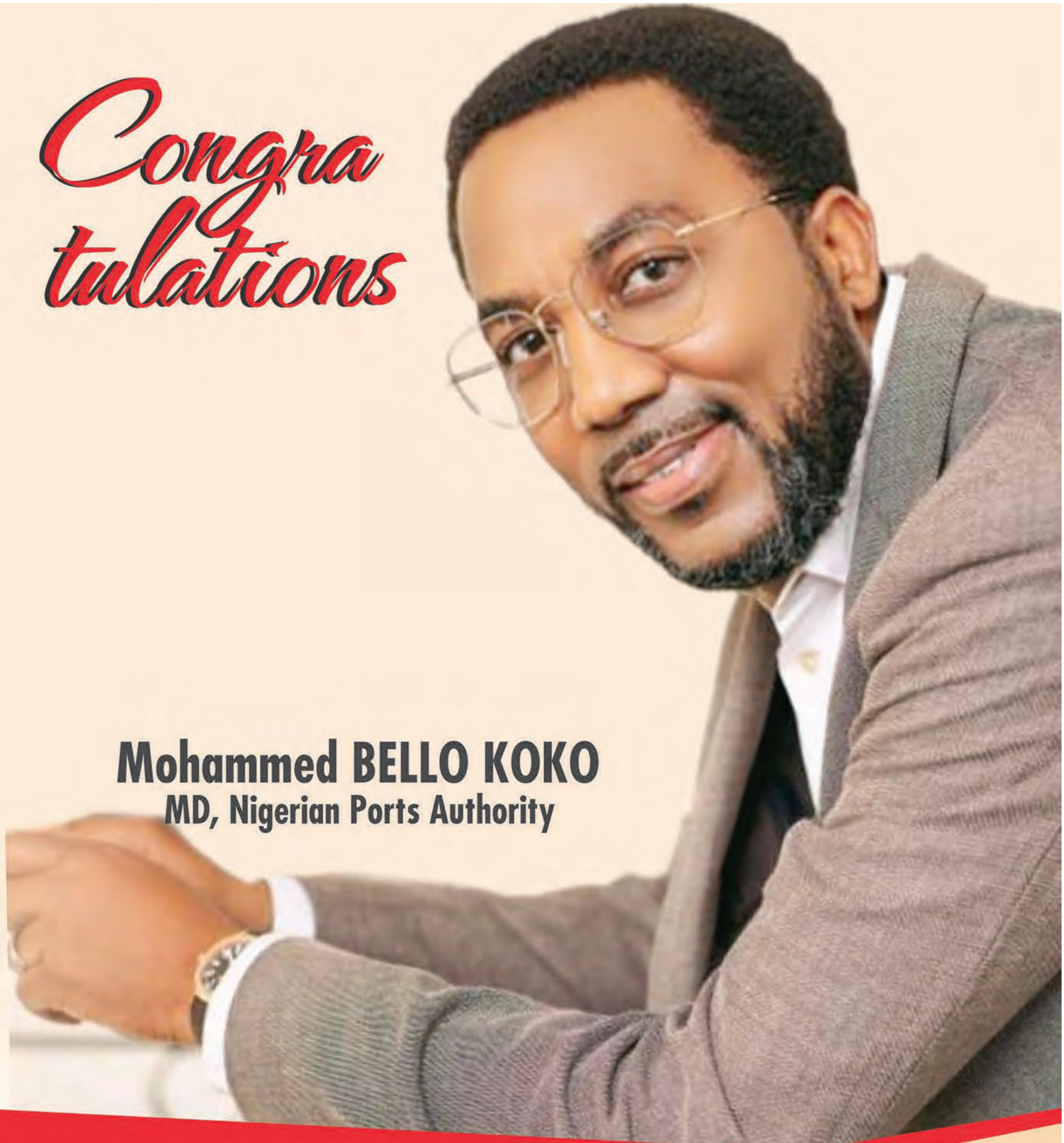
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Congratulations



Mohammed BELLO KOKO
MD, Nigerian Ports Authority

Congratulations on your well-deserved award from Vanguard Media
as **Public Sector ICON** of the Year.

Your hard work and perseverance have paid off in the Nigerian Ports
Authority (NPA). We wish you many more awards.

Congratulations!

Signed:

Musa Mohammed / Farouk U. Abdulahi

INSIDE POLITICS



The pilgrimage by presidential candidates to Britain is uncalled for and a waste of our meagre resources. It's also another form of neocolonialism — Former Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ambrose Aisabor

Campaigns taken over by insults, lies – Obasanjo

From Victor Edozie,
Port Harcourt

Former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, has said political campaigns in Nigeria have been taken over by insults, lies and selfish interests.

Obasanjo said this in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, yesterday, while delivering a keynote address tagged 'Respecting the principles of democracy' at an international conference with the theme,

"Deepening democratic culture and institutions."

The former president said critical issues have been discarded as intellectuals and technocrats have been sidelined while minions, gate keepers and job hunters take over the campaign and build iron-rings around candidates at all levels.

He said, "The constitution of the country provides the foundations that guide political activities. Democracy equally enables political actors to

engage each other within set rules.

"But when actors confuse the beginning with the end, or adopt the infamous Machiavellian dictum that the end justifies the means, they get set for a race without boundaries, with no rules or where anything goes.

"The norms of politics and political competition get imprisoned as the actors invent new rules of engagement as they go along and seek to outdo one another in non-beneficial issues to the

ordinary citizen.

"We fail to understand that democracy is not a one shot game. It is evolutionary and it takes time to ground the practice.

"It is not for quick change and indeed, if we play by the rules, we would all realise that regimes or governments can change, but the tenets remain constant.

"We would not be so bitter with election results or overload the courts with litigations, very many of which are like 'try your luck.'"



■ Obasanjo

Sokoto group petitions Buhari, INEC, seeks credible polls

By Saawua
Terzungwe

The Sokoto State chapter of the Network for Domestic Election Monitors has petitioned President Muhammadu Buhari and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over "threats" to the February 25 and March 11 elections in the state.

The group, in a letter signed by its representative, Prof Sani Abubakar Yar'sakke Esq,

addressed to President Buhari and copied to INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu; Senate President Ahmad Lawan; Chief Justice and Attorney General of the Federal, Abubakar Malami (SAN); among others, said some undemocratic forces in the state were working to manipulate the electoral process in the state.

Prof. Sani lamented that despite Buhari's appointment of key citizens of the state into his government,

the security situation remained a serious threat to credible polls there.

Part of the letter reads, "We passionately appeal to the president and the electoral umpire to ensure that these fifth columnists do not succeed in subverting our collective quest for credible polls.

"The electorate should safeguard their right of franchise by remaining vigilant and resist any attempt at manipulating the process."

Reject APC for jettisoning restructuring, Atiku tells Ebonyi voters

By Baba Martins

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, has asked the electorate in Ebonyi State to reject the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on February 25 because his party jettisoned restructuring.

Recall that APC had promised to restructure the country and even set up a restructuring

committee headed by Kaduna State governor, Malam Nasir El-Rufai, but later stopped the process.

Addressing party supporters and stakeholders in Ebonyi State yesterday, Atiku promised to implement restructuring and devolve more powers to the states, adding that "APC has abandoned the issue of restructuring.

"They are a very deceitful party. We are committed to it and we mean it. So, give us the

support. We are going to deliver.

"We are convinced that this state is a PDP state. And as you know, I am committed to power devolution as well as resource control, restructuring and I know all the south eastern states have been yearning for it."

The national chairman of the PDP, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, said all the developments undertaken by the administration of Governor Dave Umahi belongs to the PDP.

Tinubu will unite Nigeria – Gov Bagudu

From Ismail Adebayo,
Birnin Kebbi

The Kebbi State governor, Atiku Bagudu, has urged the electorate in the state to vote for the APC presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu with his running mate, Kashim Shettima, on February 25, stressing that their administration will

guarantee national unity.

Bagudu, who is Chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum (PGF), stated this yesterday while addressing APC supporters in Gwandu area of the state.

He said, "Tinubu and Shettima are tested and trusted, experienced technocrats who would not fail Nigerians, if

elected."

The governor stated that voting for Tinubu would help to consolidate the achievements of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Speaking on the state governorship contest, Bagudu said the candidate of the APC, Dr Nasiru Idris, would defeat other candidates at the polls and deliver good governance.

INEC's refusal to replace Shekarau, others politically motivated – NNPP

By Terkula Igidi

The New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) has said the refusal of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to obey the court orders directing it to replace Sen. Ibrahim Shekarau and other members of the party is politically motivated.

Our correspondent reports that Shekarau, who won the party's ticket for Kano Central zone, later defected to the People's Democratic Party (PDP), but attempts to replace him with Senator Rufai Hanga through the instrumentality of the law has failed.

Addressing newsmen at the party's national secretariat yesterday in Abuja, NNPP's National Publicity Secretary, Dr Agbo Major, described INEC's refusal to obey Court of Appeal order to replace NNPP's candidates who had

either withdrawn or resigned their membership of the party as politically motivated.

Major, who said such disregard to the rule of law will not stand in a democratic system, urged the electoral umpire to stop being partisan.

He said INEC, in an "awkward display of partisan politics unbecoming of an electoral umpire", has refused to accept NNPP candidates submitted to it on September 12, 2022 after an earlier one on 30th August, 2022.

He listed the candidates of the party as Senator Rufai Hanga who is to replace Senator Ibrahim Shekarau for Kano Central; Murtala Garba to replace Hon. Ibrahim Mikra for Taraba South Senatorial District and Zakari Yau Hassan to replace Hon. Mohammed Seidu Maikifi for Potiskum Central House of Assembly in Yobe State.

"It is unfortunate that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), a veritable symbol of the nation's democracy currently preparing to conduct the 2023 general election, can show utter disrespect, disregard and disdain to the clear orders of the Court of Appeal and the Federal High Court directing it to accept the names of the fresh candidates submitted to it by the party to replace those that withdrew their candidature and resigned from the party," the party said.

Efforts to get INEC reaction on the matter was unsuccessful.

But INEC's head of legal department in Kano, Suleiman Tahir, in an interaction with reporters recently said they could not replace Shekarau's name because the new electoral law did not allow that.

Tinubu in Benue pledges better deal for IDPs

From Hope Abah
Emmanuel, Makurdi

The presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, yesterday pledged a better deal for the internally displaced Persons (IDPs) in the state.

Tinubu, who was in

Makurdi, the state capital, on a campaign tour, spoke to a large crowd of supporters at the Aper Aku Stadium, in Makurdi.

He said, "We will bring hope back to IDPs. That's the end of misery."

He accused the opposition of sabotaging the country's

main economic stay, thereby "plunging" Nigerians into difficulty due to fuel scarcity.

He stressed the need for eligible voters in the state to vote for the APC in the forthcoming elections, assuring that Nigerians would have a better deal under his administration.

Bauchi gov'ship: APC candidate cautions youths against thuggery

From Ahmed
Mohammed, Bauchi

The governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi State, Air Marshal Saddique Baba Abubakar (rtd), has cautioned youths against thuggery during the February 25 and March 11 general elections in the state.

Sadique spoke yesterday

in Bauchi during the inauguration of monitors from LOBITO Group 4 Asiwaju, one of the major support groups for the APC presidential candidate.

He assured the youths that the APC would win the presidential, governorship and other elections without engaging in any act of lawlessness.

He said Tinubu is the best

man to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari and advised members of the group to mobilise others who are yet to collect their PVCs to do so.

The chairman of the steering committee of the group in Bauchi State, Alhaji Idris Lanzai, expressed their determination to work assiduously for APC's victory in the elections.



■ From left: Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity (Office of the Vice President) Laolu Akande; Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Dr Shuaib Belgore during the weekly State House Briefing at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on Thursday.

PHOTO: NAN

ICPC re-arrests ex-JAMB registrar, Dibu Ojerinde

By Idowu Isamotu

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on Thursday re-arrested a former registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Adedibu Ojerinde.

It was learnt that Ojerinde's re-arrest followed a warrant issued by a Federal High Court, Abuja.

Daily Trust recalls that he was earlier arrested on March 15, 2021 in Abuja by operatives of the anti-graft agency over allegations bordering on multiple frauds while heading JAMB and the National Examination Council (NECO).

He was detained by the commission for questioning over allegations of multiple identities, abuse of office, money laundering, tax evasion and making false statements to public officials.

Confirming his re-arrest to journalists, the spokesperson of the commission, Mrs Azuka Ogugua, said Ojerinde was expected to face a team of investigators over new evidence uncovered in relation to his ongoing trial for the diversion of funds while he was a public officer.

She said, "ICPC operatives uncovered two accounts opened in the names of Trillium Learning Centre Ltd and Sapati International Schools Ltd into which funds were diverted using fictitious names of students.

"The commission had on the 12th December 2022, invited the former JAMB Registrar for questioning over the new evidence but he wrote through his solicitor requesting 14 days' grace to enable him to honour the invitation.

"Ojerinde, however, refused to honour the invitation as undertaken by his counsel after the expiration of the 14 days grace on 27th December 2022.

"In the course of its ongoing investigation, the commission unearthed new evidence that suggests that Ojerinde is the sole signatory to various bank accounts operated in the name of Trillium Learning Centre Ltd and Sapati International School Ltd.

"Ojerinde reportedly operated those accounts using false identities and forged documents in the names of Joshua Olakulehin Olaniran and Akanbi Lamidi respectively.

"He also reportedly used another false identity, Adeniyi Banji, to operate a separate account in the name of Standout Institutes Ltd."

Ogugua added that the ICPC had recovered the chequebooks of the companies' accounts from Ojerinde who has been taken into custody at the headquarters of the commission.

2023: Foreign hackers attacking our database — INEC chair

By John Chuks Azu

The chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, has said there have been attempts to hack into the commission's computer system ahead of the 2023 general elections.

Yakubu spoke on Thursday during the 2022 National Conference of the National Association of Judiciary

Correspondents (NAJUC) in Abuja with the theme, '2023 General Elections; Judiciary and Sustainability of Nigeria's Democracy.'

The INEC chairman who was represented by the deputy director of ICT, Dr Lawrence Bayode, said the attacks were from different parts of the world and not just Nigeria.

"We were looking at the system yesterday and we were seeing that people were trying to come into the system from France but we

also are putting some things in place.

"You can't build a house and you will not put a door, window or burglary; we have done our best to ensure that our system is secured," Bayode said.

He said the surfaced vulnerabilities of the Bimodal Voter Registration System (BVAS), the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV) and the backend were well-secured to make it difficult to beat.

Bayode reiterated that there

would be no voting without the permanent voter cards (PVC) and accreditation as provided in Section 47(1) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

In the keynote address, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), who was represented by his media aide, Dr Umar Gwandu, commended the media for its role in sustaining Nigeria's democracy while charging voters to resist the urge to sell their votes.

Old naira notes: ZLP opposes calls for extension, backs Emefiele

By Abbas Jimoh

The Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) has rejected calls for the extension of the January 31 deadline for old N1,000, N500 and N200 notes denominations.

The presidential candidate and National Chairman of the ZLP, Chief Dan Nwanyanwu, who said this on Thursday in Abuja, also condemned the pressure on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor,

Godwin Emefiele, to extend the deadline.

"I want to say that the decision taken by the CBN and with the approval by President Muhammadu Buhari is the best for this nation. It is a patriotic decision taken by CBN as it relates to the new banknote and the time stipulated for the removal of the old note.

"They stack the money at home, in septic tanks, in the farm, and some of these funds have been there for more than

10, 15 years, idling away. So why do you steal what you do not need?"

"So, the CBN had to put on their thinking cap and Emefiele said, look we have been having problems with vote buying. Those categories of naira notes, if not returned before the date stipulated by CBN would become toilet paper. That is, they will be of no use. Now people are afraid to take these notes to the banks for fear of being identified,"

Nwanyanwu said.

He urged the CBN governor not to succumb to pressure to extend the deadline.

"That is why in my administration as president and commander in chief will abolish paper notes, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 naira notes. I will turn them into coins so that because of their weight, people will not like to carry them. It will strengthen the naira and it will bring down corruption," he said.

DisCos to reject old naira notes from Sunday, defy CBN deadline

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

Some electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) have set Sunday as the timeline for rejecting the old naira notes, two days before the January 31 deadline issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Daily Trust sighted notices from some of the DisCos on Thursday, notifying customers that they would not accept the old naira notes.

A notice by the Abuja

Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) circulated on its social media platforms to its over one million customers across three states and FCT, reads thus: "We wish to notify our esteemed customers that we will discontinue the acceptance of old N200, N500 and N1,000 effective Sunday, January 29th 2023.

"Customers are advised to make use of our electronic payment channels or tender new notes for their transactions," AEDC stated.

Kaduna Electric also issued notice to its over 600,000 registered electricity customers in four states.

It said, "Dear esteemed customers, in compliance with the CBN deadline on the use of old N200, N500 and N1,000 notes, Kaduna Electric will stop accepting the old naira notes from Sunday, January 29th, 2023. Customers can, however, use our online payment channels for transactions."

Some customers were worried about the notice as they

said the power firms should have complied with the Tuesday deadline rather than setting their own timeline for rejecting the old naira notes.

"This will worry customers more because, at the moment, most ATMs are locked as they are not discharging the new naira notes. We now resort to making withdrawals at PoS operators' terminals and the majority of them do not have the redesigned naira note," said Bala Usman, an AEDC customer in Abuja.

ATIKU'S STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL UNITY

Although he has been attacked, with several negative comments made, by adversaries since he won the presidential ticket of the Peoples Democratic Party the former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar has consistently promoted national unity and democratic credibility as the central tenets and objectives of his aspirations. Although he publicly supports the principle of regional zoning of political offices he believes that it is only when the ideals of national cohesion and electoral probity are fully established that this principle can be effectively implemented as a relevant working aspect of the Nigerian polity. He therefore offers himself as a participant in the real political order of the day. As such he is the one whose record of service and popularity among the most populous electoral communities in Nigeria can ensure victory and consolidate post-election stability. While he is fully aware of the need for the establishment of power-sharing as an integral policy of governance he is also determined to represent and practice the genuine nationalist impulse that has governed his role in politics in order to lay the foundation of Nigeria's future stability. Atiku's major objective as President will therefore be to ensure that the democratic order is preserved and strengthened as a process of governance for the nation's survival. Alhaji Atiku has built a reputation of inter-

ethnic cooperation both as an individual and as a team-player in both politics and business activities over a very long time. He has been noted for his wide outreach as an employer of labour in his business operations for many years as well a fair and genuinely cooperative leader as a politician holding high office. During his eight years as Vice President of Nigeria he earned the reputation of being a humane and tolerant boss and when he was confronted with provocative issues raised by President Obasanjo many observers marveled at the equanimity and tolerance that he displayed. He has been notably unruffled by negative sentiments expressed by his former boss and has remained focused on the principle of maintaining an atmosphere of stable peace in his relations with those who express sentiments of disenchantment towards him. As a consequence, Alhaji Atiku is widely recognised as an advocate of peace and good order whose strategy in governance will be to promote national collaboration. It is therefore important that those who are working with Alhaji Atiku to promote his candidacy must ensure that his basic principles of cooperation and genuine nationalism will be promoted. As they justify the political pragmatism that explains his decision to stand for office at this time they must also explain and clarify his relevance as a genuine advocate of national stability and public order. 2



Alhaji Atiku has indicated that he will focus on the creation of employment opportunities for Nigerian youth and prudent management of financial resources as major elements of governance. In order to do this positively and effectively he will seek to have the widest possible electoral mandate. It is because of this that he has decided to offer himself as the candidate best placed to overcome the anomalies inherited by the polity from the circumstances that exist in the society today. Alhaji Atiku's intention is to lead a government of reform while paying attention to the conditions and circumstances that the populace is accustomed to. He acknowledges that there are problems in the society that need to be remedied and reversed but he believes that one must attain the position of leadership in order to carry this out. He believes that in order to do so one must be experienced and relevant. These are two qualities that he can deploy to an extent that surpasses the ability of his major rivals and which he has been preparing to deploy for several decades. For this reason, Atiku Abubakar has decided to contest for the Presidential seat as an exercise in patriotic service rather than as an exercise in power grabbing and standing as a servant of change rather than as the preserver of the status quo ante.



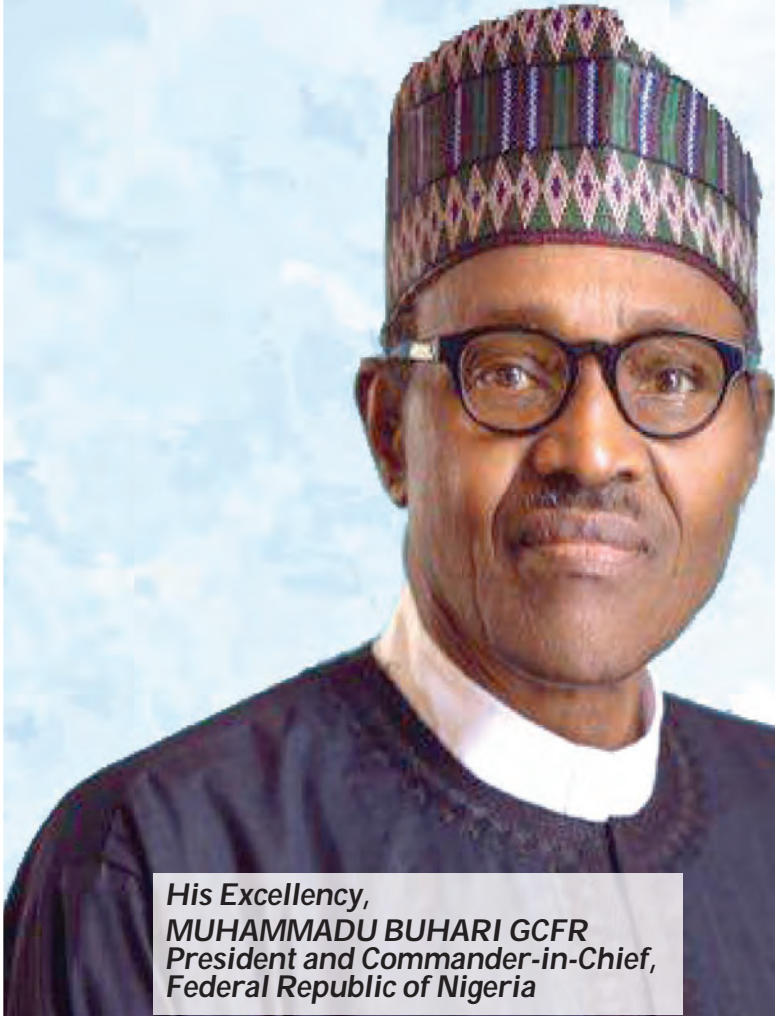
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**KANO STATE
GOVERNMENT**

You're Welcome to Kano **MR. PRESIDENT!**



*His Excellency,
MUHAMMADU BUHARI GCFR
President and Commander-in-Chief,
Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*His Excellency,
DR. ABDULLAHI UMAR GANDUJE, OFR
Executive Governor, Kano State*

Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje OFR, the Executive Governor of Kano State, on behalf of the government and good people of the state, warmly welcome His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR to Kano for a 2-day official visit on Monday 30th - Tuesday, 31st January, 2023.

During the visit, the President will commission the following ground breaking projects executed by the Kano State Government:

1. Multi-Billion Naira Muhammadu Buhari Road Rotary Interchange at NNPC Mega Station, Hotoro along Maiduguri Road;
2. Multi-Billion Naira Cancer Treatment Centre, Muhammadu Buhari Specialist Hospital, Giginyu, Nasarawa LGA;
3. Dala Inland Dry Port at Zawachiki, Kumbotso LGA;
4. 10 Megawatts Hydroelectricity Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution;
5. Teacher Reserve Area Housing Scheme (TRA) jointly funded by Family Homes Funds Limited at Ungogo LGA;
6. Aliko Dangote Ultra Modern Skills Acquisition, Kilometer 7, Zaria Road
7. Kano State Data Center, Audu Bako Secretariat.

You are welcome to Kano, Your Excellency!
Marhaban Lale!



Cancer Treatment Centre



Dala Inland Dry Port, Zawachiki



10 Megawatts Hydroelectricity Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution project



Muhammadu Buhari Rotary Interchange



Aliko Dangote Ultra Modern Skills Acquisition Center

Signed:

**HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. ABDULLAHI UMAR GANDUJE, OFR
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, KANO STATE**



MOHAMMED BELLO KOKO
Managing Director
NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY

A Well Deserved Honour

All of us at Avalon Group say a big congratulations on your well deserved conferment with the award of "Public Sector Icon of the Year" by Vanguard Media Limited. This is a testament that impact of your transformational initiatives at the Nigerian Ports Authority is being felt.

Signed:

**Alhaji Tajudeen Owoyemi
CEO AVALON INTERCONTINENTAL
23b, Lugard Avenue, Ikoyi Lagos, Nigeria**



NIGERIA LABOUR CONGRESS MOTTO: LABOUR CREATES WEALTH

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THE NIGERIA LABOUR CONGRESS CELEBRATES COMRADE ALI CHIROMA, mni ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

It is with great joy that the leadership and membership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) celebrates Comrade Ali Chiroma, mni on the commemoration of his 90th birthday.

Comrade Ali Chiroma was the second President of the NLC after the re-organisation of the Congress in 1976. He succeeded the pioneer President of the Congress, Comrade Hassan Sunmonu.

Comrade Ali Chiroma was elected at the February 1984 National Delegates Conference of the Nigeria Labour Congress which took place in the coal city of Enugu, then the capital of Anambra State.

Many Nigerians would recall that the years that Comrade Ali Chiroma held sway as the President of the Congress were very eventful and energetic as he took on the then military government on several anti-masses policies of that time. Comrade Ali Chiroma engaged in a prolonged struggle against increases in the price of petrol. He also led progressive forces in the popular movement to protest the massacre of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) students in May 1986.



COMRADE ALI
CHIROMA, mni

On the account of the principled position of the Nigeria Labour Congress against Apartheid in South Africa, Comrade Ali Chiroma mobilized Nigerian workers and masses to protest the visit of former British Prime Minister, Magret Thatcher in 1988. The protest which attracted one of the heaviest deployment of security forces in our history eventually materialized owing to Comrade Ali Chiroma's courage, sagacity and brinkmanship in organising popular protests.

Comrade Ali Chiroma was such a torn in the flesh of the then military government of General Ibrahim Babangida that the regime made a decision that Ali Chiroma would

not return as the President of the Congress. Despite the antics of the government of General Ibrahim Babangida to cause division in the Nigeria Labour Congress and push their favoured candidate through, Nigerian workers overwhelmingly voted Comrade Ali Chiroma for a second term in office.

It is interesting to note that Comrade Ali Chiroma's leadership of the NLC ended on the very bright and resounding note of committed struggle on the side of Nigerian workers and people regardless of the huge personal discomfort that it brought to him and his family.

It is these rare qualities of committed leadership, sagacity and devotion to the cause of the downtrodden and the working people of our country that the Nigeria Labour Congress is celebrating on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Comrade Ali Chiroma -a great African trade unionist, a passionate progressive and genuine nation builder.

Happy Birthday, Comrade Ali Chiroma. God has kept you alive this long to enjoy the fruits of your labour in service to humanity. This is glorious and all Nigerian workers and people rejoice with you on this important milestone in your eventful, enriching, and exciting life.

Signed: _____

Comrade Ayuba Wabba, mni
President

27/1/23



President: AYUBA P. WABBA, mni General Secretary: EMMANUEL UGBOAJA, mni Ag. Treasurer: MARWAN M. ADAMU, mni

OPINION

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Politicians, foreigners and Nigeria's elections

By Paul Ejime

The call, the other day, by President Muhammadu Buhari on ambassadors posted to Nigeria to desist from interfering in the country's forthcoming election is both timely and imperative. The president spoke while receiving Letters of Credence from the Ambassadors of Switzerland, Sweden, Republic of Ireland, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Senegal and Republic of South Sudan. He reiterated his call to foreign government representatives in Nigeria not to interfere in the country's internal affairs, especially the electoral process.

Representatives of foreign countries have strict rules of engagement and must therefore, be called to order if they are deemed to be in breach of such guidelines. Some have lately been making statements freely on the elections, as if Nigeria has become an extension of their countries. Others have been receiving aspirants to political offices, again without consideration for international best practices, where such practices, if they hold at all, are done discreetly. Just what are they discussing with the politicians?

Of course, it should be said that while he is correct to speak to the ambassadors, President Buhari should also be addressing the political office seekers most of whom now stop at nothing to gain foreign validation, without seeming consideration for the interests of Nigeria. It might even be said that President Buhari was a beneficiary of such foreign contacts prior to his election in 2015. Yet, it is also probably true that after nearly eight years in office, he is wiser and more knowledgeable about the issue at stake.

A nation's foreign policy, for example, is considered an extension of its domestic policy architecture and usually the aggregate of its national interests, especially in the strategic socio-political, economic and security/military domains.

But this concept is being stood on its head by politicians, who still inexplicably prefer foreign capitals as venues to market their policies or political programmes.

The presidential candidates of three of Nigeria's major political parties for the 2023 elections - the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), and opposition Labour Party and the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP) - have separately appeared at the London-based British Think-tank research institute, the Chatham House, to unveil their programmes.

Also, at the invitation of the research centre, the head of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has equally addressed the international audience at the same venue to discuss preparations for the general elections.

Given the level of international interests often generated by elections in Nigeria it might be understandable for any foreign research centre to seek to learn more about the direction the country's potential leaders want to take Nigeria. It might even be argued that under the principle of freedom of speech and association, the presidential candidates are within their rights to speak anywhere. Chatham House could also be said to be doing its job as a policy Think-tank.

However, the concern is not so much with the appearance of Nigerians of high political influence at Chatham House, as with what they had to say to

the international community outside the shores of their own country. Some of the issues raised by the presidential candidates are news to Nigerians, their primary and principal constituencies, and to whom they owe a constitutional duty and obligation. Nigerians are entitled to know the plans of those who aspire to govern them, first hand from the candidates themselves, and not through the filtered lenses of foreign countries, their ambassadors or think tanks. This is to enable them to make informed opinions at the polls.

It is also not only problematic but embarrassing to note that some of the candidates have declined to face Nigerian audiences at home in an organised format, but are offering the foreigners the same opportunity and much more on a silver platter. They fail to address the Nigerian electorate in a debate, as has become customary, but have no such inhibitions as they meet with foreign ambassadors, foreign government representatives and sundry foreign personalities, to pour out their thoughts.

To date, no Nigerian presidential candidate or even political party has sought to address serious policy issues in reputable institutions like the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) or the Nigerian Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS). Both possess the stature and influence to offer political office seekers or even incumbents the platform for robust discussion of essential thoughts and policy initiatives. The question, therefore, is why our leaders and potential leaders are quick to seek validation from foreign capitals and not show much enthusiasm to be approved by their own electorates, only to turn around later to blame those foreign countries for interference in their internal affairs or politics.

The conduct of international relations is about protection of national interests and based on reciprocity. If aspiring leaders of other countries are not coming to Africa to debate their governance issues, especially domestic elections, why are Africans doing so?

An African proverb says that he who fetches ant-infested firewood, will have rodents and lizards to contend with.

Information is power, and intelligence is processed information, which forms an integral ingredient of internal, and by extension the foreign policy ecosystem.

By denying their domestic audience quality and adequate information, which is provided to foreign audience gratis, the politicians and political leaders are virtually donating sensitive information and material, which opens up their countries further external interference and vulnerability. More than that, the commitment they make in private meetings with representatives of foreign countries could in the future hamper domestic and foreign policy imperatives.

The politicians must learn to treat their citizens with respect and dignity, including providing them with important and adequate information as of right, especially on policies and programmes that will impact the citizens. They cannot undermine citizens of their countries and expect foreigners to treat them differently.

Ejime is a Consultant on Strategic Communication

OPINION

Stoic philosophy, resilience and nation building project in Nigeria

By Tunji Alaopa

In this piece, I indulge my love for philosophy by dabbling in the thoughts of stoicism as a theoretical frame for coming to grips with the national project in Nigeria. The Nigeria Project is the task of nation building to transpose the myriad ethnic loyalties of the Nigerian state into a civic loyalty around which Nigeria's nationhood can emerge as a unified entity. Since independence, and due to the amalgamation effect, Nigeria has concentrated effort more on state building that secures the national border of the Nigerian state and as an entity, than its internal unity. The effect has remained the deeply divisive nature of the Nigerian state.

In 2018, Nigeria ranked the fifth happiest country in Africa. In 2022, twenty African countries ranked higher than Nigeria. This tells a story: Nigerians' capacity to withstand hardship is failing. This implies that we need to look for the element of that resilient governance philosophy elsewhere, rather than in the suffering capacity of the people.

As the popular motivational nugget puts it, "there is no gain without pain." This maxim speaks immediately to the lexical understanding of stoicism, or being stoical in the face of adversity. Now, before I am misunderstood, a clarification. The stoic message is targeted at both the leadership and the followership in the Nigerian political and governance space, as we approach post-2023. Stoic philosophy, founded by Zeno of Citium in Athens, combined three philosophical elements—ethics, logic and natural philosophy—to demonstrate how the practice of virtues can serve as the basis for initiating human flourishing. To achieve a good life, for the stoic, is to live in accordance with the dynamics of nature, according to Epictetus in his *Enchiridion*. Within this, we can identify three critical beliefs of the stoics: one, virtues—wisdom, courage, moderation and justice—are all that are required to achieve happiness; two, to live a good life means being indifferent to any other external goods, like wealth or pleasure; and three, nature is providentially ordered.

The stoic philosophy provides rich psychological insights for building human resilience against calamities. Resilience therefore derives not from events happening to us, but from human interpretations of those events. With the stoic understanding, we can immediately key into the courageous capacity of Nigerians to keep wading through the enormity of underdevelopment while carrying on the herculean task of eking out a living that has become most difficult over time. In 2018, Nigeria ranked the fifth happiest country in Africa. In 2022, twenty African countries ranked higher than Nigeria. This tells a story: Nigerians' capacity to withstand hardship is failing. This implies that we need to look for the element of that resilient governance philosophy elsewhere, rather than in the suffering capacity of the people.

And that "elsewhere" lies within the capability of Nigeria's governance institutions and processes to plan for, absorb, recover from and adapt to adverse predicament and circumstances. And therefore, the critical questions: What is incumbent on the incoming administration to do to build resilience and governance success? Let me outline a few of these strategic queries. How might the incoming administration facilitate the emergence of a policy-engaged action and future research that mobilise scenario planning as the basis for a strategic policy intelligence to present a clear picture of what constitutes the best or worse case scenarios? Or would it just be business as usual: maintaining the unsustainable cost of governance rather than going the whole hog of an urgent restructuring that convert the trade unions from adversaries to development partners; holding on to white elephant wasteful assets and projects; delaying governance and institutional reforms that unbundle Nigeria's dysfunctional federalism; continuing to undermine meritocracy in diversity management through an unreflective federal character policy; maintaining a foreign policy with Africa as the centerpiece when Africa, and Nigeria, lacks economic capabilities?

How might Nigeria initiate a governance change management that moves her from national wastefulness to efficient productivity? How can we re-engineer the national governance away from a prebendal culture into a resilient framework that privileges performance management, maintenance culture, and a deep respect for a strong constitutional order? In other words, how might the incoming leadership work in facilitating a cultural adjustment programme that will reorient its workforce about the deferring gratification in a patriotic spirit, to supplant current 'something for nothing' orientation? How can the institutional reform that is critical for transformation encode reflective learning and culture change?

Given that the national project must be simultaneous with national development, how can we start learning to live together in spite of and despite our ethnonational and religious differences? How does elite nationalism in Nigeria begin to connect into the national imperatives that divest national goals from elite greed and the impulse for primitive accumulation? The political class must be willing to commit elite suicide in order to achieve a patriotic mobilisation of Nigerians around civic oneness in order to lead by example. How might the institutional configuration of the public service be reconstructed to make the government more open, transparent and accountable in the service of good governance that articulates eudaemonia, or human flourishing, for Nigerians?

Finally, what will the incoming administration do with Nigeria's youthful demography? In 2022, the rate of youth drain in the Nigerian socioeconomic space has become alarming. This implies that the Nigerian human capital framework is becoming eroded at an alarming rate. How might the incoming administration put policy intelligence and strategies in place to fortify Nigeria's higher education architecture and undermine the unemployment trends through a smart diversification of the economy? Nigerians want answers. Indeed, they want a leadership that is able to build resilient institutions.

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EDITORIAL

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As FAAC's monthly allocations rise

In what has become cheering news to most Nigerians, the amount of money shared by the three tiers of government at the monthly meetings of the Federation Account Allocation Committee has experienced some level of increase for some time now.

In May last year, the amount rose to N680.783 billion, representing an increase of 6.94 per cent over the amount shared in April. It rose to N954.1bn in July, which was an increase of 18.9% over the N802.407bn distributed in June. A similar rise was recorded in the amount disbursed in December, with N990.19bn shared for that month, an 9.8 per cent rise from N902.05bn in the previous month.

Interestingly, these increases are being recorded against the background of a significant change in the country's revenue-earning framework that many people feared would spell doom for the economy. Last July, at its unveiling as a limited liability, NNPC declared that it would no longer remit money to the FAAC for distribution to the three tiers of government. And since then, the flow of funds from NNPC has dried up.

Before then, the former public corporation had been the proverbial goose that laid the golden eggs on which the Nigerian economy was run. With oil as the mainstay of Africa's biggest economy, NNPC literally dictated the tone of the country's financial health.

The recent trend is obviously a positive development for the customs, and others. This is coming as the FIRS has just announced an increment in earnings. Perhaps, it could point to an improvement in the efficiency of the activities of the country's revenue-generating agencies such as the Federal Inland Revenue Service, which crossed the N10trn mark in 2022, the highest tax collection ever recorded by the service in its history in a single year. It is also a known fact that customs, for instance, has widened its net to help it garner more revenue from import duties, etc.

This means that these revenue-generating agencies are now living up to their expectations. It is plausible that this level of efficiency could not have been displayed during the era of "free money" that NNPC and the oil industry came to represent in the country.

The truth, however, is that we could have done this and even more a long time ago instead of relying on revenue from oil. Instead, we chose as a nation to pay lip service all along to the much-touted idea of economic diversification. As this newspaper pointed out recently, Nigeria must brace up for the reality of a future without oil, and explore other sources of revenue that exist in the country.

Now, for a proper assessment of this new trend, *Daily Trust*, hereby, raises the need for a sectoral breakdown of the new revenue figures. Such a disaggregation of the revenue figures will enable policymakers to have a proper understanding of the sectors that are doing well and those still lagging behind so that appropriate measures could be initiated for improvements across the board.

While we applaud the higher revenues being reported over the months, we also wish to point out that the inflationary pressure that was witnessed in the country for the most part of last year could have played a role in this. By causing a general rise in the prices of goods and services being produced in the country, inflation obviously could have raised the monetary value of such products to the point that they attracted higher taxes and charges.

Thus, to have a proper sense of how much the revenues have increased in real terms, there is a need to deflate these figures with the appropriate indices.

Ultimately, this increase should impact the welfare of Nigerians. Unfortunately, this is not so currently, with the poverty rate still very high: about 42 per cent monetary poverty rate and 63 per cent multidimensional poverty rate. The fact is that these rising amounts being distributed at FAAC meetings are not reflecting the quality of life of Nigerians, from all indices of life.

The recent achievements in revenue generation should also be a challenge to the sub-nationals – the states and the Local Government Areas. Undoubtedly, each of them has the potential to raise the revenues generated from their areas of jurisdiction.

It is imperative for the state governments to raise the tempo of economic activities in their domains as doing this will help them grow their revenue bases. It does not do any good to the states to stand by and watch companies located within their domains fold up or remain comatose as a result of the prevailing harsh economic conditions.

We also urge the companies and individuals who pay taxes to begin to show interest in knowing what these funds are being used for and how they are being utilized by the governments. The days of misappropriation of public funds should be over in the country. There should be accountability in the way public funds are utilised.

The time whereby citizens did not show interest in how their taxes are being used should be over. Each naira and kobo must be accounted for.

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GLOBAL CONNECTION

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Bola Tinubu's renewed hope (II)

7. Bola Tinubu has an interesting take on inflation, which is ravaging the pockets of Nigerians at 21.47 per cent today, largely due to the dislocations caused by COVID-19, especially the necessary spendings of that era geared at reviving the economy. He acknowledges that every country in the world had to engage in that counter-cyclical spending to revive their economy, thus leading to deficits and inflation. He however, disagreed with the idea of raising interest rates stratospherically, hurting the private sector, in a bid to slowing down inflation. He suggested a focus on productivity instead. What I heard was; 'We can work and produce our way out of this quagmire. It will not be easy at all. But we also don't have a choice than to produce and add value.'

There was also a promise to tackle exchange rate differentials and to enable the fashion and entertainment sector players where millions of youths are employed to be able to contribute their quotas to economic development further by remitting their proceeds home rather than maintaining their wealth abroad.

8. As with many of his writings and speeches, Tinubu excoriated the almost total reliance on foreign borrowing – which comes with a debilitating exchange risk. He challenged his listeners to think more broadly. He does not believe in the dollarization of the Nigerian economy but in the leveraging of our sovereign currency to solve more of our problems. This is a very bold proposition, worthy of further analysis.

9. The APC candidate further sensitized Nigerians to the need to move past the fuel subsidy era, especially because it opens Nigerians to being defrauded by a few. The integrated transportation system being proposed for all states in the federation will be enhanced to reduce the burden because 70 per cent of fuel is used for transportation. Lagos State is already showing the beginnings of an example.

10. For agriculture, Asiwaju intends to extend the ideas of Buhari in prioritising the growth of that sector, increasing the proportion of cultivated land in Nigeria, and returning to the era of commodity boards which serve to protect farmers of cash crops from the downsides of a slump in prices. The boards, which were removed with Babangida's ill-fated foray into orthodox, far-right economics under what was known as Structural Adjustment Programme in 1986, have turned out to be very beneficial still in the case of cocoa in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, which now produces ten and three times the volume of Nigeria's cocoa respectively. Our farmers have been in limbo and disarray, and at the mercy of less-than-honest brokers of unknown origin. But at the same time as Asiwaju is proposing commodity boards, he is also moving for a modern solution to solving the problem – empowerment of commodity exchanges where farmers can get some assurances of future prices and also get forward contracts.

11. The centrality of infrastructure to economic growth and development was also emphasised by the candidate, who committed to the 'faithful implementation' of the Infrastructure Master Plan, especially Nigeria's perennial issues with the power sector. He promised further private-sector-led reforms and also the promotion of alternative, green and clean energy, which will help with the climate change conundrum without slowing down Nigeria's quest for rapid growth, employment creation, poverty eradication and the enhancement of productivity. A large part of the candidate's plan is promised to be driven by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), keying into contemporary knowledge thrusts in Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Everything, Big Data, Robotics and the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Industrial Revolutions which are already afoot and/or in play.

12. Small businesses which provide 80 per cent of jobs in Nigeria also got a mention, with Asiwaju promising to continue to help such businesses reduce the challenges to Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria, perhaps by looking at some of the Nigerian peculiarities like multiple 'tax' burdens, infrastructure, transparency, and public-sector corruption. Asiwaju promises a positively disruptive governance.

13. Another revolutionary promise by Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the quest to reduce interest rates with a view to spurring a consumer credit and mortgage revolution. The consumer credit will be geared at locally produced goods, thereby generating more employment, while the mortgage revolution will be powered by Nigerian banks and will seek to transform the face of low-income housing in Nigeria in a significant manner. This is a veritable gamechanger and can contribute significantly towards the double-digit GDP growth target.

14. There was also a promise to tackle exchange rate differentials and to enable the fashion and entertainment sector players where millions of youths are employed to be able to contribute their quotas to economic development further by remitting their proceeds home rather than maintaining their wealth abroad. This also goes for other players like commodity and manufactured goods exporters.

15. Lastly, and very comfortingly, Asiwaju restated his worldview, which is that government in an economy at our stage of development, cannot be absent in the lives of people and cannot shirk all its responsibilities and capitulate to the capture of a few in the private sector. He has an expansive view of the economy and prosperity and comfort, through hard work, for the people of Nigeria. He says that he doesn't believe that Nigeria has provide enough for her people through our yearly budgets and so we can do a whole lot more. He also challenged all to think in kaleidoscopic fashion, for a diversified economy, while we consolidate on the petroleum sector and remove bottlenecks to the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act.

Unbiased minds will begin to see that the image of our dear nation is about to be repositioned for good under the leadership of this man, and the kind blessings and forbearance of the Almighty. Nigeria had floundered enough. May all the stars in the firmament align spectacularly for our redemption this time.

LETTERS to the Editor

CARTOON by Kehinde O. Omotosho



60% of youths can determine Nigeria's next set of leaders

Since Nigeria's struggle for independence, young people have been at the forefront and centre of political participation. The struggle for Nigeria's independence as well as the successive military interventions and democratic republics has been filled with instances of youth participation. However, the participation of young people has continued to rise and fall between 1960, when Nigeria gained independence till the 4th Republic in 1999 when there was a return to democracy following years of military rule.

In May 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the age reduction Act, popularly known as the #NotTooYoungToRun Act. Following this historic act, youth candidacy increased from 21 per cent in the 2015 general elections to 34.2 per cent in the 2019 general elections.

However, youth candidacy dropped in the 2023 general elections from 34.2 per cent in 2019 to 28.6 per cent for the 2023 general elections.

Youth candidacy data analysis from 2015 – 2023 has swung forward (in 2019) and then backward (in 2023). This is because of the excessive cost of nomination forms, highly commercialised party primaries, substitution of candidates, and the deregistration of political parties.

Across the 36 state Houses of Assembly, there were 68 members between the ages of 31 and 35 representing 6.08 per cent of the members of the assemblies. There were also 20 direct beneficiaries of the Not Too Young To Run Act in the state Houses of Assembly between the ages of 25 – 30. This was directly as a result of the age reduction legislation that was passed by the National Assembly

and assented to by the president on May 31, 2018.

Despite the youth demographic being responsible for over 60 per cent of the entire population – this does not translate into a democratic dividend in terms of youth candidacy and representation in elective offices.

Similarly, voter turnout has been on a decline since 2003. Voter turnout was recorded at 69 per cent the 2003 general elections, it dropped to 57 per cent in 2007, further to 54 per cent in 2011, to 44 per cent in 2015, and to an all-time low of 35 per cent in 2019. In the 2019 general elections, out of a voting-age population of over 100 million, only 84 million Nigerians registered to vote, young Nigerians accounted for 51.1 per cent (42 million) of registered voters for the elections.

However, this huge demography did not reflect in voter turnout as only about 12.1 million young voters – representing 28 per cent of young voters' population participated as voters in the 2019 Presidential/National Assembly Elections and 12.6 million young voters – representing 29 per cent participated as voters in the 2019 Gubernatorial/State Assembly Elections.

The 2022 general election in Kenya, had the lowest voter turnout in 15 years. Only 65% of the 22.12 million registered voters turned up to cast their ballots. The decline in voter turnout was credited to a lack of voter education, low interest by the youth, reduced trust and confidence in the political system, poverty and youth unemployment. It is interesting to note that 65% turnout in Kenya is considered 'low' while Nigeria has struggled to achieve similar voter turnout figures since 2003.

Democracy is about numbers and these numbers narrate the state of participation, spread across youth candidacy, youth representation and youth voter turnout in Nigerian elections. These indices further speak to the quality of inclusion and representation of various groups within a society.

The 2023 general elections provide an opportunity to swing towards positive levels of youth representation and youth voter turnout. One of the innovative ways to increase youth voter turnout can be seen in Yiaga Africa's #SixtyPercentOfUs Project, which seeks to use traditional and non-traditional means to mobilise young voters to register, collect PVCs and vote in the 2023 elections using traditional and non-traditional tools of political mobilization. Across various states, citizens have been and are continuing to organise outreach drives, bus drives, town hall meetings especially in states with low voter registration and Permanent Voters Card collection rates (between June 2021 and July 2022), followed by current efforts to ensure citizens collect their PVCs as well as voter mobilisation efforts to turn out and vote on election day.

Achieving 60 per cent voter turnout will reverse the trend of declining turnout in Nigeria. This is important because a truly democratic and representative political system ensures that all parts of society are included in decision making processes. Inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but also is crucial to building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations.

Ibrahim Faruk is a Program Manager with Yiaga Africa's Governance and Development

CBN please consider extending new naira note deadline

The governor of the Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele, shortly after the Monetary Policy Committee meeting on Tuesday stated that the January 31 deadline for the collection of old naira notes remain sacrosanct.

Emefiele's statement came even after the National Assembly deliberated on the need for the apex bank to extend the collection of the old naira to June in view of the rush with which the policy is being implemented and how the rural and unbanked

communities would suffer the consequences.

Though the policy has continued to generate mixed reactions from Nigerians, it has the blessing of the president. There is no gainsaying the fact that the policy is a big blow to money launderers, kidnapers and vote buyers. However, it came at the wrong time. Majority of Nigerians do not have bank accounts and 80 per cent of transactions in the country are done in cash. Besides, the lack

of good telephone network, coupled with erratic power supply has made electronic banking more difficult and unreliable.

The CBN January deadline is like putting the cart before the horse. While the grace period granted to Nigerians to deposit their old money was 90 days, there was inadequate enlightenment and sensitisation by the CBN and other government agencies. The blame game between the CBN and commercial banks has

compounded the scarcity of the new notes. While the CBN insists that it has released adequate new notes to the banks they, on the other hand, continue to dispense old naira notes.

The CBN's swap policy in which mobile money agents are allowed to swap new money to the tune of N10,000 directly to individuals in the rural areas is good and may hasten quick circulation of new notes, the few days remaining are not enough to penetrate remote communities.

The decisions by the merchants or marketers to stop collecting old notes before the deadline amidst scarcity of the new ones will fuel the crisis.

With the deadline fast approaching and many Nigerians yet to deposit or access new redesigned naira, CBN should as a matter of urgency extend the period as being demanded by Nigerians.

Ibrahim Mustapha Pambagua, Kaduna State



NIGERIAN UPSTREAM PETROLEUM REGULATORY COMMISSION (NUPRC)

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THE NIGERIAN GAS FLARE COMMERCIALISATION PROGRAMME (NGFCP 2022): TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FLARE GAS ELIMINATION AND VALUE CREATION

SYNOPSIS

Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission ("The Commission"), in August 2022, relaunched the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme ("NGFCP 2022") to drive Nigeria's commitment to end routine gas flaring within the decade, support the imperatives of the Nigeria Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and create value from waste.

The NGFCP 2022 was restructured to reflect current gas flaring situation and prevailing operational realities in the industry, as well as changes in the socio-economic landscape due to the passage of time since the NGFCP was originally conceived, all in alignment with the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 (PIA).

It will be recalled that the PIA was enacted to redefine the legal, governance, regulatory, and fiscal structure of the Nigerian oil and gas industry for enhanced efficiency and value. In addition to establishing the Commission as the Upstream technical and commercial regulator, the PIA provides a clear framework for flare elimination & monetisation in Nigeria which underpins the redesign of the NGFCP.

The Petroleum Industry Act 2021 (PIA) and its enhanced regulatory enablers have addressed the bottlenecks that hitherto impeded the expeditious implementation of the Programme. The NGFCP 2022 is therefore modified to deliver end-to-end value from flare gas commercialisation to both existing and new participants.

Pursuant to Section 105 (2) of the PIA and similar provisions enabling the Commission in that respect, the Commission commenced the Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage of the NGFCP 2022 through the issuance of Statement of Qualification (SOQ) to enable existing applicants to validate their status and for new investors to register to participate through the NGFCP website/ portal.

The NGFCP 2022 recorded significant interest from stakeholders including existing participants, new investors, multi-lateral institutions, equipment manufacturers and the wider investment communities, both domestic and international.

As at the SOQ submission deadline, **Three Hundred (300)** companies/entities registered their interest to either revalidate their prequalification status as existing participants or submit Statement of Qualification (SOQ) as new participants.

In line with the provisions of the RFQ, the SOQ evaluation exercise was conducted by the Commission, where in a total of **One Hundred and Thirty-Nine (139)** Applicants were deemed successful and awarded the Qualified Applicant status.

To that end, and in reliance on Section 105 (2) of the PIA and similar provisions enabling the Commission in that respect, the Commission has published the list of Qualified Applicants who will proceed to the Request for Proposal (RFP) phase of the NGFCP 2022. The details of the SOQ evaluation exercise can be accessed on the NUPRC Website and NGFCP Portal via www.nuprc.gov.ng and ngfcpc.nuprc.gov.ng, respectively.

THE NGFCP 2022-AN OVERVIEW

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) maintains a long-standing policy against gas flaring due to its deleterious impact on host communities, the effect on global climate change, and the resource waste and value erosion the unwholesome practice represents. To this end, the FGN pledged its commitment to Net Zero carbon emissions by 2060 at COP26, passed the Climate Change Act, and recently launched the Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, all of which reinforce the need for the oil and gas industry to spearhead FGN's mandate to reduce carbon emissions.

The recently enacted PIA has overhauled the legal/regulatory landscape and established the NUPRC as the upstream technical and commercial regulator, charged to implement the industry transformational reforms for the upstream sector for enhanced efficiency and productivity, including the FGN's flares-out mandate. These landmark changes made the redesign of the NGFCP imperative.

Consequently, the Commission restructured the NGFCP to ensure that the flare auction process is executed in line with prevailing realities via an accelerated delivery timeline. The renewed Programme will preserve opportunities for existing applicants while expanding participation to new investors.

NGFCP 2022 is therefore a new iteration of the flare commercialisation initiative modified to adapt to changes in the industry and market with a renewed focus to implement Government's policy objectives for flare elimination, environmental sustainability, and gas-based industrial economy in Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NGFCP 2022

The overarching objectives of the Programme are highlighted as follows:

- Eliminate routine gas flaring and create additional revenue from gas sales.
- Monetise flare gas resources, prevent pollution and create value from waste gas.
- Deepen in-country value addition through indigenous participation in the sector, in line with the provisions of the PIA.
- Support the achievement of the National Determined Contributions (NOC) towards the Paris agreement (COP 26) and the Nigerian Energy Transition Plan (ETP)
- Attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the Oil and Gas Industry
- Create gas-based industrialisation for enhanced socio-economic benefits in and around host communities in producing areas.

NGFCP 2022 QUALIFICATION, BIDDING AND AWARD STRUCTURE

Figure 1 illustrates the auction architecture of the NGFCP 2022 featuring the two-pathways for the RFQ process which has been concluded by virtue of the successful completion of SOQ evaluation and subsequent announcement of Qualified Applicants (QAs). Subsequently, all QAs would proceed to the RFP phase to submit their respective bids for the flare site(s) or cluster(s) of interest.

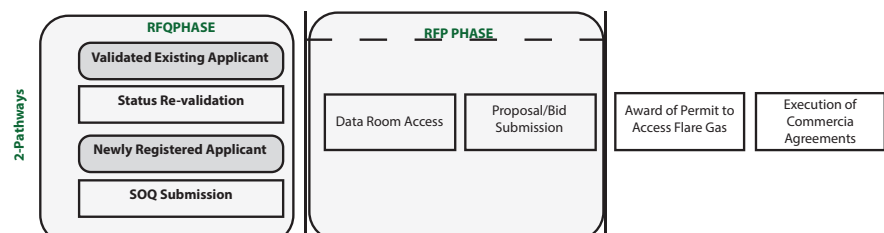
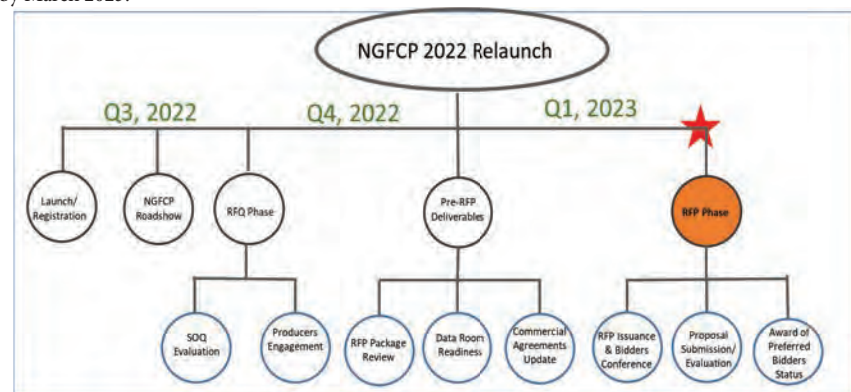


Figure 1: Qualification, Bidding and Award Structure

NGFCP 2022 - CURRENT STATUS AND MILESTONES

Following successful conclusion of the RFQ phase, the NGFCP 2022 has now transited to the RFP phase with the RFP package and Suite of Commercial Agreements already issued to Qualified Applicants.

Figure 2 illustrates the milestones leading up to "Award of Preferred Bidder/Reserve Bidder Status" by March 2023.



In line with accelerated implementation schedule, the timelines for successive activities that underpin the above milestones are:

- Issuance of RFP and Suite of Commercial Agreements - 20th January, 2023 (Achieved).
- Opening of the Virtual Data room - 26th January, 2023
- Bidders' Conference/Investors' Forum - 2nd February 2023
- Bid Submission Due Date (BSDD) - 28th February 2023
- Announcement/ Notification of Preferred/ Reserve Bidders status - 24th March 2023

OUTCOME OF THE SOQ EVALUATION EXERCISE

The Commission is delighted to record significant interests from wide-ranging investors, business communities and stakeholder groups in the first-of-its-kind flare commercialisation programme. Following series of high-profile engagements, investment fora and roadshows led by the Commission Chief Executive (CCE), a total of **Three Hundred (300)** companies registered to revalidate their prequalification status or submit Statement of Qualification (SOQ) as existing bidders or new participants, respectively.

Following evaluation of the submitted SOQs, a total of **One Hundred and Thirty Nine (139)** Applicants were deemed successful and awarded the Qualified Applicant status in line with the provisions of the RFQ.

Consequently, in consideration of Section 105 (2) of the PIA and similar provisions enabling the Commission in that respect, the Commission has published the list of Qualified Applicants on the NUPRC website and NGFCP Portal. The successful applicants have been duly notified and will therefore proceed to the Request for Proposal (RFP) phase.

ISSUANCE OF THE RFP AND SUITE OF COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS

Following series of stakeholder consultations to ensure robustness of the RFP and that the concerns of investors, producers, and interest groups are adequately addressed, the Commission has issued the RFP package and Suite of Commercial Agreements to the Qualified Applicants. This is to enable Qualified Applicants ample time to study the document and commence packaging their bids. Additional comments, inputs and feedback from relevant stakeholders will be received, evaluated, and considered during the upcoming Bidders' Conference & Investors' Forum.

BIDDERS' CONFERENCE AND INVESTORS' FORUM

The Commission hereby invites Qualified Applicants, financiers, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, service providers, funders, and other interested entities to the upcoming Bidders' Conference/ Investors' Forum, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria as a hybrid event with option for virtual participation. In addition to affording QAs the opportunity to seek clarifications and provide valuable inputs on the programme requirements, the Forum will facilitate engagements of QAs with technology providers, prospective lenders, and finance institutions as well as foster business relationships and partnerships for overall Programme success. The Conference will hold on **Thursday, 2nd February, 2023**. All QAs and other interested parties in the aforementioned categories should confirm their attendance by email immediately to ngfcpc.enquiries@nuprc.gov.ng, indicating particulars of attendees as follows: Name, Position/Designation, email address, state nature of participation - Physical or Virtual. Additional details will be made available through the NUPRC website and the NGFCP Portal in due course.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and Management of the Commission, I heartily congratulate all successful applicants and enjoin them to follow through with the subsequent stages of the Programme towards becoming a Permit Holder/Flare Gas Buyer in line with the applicable statutes.

Once again, congratulations to all Qualified Applicants!

SIGNED:
ENGR. GBENGA KOMOLAFE FNSE
Commission Chief Executive

CITY & CRIME

My husband started hating me 3 days after wedding, woman tells court

She denies me sex, hubby replies

An area court in Gwagwalada Area Council seeking the dissolution of her marriage with Muhammed Mundi for lack of love and care.

Sadiya told the court that, "This marriage was contracted in Suleja on December 17, 2022. But just three days after the wedding, I noticed some changes in my husband's character towards me.

"On January 7, 2023, he told me that I should get my things ready because he was returning me to my sister's place in Gwagwalada. "I called my people; when they came I followed them back

to Gwagwalada. When I was in my parents' house he called and ordered me to move my things out." She, therefore, prayed the court to dissolve the marriage on the grounds of lack of love and care.

The defendant, Mundi, told the court that his wife denied him sex.

The Judge, Malam Abdullahi Abdulkarim, advised the couple to explore a means of settlement and adjourned to February 14. (NAN)

Ayojimi, son of popular musician, charged with assaulting wife

Ayojimi Balogun, son of popular Juju musician, Queen Ayo Balogun, was on Thursday brought before a family court in Ikeja, Lagos, for allegedly beating his wife.

The prosecutor, Insp Ajayi Emmanuel, told the court that the defendant assaulted his wife, Jennifer Balogun (27), by beating her.

Defence counsel, Semilore Oluwataye, urged the court to grant his client bail in the most liberal terms and promised that his client would be present at all the court proceedings.

The Magistrate, Mrs I. O. Raji, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N50,000 and adjourned to February 16. (NAN)

Mum, daughter kidnapped in Osun regain freedom

Mrs Olayinka Kayode, a 32-year-old woman who was kidnapped together with her daughter on Tuesday in Osogbo, Osun State, has been freed.

The release of the woman was confirmed on Thursday by SP Yemisi Opolola, the police spokesman in Osun, and Rev Sunday Adeoye, a senior pastor with the Union Baptist Church, Odi-Olowo, Osogbo.

The pastor said in a statement issued by the church's spokesperson, Mr Oluwamayowa Fagbohunge, that the woman and her daughter were released on Thursday.

He, however, did not say whether a ransom was paid, but appreciated security agencies, members of the church and the media for their prayers and support towards the release of the victims.

Also, Opolola confirmed the release of the victims, but said she was awaiting further details.

It was learnt that the woman, a teacher in the Union Baptist Church, and her daughter were kidnapped around 6pm on Tuesday while returning home from her shop and that the kidnappers called her husband and demanded N5m for their release. (NAN)



Head of Health and Sport Unit, Local Education Authority (LEA), Abuja Municipal Area Council, Mrs Egbulefu Ngozi, attending to a pupil from LEA Primary School, Durumi 1, during a medical outreach organised by the Department of Public Health, FCTA in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, in Abuja on Wednesday (NAN)

Lecturer arrested for sexually harassing 19-year-old female student

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The police in Lagos State have arrested a 47-year-old lecturer of the Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Ikorodu, Ade Rasaq, for allegedly sexually abusing a 19-year-old female student of business administration in his office.

The case has since been charged before an Ogba magistrates' court

on the orders of the state Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi.

When he was arraigned, the lecturer pleaded not guilty, and the prosecutor, Akeem Raji, requested the court to give a date for hearing.

The Magistrate, Mrs B.O Osunsanmi, granted him bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned to March 16, 2023.

Our abductors beat us when we requested to pray – Escaped cleric

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

One of the victims of a recent kidnapping incident in Kwara State, Alhaji Tunde Buhari, has narrated their ordeal while in the den of their abductors.

Buhari, an Islamic cleric and the Chairman of Oluwalose community, told City & Crime that, "About six of them came to my house around 1am and pulled down the door. I resisted them for over an hour despite all of them having guns. One of them later used a heavy stick on me before they were able to overpower and kidnap me."

The cleric, who has a madrasah where he teaches the Qur'an to children, said he was kidnapped alongside a neighbour, Ridwanullahi, adding that they were made to

trek for over three hours inside a forest.

He explained that, "They beat us with sticks and subjected us to very terrible conditions with our hands and legs tied like animals, without food and water for three days. I untied myself while they were sleeping and decided to escape, but Riwanullahi was afraid they would shoot us because they surrounded us with dry leaves that would make sound if we stepped on them.

Our abductors never prayed and did not allow us to pray. It even got worse when we requested to pray. They beat



The cleric

us heavily. One of them told me that there was no place for prayers there."

NDA alerts neighbouring communities on gunshot sounds

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

The Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) has alerted residents of Mando, Tsamiya, Kauya and Afaka not to panic on hearing gunshot sounds on January 28, 2023.

NDA's spokesman, Major Victor Olukeya, in a statement issued on yesterday, said the academy would hold its cadets' brigade inter-battalion shooting competition on January 28, and advised residents to stay clear of the range area during the period.

The statement reads in part, "The Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) will conduct its Cadets' Brigade Inter-Battalion Shooting Competition for 70 Regular Course (Army) at NDA's Open Range, Afaka.

"Consequently, inhabitants of Mando, Tsamiya, Kauya and Afaka general area are advised to stay clear of the range area and not to panic on hearing the sounds of gunshots during the period of the exercise on 28 of January, 2023."

Gunmen kidnap Chawai chief in Kaduna

Gunmen have abducted Chief Joshua Ahmadu, the District Head of Chawai in Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State.

Ahmadu's abduction was confirmed on Wednesday by Mr Abel Adamu, President, Chawai Development Association (CDA).

Adamu, in a statement signed by Mr Raphael Joshua, spokesman of CDA, said that the traditional ruler was kidnapped on Tuesday night by gunmen in his house.

The statement reads in part: "It was reported that the kidnapers stormed the house of the traditional ruler in their numbers around 10pm and took him away.

"Already, relevant authorities and heads of security operatives on special duty in the chieftom have been duly informed and have already swung into action to rescue the traditional ruler.

"We are calling on all sons and daughters of Tsam land to pray for the safe return of the district head."

It was gathered that the Tsam Chieftom has suffered lots of abductions and attacks by bandits and kidnapers lately in which have been killed or kidnapped for ransom. (NAN)

10 arrested as protest rocks Ajegunle in Lagos

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

At least 10 persons were arrested on Thursday for their alleged involvement in a violent protest that broke out in Ajegunle, also known as AJ City, in Lagos State.

The suspects were said to be among those behind a mass demonstration called to protest alleged distribution of "crazy" electricity bills to residents by officials of the Ikeja Electric Distribution Company despite epileptic power supply.

The protesters demanded, among other things, an end to the distribution of "crazy" bills to consumers and urged the DisCo to commence mass metering as directed by the federal government.

But what appeared to be peaceful when it started assumed a frightening dimension when hoodlums joined the protesters around Boundary Market to loot and damage vehicles.

Sensing that the protest might become bloody, the Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi, directed the deployment of policemen from Ajegunle, Trinity and Layini police stations.

As soon as the police arrived they dispersed the protest and arrested 10 of the protesters.

Court remands man for stealing wife's N700,000

Magistrates' court in Kafanchan LGA, Kaduna State, on Thursday, ordered that a 46-year-old man, Ola Habila, alongside his sister, Joy (30), be remanded in a correctional centre for allegedly stealing N700,000 from his wife.

They were charged by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for allegedly stealing money belonging to Janet, Habila's wife.

The NSCDC prosecutor, Mr Marcus Audu, told the court that the defendants went to the complainant's room, threw her belongings out and sent her out of the house following a misunderstanding and in the process stole the complainant's N700,000.

The prosecutor added that the complainant reported the matter to the NSCDC, and when summoned, the first defendant refused to make a statement and tried to create a scene

at the corp's office.

He said in view of this, the defendants were charged for criminal conspiracy, criminal trespass, theft, refusing to make statement and obstructing public servants from the discharge of their functions.

According to him, the offences run contrary to Sections 58, 333, 270, 108 and 113 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law.

However, when the charges were read to the defendants, they both pleaded not guilty.

The Magistrate, Michael Bawa, ordered them to be remanded in a correctional centre and adjourned the case to February 8. (NAN)

QUICK READ

Abuja man jailed 2 months for smoking hemp

From Raphael Ogbonnaeye, Ado-Ekiti

A 37-year old man, Oyesanya Tosin, has been arraigned before a magistrates' court in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, for allegedly being in possession of Indian hemp.

The prosecutor, Inspector Bamigbade Oluvide, told the court that on January 19, at about 2pm in Ado-Ekiti, found the defendant in possession of Indian hemp.

Counsel to the defendant, Mr Sunday Balogun, urged the court to grant his client bail, saying he would not jump bail.

The Magistrate, Mrs Olubunmi Bamidele, granted bail to the defendant with two sureties in like sum and adjourned to February 23.

...Another arraigned in Ekiti

A 37-year-old man, Oyesanya Tosin, has been arraigned before a magistrates' court in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, for allegedly being in possession of Indian hemp.

The prosecutor, Inspector Bamigbade Oluvide, told the court that on January 19, at about 2pm in Ado-Ekiti, the police found the defendant in possession of Indian hemp.

Counsel to the defendant, Mr Sunday Balogun, urged the court to grant his client bail, saying he would not jump bail.

The Magistrate, Mrs Olubunmi Bamidele, granted bail to the defendant with two sureties in like sum and adjourned to February 23.

Anambra commences application for skill, entrepreneurial training

Anambra Government says it will open applications for its "One Youth, Two Skills Close the Gap Initiative" for youths between the ages of 18 years and 45 years by February.

Commissioner for Youth Empowerment, Mr Patrick Aghamba, said this while addressing some volunteers of the programme in Awka on Thursday.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the volunteers, who were no fewer than 100, included liaison officers, desk officers and representatives of all the 21 local government chairmen in the state.

Aghamba said that the target for the first phase of the scheme was 130,000 people, with participants expected from the 179 communities across the state. (NAN)



Some of the protesters

FCT pensioners protest 33 months' arrears

We will pay before May 29 – FCTA

By Hussein Yahaya

Pensioners in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday embarked on a peaceful protest at the entrance of the FCT Administration (FCTA) secretariat demanding payment of their 33 months pension arrears.

The pensioners, under the aegis of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), said they had last year planned for a peaceful assembly at the secretariat but that the minister

assured them that their arrears would be paid which till date had not been paid.

Addressing journalists during the protest, the Chairman of the union, Mohammed Bida, said they occupied the entrance of the FCTA to draw the attention of the minister, Malam Muhammad Bello, to his unfulfilled promise.

Bida explained that the consequential adjusted pension (33 months) which circular came out in

2019, had since been implemented by the Area Council Pension Board with full payment and that it remained the FCTA to do its part.

The Director, FCTA Human Resources, Mohammed Bashir, who addressed the retired staff, told them that their arrears would be paid on or before May 29, 2023.

He said, "The administration is concerned with the plight of its pensioners, but there are processes which we are almost done with. On or before May 29, 2023, all the arrears will be cleared."

Police arrest man over witchcraft assault on octogenarian

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

The police in Benue State have arrested a man, Ushahemba Agena, for allegedly leading a nine-member gang which assaulted an octogenarian over witchcraft allegation in Gwer East LGA.

Our correspondent reports that it has become rampant in some areas of the state whereby people, especially old ones, are labelled wizards and witches and tortured to death by mostly the youths.

The trend continued in Gwer East LGA where recently two elderly people, Kwaghanghe Ugbu and Atuur

Shaaja, were beaten to death by a mob who dragged them with ropes on the ground until they died.

Police spokesman in the state, SP Catherine Anene, explained that in the latest incident, the victim was rescued by the police.

She said, "On 18/1/2023 at about 11:30hrs, it was gathered that Elder Kyado Justin 'm' 89 years old of Tse Agena-Gbamacha council ward, Gwer-East LGA was abducted by a 9-man gang for alleged witchcraft against a young man who had been sick in the area as pronounced by a witchdoctor.

"The youth took him to an area where they prepared fire and

compelled the octogenarian to sit by the fire so that by this torture he will confess that he had a hand in the ill health of one Terzungwe Agena.

"Upon arrival of the police, the hoodlums abandoned the victim who had sustained various degrees of burns at his waist and legs and ran away. He was rescued and taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Apir, where he is receiving treatment."

Anene added that investigation led to the arrest of one Ushahemba Agena who led the mob to the victim's house.

But, the suspect, Agena, said that the octogenarian was his uncle and that they only made fire to warm him up because of cold.

Candidates' 'blueprints' cannot solve Nigeria's problems - Panelists

— Contd from page 1

of Nigeria, Mrs Ibukun Awosika; a lecturer, Analysis of Business Problems, Lagos Business School, Dr Yetunde Anibaba and a human capacity development specialist and chief executive officer of Heltoni Services Limited, Dr Eugene Enahoro. The event was moderated by the Deputy Editor-in-Chief/Chairman Editorial Board of *Daily Trust*, Dr Suleiman A. Suleiman.

The Chairman of Media Trust Group (publishers of *Daily Trust* newspapers and owners of Trust TV and Trust Radio), Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf, says with the insecurity and the candidates' use of mud-slinging and personality attacks, it is hard

to envisage an unchallenged outcome from this year's general elections in Nigeria.

The panelists said the presidential candidates had not explained to Nigerians how they would go about addressing issues of national importance which they listed as security, economy corruption, restructuring, among others.

A highlight of the dialogue was a recorded video presentation on: 'My First 100 Days in Office as President of Nigeria', from each of the four leading candidates: Atiku Abubakar (PDP); Bola Ahmed Tinubu (APC); Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso (NNPP) and Peter Obi (LP).

Professor Ibrahim said though the candidates had unveiled well-articulated

and detailed manifestos, they had failed to explain how they would do it.

He also said those manifestos were not written by them with inputs from party leaders and members, but written by highly intellectual professionals who would not be part of their government.

Ibrahim urged the electorate to scrutinize the promises made by the candidates and take decisions that would guide their choices. On his part, Dr Ehanoro said none of the presidential candidates had been able to clearly articulate how he would address the problems confronting the country.

Dr Anibaba said the citizens needed to see concrete actions to be taken by the candidates instead of rhetorics.

Anibaba said the manifestos of the frontline presidential candidates are excellently written academic exercise put together by academicians.

For Mrs Awosika, the presidential candidates are yet to disclose clear plans to address Nigeria's challenges.

John Cardinal Onaiyekan, said: "A relatively small group of professional political elite have been running the affairs of the nation, mainly freely between two major political parties with no specific ideological identity but mainly structures for capturing power for rather selfish personal and group interests."

"If things are to change for the better, it cannot be business as usual."

There are more desperados than democrats among candidates – Kabiru Yusuf

By Abdullateef Salau

The Chairman of Media Trust Group (publishers of *Daily Trust* newspapers and owners of Trust TV and Trust radio), Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf, says with the insecurity and the candidates' use of mud-slinging and personality attacks, it is hard to envisage an unchallenged outcome from this year's general elections in Nigeria.

According to him, there are more desperados than democrats among the candidates for the 2023 elections.

Yusuf spoke yesterday in his welcome address at the 20th *Daily Trust* Dialogue held in Abuja.

Citing the statement credited to presidential candidate of the All

Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, alleging plans to scuttle the election through fuel scarcity and naira redesign as well as attacks on electoral and security facilities and personnel, including banditry and kidnappings, Yusuf said there were sober voices, warning of flashing red lights ahead of the election. He, however, said if Nigerians ignored the provocations, the country could have peaceful and fair elections.

He said: "The government and its security agencies must be aware that in hundreds of towns and villages across the North West and North East of the country, banditry and kidnappings have made normal life impossible. It remains to be seen if people faced with such existential threats can patiently

queue to do their civic duty.

"In the South East, violent agitation by IPOB, mostly directed against police and INEC facilities and personnel, might put off whole communities from voting

"This deliberate disenfranchisement will feed into the separatist agenda and become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"When you add this to the online and offline political vitriol, the dirty tricks campaign and the dirtier money making the rounds; it is hard to envisage an uncontested electoral outcome. But I know what Jibo will say; we must all grit our teeth and do our duty.

"Indeed, if we, the citizens, ignore the provocations, Nigeria could be the ultimate winner at the polls. It is in our collective interest



■ Chairman Media Trust, Malam Kabiru Yusuf

to give this poor, yet rich country, another chance to rise from the ashes.

"I hope what we learn today will prepare us for the twists and turns of the next few weeks. It is clear that

there are more desperados than democrats among the candidates for polls. This is the time for sober reflection. Then, we have to live for four or eight years, with the choices we make."

N/Assembly to blame for failure of democracy – Eugene Enahoro

By Itodo Daniel Sule

A human capacity development specialist and Chief Executive Officer of Heltoni Services Ltd, Dr Eugene Enahoro, says the failure of Nigeria's democracy has been the failure of the National Assembly.

He made the submission yesterday while speaking as one of the panelists during the 20th *Daily Trust* Dialogue held at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja.

Eugene, who is a columnist with *Daily Trust*, said having an efficient and strong institution of the National Assembly is very critical to addressing the issues bedeviling the country.

"I have an engineering

background and in engineering, before you talk of solutions, you have to identify the problems. Nigeria is not about to elect a sole administrator or a traditional ruler. "The failure of our democracy has not been the failure of the presidency; it has been the failure of the National Assembly.

"In every successful system, there has to be feedback and control mechanisms. This is vested in the National Assembly. First and foremost, they are to scrutinize the budget and do oversight functions", he said.

Eugene urged Nigerians not to see the forthcoming elections as being about the presidency alone, but should be concerned about the

various elections for the National and State Assemblies.

"The president is not a sole administrator; we should be concerned about who is contesting for Senate, House of Reps and House of Assembly; we should also concentrate on the elections at the various constituency levels", he said. While assessing the agenda of the four leading presidential candidates in forthcoming elections, Eugene said none of them has been able to clearly articulate how he is going to address the problems confronting the country.

"I don't think any of the candidates have addressed how they are going to deal with the

National Assembly; they have not because they cannot do it. So, what can they do? That is the important thing. With all promises being made, there is little they can do.

"If you talk about an agenda, basically, you should talk about institutions of state; talk about actions you want to take. It's not I will, I will; they have to present an executive bill to the National Assembly and then push through", he said.

On the issue of corruption, Eugene urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to "stop chasing yahoo boys around", but focus attention on the people with real corruption matters.



■ CEO, Heltoni services limited, Dr Eugene Enahoro

Don't sign constitution amendment bills, Abuja monarch tells Buhari

By Abdullateef Salau

The Sarkin Karshi in Abuja, Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed, has advised President Muhammadu Buhari against assenting to the constitution amendment bills to be transmitted to him by the National Assembly, describing majority of the approved proposals as self-serving.

He gave the advice in Abuja yesterday at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue.

The federal parliament had, in March, voted on 68 bills aimed at amending the 1999 Constitution, after which 44 were approved by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and transmitted to the state assemblies for concurrence.

A simple majority of votes is required in at least two-thirds of state assemblies (24 out of 36) and the amendments that sail through would be sent to the president for assent.

The Senate had, on Tuesday, said 35 bills had satisfied constitutional provisions having been approved by not less than 24 state assemblies.

The Red Chamber had added that the approved bills would be



■ Sarkin Karshi, Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed

transmitted to President Buhari for assent.

Among the 35 bills approved by state assemblies are: financial autonomy of state legislatures and state judiciary; power

devolution to allow state governments build and operate airports, prisons, railways and power grid system.

Others are legislative power to summon the president and

governors; timeframe to submit ministerial and commissioner nominees; timeframe for submission of national budget; and separation of the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation and of the State from the minister or commissioner for justice.

Those voted against included bills seeking to grant financial and administrative autonomy to local governments.

Speaking at the *Daily Trust* Dialogue, Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed, in advising Buhari against signing the bills, spoke against the establishment of state police and allowing the state government to build and operate prisons.

The monarch said the state police would be abused by governors to fight their political opponents; while convicted politically-exposed persons sent to state-owned prisons to serve jail terms would enjoy unfettered freedom.

He said: "I want to advise the president very strongly not to sign the constitution amendment bills the National Assembly is about to transmit to him. This is because some of the provisions are really self-serving.

"There are three areas of concern to me; chief among them is state police, allowing state governments to establish prisons and autonomy for state judiciary.

"The clamour for state police by governors is nothing but an attempt to have absolute control of the state apparatus including security.

"The governors are like emperors in the state. They have control over the state assemblies while the state treasury is in their pocket. They are also in control of the political structures in their states.

"If you create state police, there will be more insecurity in the country because their concern is not to fight crimes but to use the agency to fight political opponents, which will cause more crises.

"I'm afraid that the governors will simply assemble their thugs, give them arms and uniforms and call them state police officers.

"Secondly, if you allow the state government to establish prisons, anytime someone is convicted, and happens to be close to the governor, he or she will not serve jail term in the prison but in their bedroom."

2 major political parties lack ideological identity – Onaiyekan

By Abbas Jimoh

The Archbishop Emeritus of the Catholic Church in Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, says Nigeria's affairs are being run by two major political parties, with no ideological identity but mainly structures for capturing power for selfish interests.

He said this in Abuja yesterday during the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue themed 'Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda'.

He said: "A relatively small group of professional political elite have been running the affairs of the nation, mainly freely between two major political parties with no specific ideological identity but mainly structures for capturing power for rather selfish personal and group interests.

"If things are to change for the better, it cannot be business as usual."

He said there is need for a drastic change of orientation, especially in the concept and practice of political power, characterised by politics as



■ Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan

sincere and honest service of the common good, "and not as

ways and means of capturing power for self-interest."

According to him, such a change will come from a total change of heart by the professional political elite.

Onaiyekan also stressed the need for a new group of concerned elite citizens ready to drive the new agenda of politics for service and pay the cost of involvement.

"Will the forthcoming elections bring this about? That is the question to interrogate!

"Can we hope that the 2023 elections will not be 'business as usual', an attitude that has not been moving the nation any way forward?"

"Truly, free, fair and credible elections: that is the only way from which will emerge at all levels of government men and women ready to serve the nation with dedication, sincerity, honesty and integrity."

Onaiyekan said Nigeria was witnessing a great change in the heightened number of citizens now interested in elections, noting that the Independent National Electoral Commission was

talking of almost 100 million registered voters for the 2023 general elections.

"This is a clear and positive sign that many Nigerians have abandoned our traditional widespread voter apathy, trusting that involvement in elections will no longer be a waste of time for the ordinary citizen.

"Can we expect these millions of new voters to insist on a free and fair election and reject and refuse to settle for any rigged election, peacefully, without violence but with determination?"

Onaiyekan also warned those he called professional riggers that this year's general elections would not be business as usual.

"Let our usual professional riggers across all parties, both within and outside of government, be put on strong notice that this time around, it will not be business as usual. This is not a threat. Rather it is a sincere warning. Let those who have ears listen," Onaiyekan said.

Presidential candidates' manifestos mere academic work – Yetunde Anibaba

By Baba Martins

Dr Yetunde Anibaba, a lecturer in Analysis of Business Problems at the Lagos Business School, has said the manifestos of the frontline presidential candidates are excellently written academic exercises put together by academicians.

She said the manifestos could only have substance if Nigerians begin to see actions being taken on them.

Speaking at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue in Abuja on Thursday, Yetunde said the presidential candidates are carrying on as if they belong to everybody and nobody.

According to her, until the candidates begin to take some distinctive actions, Nigerians will not be comfortable to think that they will tackle the myriad of



■ Dr Yetunde Anibaba

problems facing the country.

Yetunde was among the panelists that interrogated the promises of the presidential candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu; the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Atiku Abubakar; the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi and the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso.

She stated that Nigerians needed to see concrete actions instead of the present rhetoric.

She said: “These manifestos are excellently written academic work until they start to take action. If indeed these actions are taken based on the statements made that it suggests that they are serious, then we would begin to feel like, in the sense of the security situation, we see very deliberate

action because as we know, that is the foundation to every other thing.

“That is why all of them are talking about access to economic opportunities, tackling insecurity, but none of the candidates has demonstrated a clear understanding of the fact that we have a future to protect.

“Given the population of young people in this country, none (of the presidential candidates) has shown an understanding of the clear position as to how to ensure that some of the young people sitting in this room for example, you have built them up in the way that they are sure of those of us between the ages of the younger and older generation will feel that there is a country that will be left after we are all gone because that does not inspire confidence at all.”

Why next president is likely to fail like Jonathan, Buhari – Prof. Ibrahim

By Saawua Terzungwe

Professor of Political Science and member, Governing Board, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Jibrin Ibrahim, says the next president of Nigeria is likely to fail like former President Goodluck Jonathan and incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari.

He spoke in Abuja yesterday during the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue with the theme ‘Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda’.

He said though the presidential candidates had unveiled well-articulated and detailed manifestos on what they would do if elected, they had failed to explain how they would do it.

He also said those manifestos were not written by them with inputs from party leaders and members, but written by highly

intellectual professionals who would not be part of their government.

He said: “The manifestos for these elections are of extremely high quality, the analysis of the economy and society is very thorough, the propositions are very good and the three key issues being addressed are issues that have been with us since the Jonathan administration.

“Addressing insecurity in the land, combating corruption in public service, and diversifying the economy, all the manifestos are focused on these three issues.

“But that really is not the point. Which of these parties has a rare vision? I happened to know how these manifestos are written. Jonathan came into power, promised a lot of fresh air, but failed totally. President Buhari came to power with these same issues, promised a rare change

this time, and we are worse than when he came to power.

“The public service in this country is very dysfunctional; it is corrupt and the structure of its operations is to deepen corruption. None of these manifestos speak on how to address issues in the public service to deliver the promises they make.

“We know the leading members of political parties are there for political patronage; they are there to make money. So, if you are going into government with those who have their eyes on looting the public treasury, then it is not convincing for instance, that you will combat corruption.

“What is the integrity factor among some of the leading candidates? Our task as citizens is to learn from their promises, investigate and get our findings and take decisions that will guide our choice.”



■ Prof. Ibrahim

Presidential candidates have no clear plans to solve Nigeria's problems – Awosika

By Faruk Shuaibu

Former Chairman of the Board of Directors of First Bank of Nigeria, Mrs. Ibukunoluwa Awosika, has stated that all the presidential candidates for the 2023 elections have not disclosed any clear plans to solve the problems facing Nigeria.

Awosika, who spoke as a panelist at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue yesterday in Abuja, said though there was no doubt that all the candidates know the problems facing the country, they had not presented a clear plan to fix them for citizens to hold them to account.

“It is clear to all of us that identifying our problems is never our problem, clearly, anybody who seriously considers running for the presidency of Nigeria knows the problem and can identify it. The challenge comes on when we begin to dimension the approach of each candidate to solve them.

“We have issues of inflation, education, security, food inflation, among others which anybody can identify; but our real challenge is getting any candidate to take the problems and



■ Mrs Ibukun Awosika

give us strategic, deliberate, intentional guidelines of how they want to solve the problems with clear plans that you can analyse, evaluate and hold them responsible.

“They should not just tell us what they will do, but what they can do within the window of time they have. We can then build on this because by then, our expectations are managed along that.”

She also said lack of ideological identity for any of the parties had made it easy for politicians to change parties in a second “Since there is no conviction of any principles or guidelines that drive each of the candidates or the party they belong to.

“Conversation across parties is the same thing because we have the same issue. We as a people do not demand enough from our politicians before we give them our vote. We do not seek clarity in terms of what they plan to offer or hold people accountable for what they did not deliver, therefore, there is no sense of responsibility to do the work.”

While commenting on the clamours for the restructuring of Nigeria, Awosika said what Nigeria needs is political restructuring that does not give room for those without connections to hold positions.

“One of our biggest structural

challenges is our political structure. I believe that Nigeria, as a diverse nation, of multiple tribes and tongue is an asset to us. If we understand and appreciate one another and tap the talent and gift of every part of the country, we will strengthen each other and we will have value that we will bring to the table.

“Politicians benefit from our division so they tend to find it easy to keep it divided. In some cases, it is nice to see some of the candidates talk about uniting us because if we are to win, we have to think as one nation and how to accommodate each other and work together.”

On the elections, she said Nigeria is in a dire straits “But at the end of the day, the country will not burn or be consumed.

“Instead of giving hope and encouragement to the people and whether you are in power or not, it is in the interest of all of us that the election holds and Nigeria works. Therefore, you should be working with the government in any way to ensure we have a free and fair election and that every area of Nigeria works to the best that we have.”



■ Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan (left) with the former chairman, First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Mrs Ibukun Awosika



■ From left: National Women Leader, New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) Dr. Mariam Bello; Human Capacity Development Specialist and CEO, Heltoni Services Limited, Dr. Eugene Enahoro; Deputy Editor-in-Chief/Chairman, Editorial Board, Daily Trust, Dr. Suleiman Suleiman; Former Chairman, First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Mrs Ibukun Awosika; Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan; Professor of Political Science and Member of the Board of the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD), Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim; lecturer, Analysis of Business Problems, Lagos Business School, Dr. Yetunde Anibaba and senator, Shehu Sani, in a group photograph



■ From right: Dr Remi Oyewumi from the Office of the National Security Adviser; Security Strategic Expert, Dr. Hassan Saddiq, and Special Adviser on Employment to Kano State Governor, Dr Umar Tanko Yakasai



■ A cross section of participants



■ Right, The Country Director, International Republic Institute, (IIR) Mr. Santiago Stockar, and the National Chairman, New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Prof Rufai Ahmed Alkali



■ Left: The Chairman, Media Trust Group (MTG) Malam Kabiru Yusuf; President UFUK DIALOGUE, Emrah Ilgen (centre) and the GMD First Surat Group of Companies, Yasar Ovenc



■ Veteran journalist/Sarkin Karshi, Abuja, HRH Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed and the Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, Cardinal Onaiyekan



■ Left: Economist Tope Fasua; entrepreneur Engr, Mustapha Ibrahim and Editor-in-Chief, NatureNews, Aliu Akoshile



■ From left: Human Capacity Development Specialist and CEO, Heltoni Services Limited, Dr. Eugene Enahoro; former Chairman, First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Mrs. Ibukun Awosika; Chairman Media Trust Group (MTG) Malam Kabiru Yusuf; Lecturer, Analysis of Business Problems, Lagos Business School, Dr. Yetunde Anibaba, and board member, Media Trust Group (MTG), Alhaji Aminu Dangana, in a group photograph



■ Left, The Head of Media Team of former Governor of Katsina, Oluwabusola Olawale, with former governor of Niger State, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu (night)



■ Media Trust Group Directors (L-R) Alh Umar Abdullahi, Mal Abdullahi Wada Maida and Mal Aminu Dangana (Galadiman Tudunwada)



■ Mcdons David of Lordswill academy Abuja



■ From right, former Minister of State for Defense, Lawal Batagarawa with Hakeem Baba Ahmed



■ Veteran Journalist/Sarkin Karshi, Abuja, HRH Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed with the Hakeem Baba-Ahmed



■ From left, Assistant Auditor, Arewa Consultative Forum, Muhammad Alhaji Yakubu; member Governing Council, University of Lagos, Aminu Ahmed PhD, and Director, Media Trust Group (MTG), Malam Mannir Dan Ali



■ Chairman Media Trust Group (MTG) Malam Kabiru Yusuf (left) with Chief Gabriel Yakubu Aduku



■ From left: Director, Media Trust Group (MTG), Malam Mannir Dan Ali; former Minister of State for Defense, Lawal Batagarawa and the Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan



■ Group ED, Digital & Editorial Services, Media Trust Group (MTG), Naziru Mikailu in a handshake with the Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan



■ Mr Gabriel Yakubu Abdul North Central Peoples Forum (NCPF)



■ Mr. Festus Okoye, INEC, National Commissioner for Information and Voter Education

Participants speak

By Idowu Isamotu & Philip Shimon Clement

A cross-section of participants at the 20th *Daily Trust* Dialogue also expressed their views on the political situation in the country.

Electorate don't know what candidates stand for—Shehu Sani

A former senator, who represented Kaduna Central, Shehu Sani, said many Nigerians do not understand what the candidates stand for on major spheres of national life.

He said, "Each time Nigeria is going into an election season, there is this talk about Nigeria being at a crossroads.

"It is a make or mar situation, and it constitutes a threat to peace and stability of Nigeria, but there is a key word here, which is interrogation and it is very important.

"If you pick an average Nigerian, it will be difficult at this time of the election for them to say what any of these candidates stand for on education, sports, foreign policy, sports and almost everything. It is so unusual and we simply repeat what has been done.

"It is just like INEC in every election, they will tell you that



■ Senator Shehu Sani

they are serious with sensitive and insensitive materials ready, and then on election day, which is usually on Saturday, they deliver materials at 12 or 1pm, it has always been their way.

"It is so ridiculous in Nigeria today that many people in Nigeria don't know what their candidate stands for."

He added, "That mentality of speaking in Chatham House is just the normal practice, it has even reached a point where candidates will just wave and dance for two minutes to a nation of 211 million people and the rally is over. How can you elect leaders based on this

kind of presentation?"

Why there is voter apathy—Dahiru Suleiman

A former Nigerian Ambassador to Sudan, Dahiru Suleiman, said voter apathy is a result of the type of politics being practised in Nigeria.

He said, "If you don't know anybody, you can't be anything. What I have seen is not the type of politics I saw then. If you are not connected to a politician no matter how brilliant you are, you go nowhere.

"If we don't change, we will continue to go down. What we now have is a government of the few privileged by the few privileged and for the few privileged.

"In Nigeria, we have not understood that we are a developing country. The kind of official vehicles government functionaries drive in this country is mind-boggling! No country that wants to develop will spend a large chunk of its money importing SUVs like we do in Nigeria.

"I have served in 9 different countries and there is nowhere I have seen what is happening in Nigeria and in all the places I have been, we are the most corrupt."

FG should assure Nigerians of security—Gabriel Adiku

On his part, Chairman, North Central Peoples' Congress, Gabriel Adiku, said the federal government should assure Nigerians that the insecurity would not affect the elections.

He commended Media Trust Group for sustaining the dialogue over the years.

He stated: "This year's dialogue is interesting as Nigeria will battle with technology as we are assured that technology will play a role, but we are still at a crossroads."

Nigerians must resist interim govt, says Hakeem Baba-Ahmed



■ Hakeem Baba-Ahmed

By Abdulateef Salau

The spokesman of the Northern Elders Forum (NEF), Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, has said that President Muhammadu Buhari must ensure that the 2023 elections are held as scheduled.

He said any attempt to install an unconstitutional interim government after Buhari's tenure would be resisted.

He said: "President Buhari is not doing us a favour. We should insist that the election be held. He must improve the electoral environment in such a way that INEC can

actually deploy personnel and equipment for the polls.

"Nigerians will not accept any arrangement that succeeds President Buhari unless it is founded in the constitution. All the talks about interim government or arrangement, we will resist any attempt to jettison the constitution.

"In case anyone is contemplating any action to stall this election, they should stop. There must be a credible election, where the winner is elected creditably. Anyone who loses the election has two options: go to court to challenge the result or accept it."

We won't postpone 2023 elections—INEC

By Abbas Jimoh

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has assured Nigerians that the February and March 2023 general elections would not be postponed.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said this on Thursday in Abuja at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue.

Yakubu, represented by a national commissioner and chairman, information and voter education committee, Festus Okoye, said: "The commission is preparing and preparing very well for this election. Our mandate and our remit is to organize, undertake and supervise elections and that's exactly what we are doing and what we are going to do.

"As of today, we have deployed over 70 percent of the non-sensitive materials required for the conduct of this election. As of today, we have taken delivery of all the technological devices we are going to deploy for this particular election and we have also started training of the corps members and other election staff that will be deployed for the



■ Festus Okoye, INEC National Commissioner for Information and Voter Education

conduct of this election.

"We recognise the fact that security is a huge challenge and a good concern both to election workers and to the Nigerian people and also to the commission. And we are consulting almost on a daily basis now with the various security agencies in relation to the security of our staff, security of the corps members that will be

deployed for this election and also the security of the voters.

"So, we want to assure Nigerians that this commission is committed to conducting free, fair, transparent, verifiable and inclusive elections and that the dates that we have fixed for this election remains fixed and firm and we are not going to depart from it."



■ Atiku



■ Tinubu



■ Obi



■ Kwankwaso

Presidential candidates promise to address nation's challenges

By Baba Martins

The main presidential candidates for the 2023 general elections, yesterday in Abuja at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue, promised to address challenges confronting the country.

They promised to tackle insecurity, build the economy, infrastructure and unify the country, among other promises contained in their policy documents.

The candidates that featured at the event were Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour (LP) and Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

Atiku promises gov't of national unity

In a video message shown at the event, Atiku said Nigeria had fallen below in all standards and the APC administration would be remembered for failing to maintain the integrity and unity of the country.

He also alleged that the ruling party had destroyed the things that bound the country together.

Atiku said with his experience in the public and private sector, he was campaigning with a strong determination to rescue Nigeria, unify the people and "Rebuild the now broken bridges of brotherhood which our founding fathers worked for."

Atiku said he has the will and

determination to provide the good life that Nigerians deserve, adding that the "Core objective of this agenda is to unify Nigeria by ensuring a political and social process that accommodates all. To this end the first direction that our administration will take is to reinvent the principle of Government of National Unity to make our administration reflect the agitations of the people. So for me the election is not a winner takes all exercise.

"There is overconcentration of power in the federal government, with multiple duplication of agencies leading to the creation of parallel bureaucracies. The federating units shall benefit from the devolution of powers to increase their productive capacity.

"The organised private sector must be encouraged to lead the charge in the production process while the government acts as the enabler and driver of a conducive environment.

"My policy agenda is that my administration will pursue to rescue this country, if I am elected president," Atiku said.

Tinubu promises job creation, food security

The APC candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, promised to place Nigeria on the part of industrialisation and job creation, saying that "Nigeria shall be known as a nation of producers, creators, not just a consumer. We will export more and import less in order to earn more foreign exchange.

"We will deliver food security and affordability by continuing

to prioritise agriculture and assist farmers and other players in the agricultural value chain. Through the enlightened policies that promote productivity and guarantee robust income."

Tinubu also said if elected, he would modernise and expand public infrastructure to stimulate economic growth at an accelerated rate.

He said his administration would also "Generate, transmit, distribute sufficient affordable electricity to give our people the necessary power to drive their businesses and brighten their homes bearing in mind that no successful industrialisation is possible without constant electricity.

"We will support young people and women to participate more in politics and governance harnessing sectors such as digital economy, entertainment, tourism, sport to build today for the Nigeria of tomorrow."

I'll demolish structures holding Nigeria down – Obi

The presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi, said the time has come for Nigeria to join the league of committee of developing nations, promising that if elected, he would demolish the structures that had held the country down over the years.

The former Anambra State governor said he was going to take a look at the structures that caused leadership failures in the past and entrench a structure that would secure, unite and take the country to the next level.

Obi said: "It is good to look at the past years what brought us to where we are today, looking at the effect of leadership failure over the years, by the same people who are elected, we are talking about the structure that has kept us where we are, produced the highest number of poor people, the structure that produced the highest number of out of school children, the structure that embolden corruption, that produced highest youth unemployment in Nigeria, that led us to over India in infants mortality, it has brought disunity in Nigeria.

"We want to build a structure that will secure, unite; can bring about conscious leadership, where we will bring out people out of poverty; where children will be in school, where people will get jobs when they leave school by supporting micro and small enterprises."

He said that he would put together a "Structure that will start governing by rule of law, a structure that fights corruption. I believe that the people know what we are fighting for. What do you want to be remembered for today? A lot of things have changed and we must be a comity of developing nations."

I'll ensure peace in Nigeria – Kwankwaso

The presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, promised that if elected, he would work towards ensuring peace in the country in order to attract foreign

investors.

He said, "As it stands today, we have more issues of security, even in other parts of the country, especially in the northwest and even northeast. That's why we are increasing the number of the military and that's why we are going to provide special training, special equipment, relevant technology and so on to fight the situation or the insecurity of 2023 and upwards.

"And we believe that Nigeria has the numbers, they have the capacity and are determined to ensure peace in this country and that's exactly what we'll do.

"With the peace, you will see people coming to invest; you don't have to go out and shout. They see the situation and that's why they decided to leave the country to go elsewhere where there is better peace.

"Now with peace, I'm sure all our assets that we have will be properly protected. Of course, those who are stealing the oil, if they still want to do legitimate business, we will encourage them to do legitimate business, encourage them to buy modular refineries to do the oil business that they are doing.

"But I can tell you, no responsible government anywhere in this world would allow its own assets to be taken over by either people in the country, or people from elsewhere.

"And that's exactly what we intend to do, to protect it. We will do whatever it takes to encourage investors locally. We will also do whatever it takes to invite investors from outside the country."

COMMUNIQUÉ

issued at the end of the 20th Daily Trust Annual Dialogue held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the NAF Conference Centre & Suites, Abuja

INTRODUCTION:

With barely a month away from the conduct of the 2023 general elections that would usher in a new set of leaders for the country, Nigeria's political landscape is already charged with electioneering campaign activities as candidates of the participating political parties have been rolling out their manifestos and agendas as they crisscross the country for votes.

The 20th edition of *Daily Trust* Dialogue with the theme: 'Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda', examined the level of preparations for the polls so far, and specifically scrutinised the blueprints of the leading Presidential candidates.

The event, which attracted dignitaries from across the country, had John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja, as Chairman, with His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ismaila Mohammed, a veteran journalist, and Sarkin Karshi, Abuja, as the Royal Father of the Day.

Other dignitaries that graced the occasion include former governors of Katsina and Niger states, Ibrahim Shema, and Babangida Aliyu, serving and former lawmakers, chairmen, women and youth leaders, members of civil society organisations, development partners, and diplomats.

This year's event was broadcast live by Trust Television, which is on StarTimes Channel 164; NigComSat's Free TV; Moreplex 715; ArabSat Badr Sat7; AVO TV; and LIMEX World TV, as well as on YouTube and other social media platforms. A highlight included recorded video presentations on: "My first 100 days in office as President of Nigeria", from the four leading candidates: Atiku Abubakar (PDP); Bola Ahmed Tinubu (APC); Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso (NNPP) and Peter Obi (LP).

The annual *Daily Trust* Dialogue is part of Media Trust Limited's contributions to stimulating discussions by Nigerians and fellow Africans towards enhancing national, and indeed, African integration and cohesion, which are crucial for sustainable socio-political growth and economic development of Nigeria, and the African Continent at large.

Four eminent Nigerians were selected as panellists for this year's Dialogue. They include a university professor and member of the Board of the Centre for Democracy and Development, Mr. Jibrin Ibrahim; a foremost entrepreneur and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN), Mrs. Ibukunoluwa Awosika; a human capacity development specialist and scion of the Enahoro family, Dr. Eugene Enahoro; and a lecturer in Analysis of Business Problems at the Lagos Business School, Dr Yetunde Anibaba.

The Chairman of Media Trust Limited, Malam Kabiru Yusuf, set the tone with a thought-provoking welcome address in which he warned against flashing red lights ahead of the elections. Maintaining that "there are more desperados than democrats" among the candidates for the 2023 general elections, he urged Nigerians to ignore provocations from such candidates for the conduct of peaceful and fair elections.

OBSERVATIONS:

The Management of Media Trust Limited was commended for consistently hosting the annual dialogue, which provides a forum for experts to critique burning national issues, for twenty (20) years.

While appealing to the President to ensure that the election takes place as planned, the participants observed with dismay that banditry and kidnappings were making normal life impossible and may result in making it difficult for registered voters to exercise their civic rights during the polls.

That the violent attacks by members of the proscribed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) in the South East, mostly directed against the Police and INEC facilities and personnel might put off communities from voting.

They also noted that it will be hard to envisage an unchallenged electoral outcome with the country's acute insecurity and the candidates' use of provocative language and personality attacks.

The participants ascribed the failure of our democracy to the failure of our National Assembly

to uphold their responsibility of holding the executive accountable to the people, preferring to become an extended branch of the executive in initiating and executing budgetary items.

While warning 'professional riggers' across all the political parties that this year's general elections will not be business as usual, participants noted that a truly free, fair, and credible election is the only way through which men and women ready to serve the nation with dedication, sincerity, honesty, and integrity would emerge winners at all levels of government.

They also noted the significant increase in the number of Nigerians that have registered for the 2023 elections, saying it was a sign that there would be no voter apathy this time around.

Acknowledging that the major candidates in the presidential race have blueprints that identify Nigeria's problems, participants, however, said the documents lack strategic guidelines on how to address those problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Arising from the above, participants called on the president to improve the electoral environment by ensuring that the security forces work to restore security across the country, especially in areas that could engender voter apathy.

They posited that if things were to change for the better, it cannot be business as usual as there is a need for drastic change of orientation, especially in the exercise of political power, characterised by sincere and honest service for the common good.

Participants advised that Nigeria's multi-ethnic diversity should be seen as an asset to strengthen us to collectively imbibe values that would unite rather than divide the country.

Participants called on all the contestants to adhere to their peace commitment and pledge by watching their utterances, warning that if citizens ignore the provocations, Nigeria could be the ultimate winner at the polls.

Participants concluded by calling for more of such dialogues to discuss the various challenges that confront the nation.

We have confidence in INEC on 2023 elections – US

By Faruk Shuaibu

The United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard, says the US has full confidence in the capacity of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct transparent, free and fair elections this year.

Speaking at the 20th Daily Trust Dialogue held yesterday in Abuja, Leonard cited the signing of the 2022 Electoral Act and the conduct of the off-cycle elections in Osun and Ekiti states.

"The United States has full confidence in INEC and its ability to organise and conduct credible and transparent elections. We saw INEC's capabilities on display during successfully concluded off-cycle elections in Ekiti and Osun, and we look forward to seeing that success extended nationwide during the February and March general elections.

"Our confidence stems, in part, from last year's signing by President Buhari and other elected leaders of the Electoral Act of 2022. This key legislation strengthened Nigeria's electoral



■ US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Beth Leonard

system. For example, through the use of the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS) for voter accreditation, and the electronic transmission of results. These are proven methods to improve transparency and drastically reduce the potential for vote tampering," she said.

According to her, the US supports transparent and credible elections that reflect the will of the people using a process that is conducted peacefully.

She described the 2023 elections as a pivotal opportunity for Nigeria to solidify its place

as a democratic leader in Africa, saying it is not in favour of any candidate but a transparent and peaceful process.

She noted that elections are the foundation of democracy and the basis for the legitimate transfer of power, thus, valuable for all to reflect on the fact that since 1999, Nigerian voters have successfully exercised their democratic power six times.

"For more than two decades, Nigeria has demonstrated to Africa and the entire world its strong commitment to peaceful, credible and transparent elections.

At a time when many places in West Africa are challenging things like term limits and democratic processes, for Nigeria these rules of the democratic game are deeply internalised and accepted.

"President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris are personally committed to strengthening democracy in the United States and around the world. At the invitation of the Nigerian government, the Biden Administration is advancing our longstanding partnership with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and Nigerian civil society organisations."

The envoy disclosed that "Through USAID, the U.S. is providing nearly \$45 million in elections-related support to Nigeria."

She urged Nigerians to speak out against the use of violence or inflammatory rhetoric.

She said politicians and candidates have every right to challenge their opponents' stance on issues, but the use of inflammatory rhetoric and intimidation and irresponsible incitements to violence "Are extremely harmful to the country

and to public faith in elections.

"It is also essential that candidates and their parties and supporters do not make rash predictions of victory or instantly claim fraud if they lose at the ballot box. Candidates and parties that seek to run for public office must accept one fundamental truth—that losing is always possible. If a candidate is not willing to accept the possibility that he or she might be defeated, then they should not be running for office in the first place.

The American ambassador stressed that there is no true democratic election in which the outcome is foretold.

"In the U.S, for example, we have seen numerous contests in which a particular candidate seemed certain to win based on popular opinion or pre-election polling data, only for the votes to prove otherwise.

"In many political races, voting outcomes are really tough to predict and the very unexpected happens on election day. Everyone needs to remember that the only polls that really matter are the ones INEC will count in late February and March."



PRINCE ABUBAKAR AUDU UNIVERSITY, ANYIGBA

P.M.B. 1008 ANYIGBA, KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

Hearty Felicitations, YOUR EXCELLENCY

The Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba, heartily rejoices and celebrates with His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kogi State and Visitor to the institution, **Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya Adoza Bello**, on the momentous and auspicious occasion of his **Seventh Anniversary as the Executive of Governor of the State.**

Your Excellency, we are proud of this historic moment and your landmark achievements which permeate virtually all strategic sectors of the State within the period. We are therefore, not surprised by the numerous awards you have continued to receive for these feats, most especially, the Security Award conferred on you by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

At the **Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba**, we are a proud beneficiary of your governance imprints visible in the institution:

- ✓ Stable and unbroken academic calendar for the past six years
- ✓ Full accreditation of all programmes on offer in the University
- ✓ Historic triumph of the University football team (The Steelers) at the 2022 Higher Institutions Football League, making the institution the first State University in Nigeria to win the competition.
- ✓ Commencement of B.NSc. Nursing Science, B.Sc. Pharmacology and BMLS. Medical Laboratory Science, in addition to the existing B.Sc. Human Anatomy and B.Sc. Human Physiology in the College of Health Sciences.
- ✓ Commencement of Forestry and Wildlife programme in the Faculty of Agriculture and Educational Planning and Administration programme in the Faculty of Education.
- ✓ Full Accreditation of Law programme by the Council of Legal Education
- ✓ Increase in our Law admission quota from 60, since the inception of the University, to 100.
- ✓ Excellent performance of our graduates at the Nigerian Law School.
- ✓ Listing of University staff among 500 most published scholars in Nigeria
- ✓ Establishment of Genomics and Molecular Biotechnology Research and Training Laboratory
- ✓ Construction of a well equipped Prince Abubakar Audu University Teaching Hospital, Anyigba
- ✓ Fifty One members of staff winning Institutional Based Research grant sponsored by TETFUND
- ✓ Improved Infrastructure development on campus



His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya Adoza Bello,
Executive Governor, Kogi State

For these and many more of your imprints in the University and the State at large, we will continue to celebrate you. Once again, congratulations, Your Excellency.

Signed:
Professor Marietu Ohunene Tenuche
Vice-Chancellor

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

| | US DOLLAR | Pound STERLING | EURO | YUAN/ RENMINBI | RIYAL | CFA |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|------|
| Buying | 446.13 | 540.04 | 473.34 | 63.94 | 118.5 | 0.70 |
| Central NGN | 446.63 | 540.64 | 473.87 | 64.01 | 118.7 | 0.71 |
| Selling NGN | 447.13 | 541.25 | 473.40 | 65.08 | 118.8 | 0.72 |

COMMODITIES PRICE (December 28, 2022)

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| CRUDE OIL BRENT | \$82.15/bbl |
| GOLD | \$1,799.07/ounce |
| SILVER | \$19.39/ounce |
| NATURAL GAS | \$4.63/MMBtu |

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

| | Dollar | Euro | Pound S. |
|---------|--------|------|----------|
| BUYING | N733 | N745 | N915 |
| SELLING | N743 | N760 | N930 |

By Philip Shimnom Clement,
Balarabe Alkassim (Abuja),
Bassey Willie, (Yenagoa),
Abubakar Auwal, (Sokoto)
Tijani Labaran (Lokoja)

Banks short of new notes as ATMs dry up

- Reps tackle commercial banks over new currency policy
- ‘We are constrained by CBN guidelines’

Barely four days to the expiration of the deadline set by the Central Bank of Nigeria for old naira notes to fizzle out, banks across the country are running short of the new currency, *Daily Trust* can report.

The case is further worsened by the fact that commercial banks still give old notes to customers for Over-the-Counter Withdrawals (OTC) while very few Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) dispense the new naira notes.

A visit to some of the commercial banks in Abuja by *Daily Trust* showed that bank customers can only withdraw a maximum of N20,000 of the new notes while old notes are still being given to customers for withdrawals in the banking halls, against the directive of the CBN.

Daily Trust reported that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had directed customers to start rejecting old naira notes from banks, insisting that the old notes cease to be legal tender by January 31 as earlier stipulated.

Our reporter who went to withdraw new notes was given old naira notes at a popular bank in the Garki Area of the FCT. The bank staff simply told our reporter that “The Central bank did not supply them and the little supply they have is what they load at ATMs in order to obey the CBN directive.

She said: “Immediately the ATMs are loaded, customers rush immediately to exhaust the little cash in it”.

Another bank Customer in Kano, Salihu Bello said “He was in the banking hall on Thursday where a customer was making trouble because he needed new cash to pay his own staff (labourers). The bank tellers said they didn’t have what they had expected to get today but they were not supplied. The bank is still paying old currencies”

Also another bank Customer, Ruth Tene stated that “Most banks today are claiming they don’t have cash to pay customers today, particularly Zenith Bank and GT Bank, Jabi all the same case.”

Meanwhile, *Daily Trust* observes that business owners in major markets and supermarkets have begun to reject the old naira notes.

At the popular Wuse Market in Abuja, Bashir Isa, a resident of the area who went to purchase some goods with the old naira notes



could not do so as the traders there told him they won’t accept the old noted

The same scenario is playing out at a popular Chinese store in the popular Jabi Lake mall located in the Jabi district where attendants are outrightly rejecting the old notes.

Reps tackle commercial Banks over new currency policy

Members of the House of Representatives Ad-hoc committee have tackled commercial bank operators over the hardship being experienced by Nigerians over the new currency policy imposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Responding separately, the banks Chief Executives Officers (CEOs) revealed that the amount of new Naira notes allocated to the banks are not enough to meet the demands of their customers.

Speaking, one of the bank’s executives, Hadiza Ambursa informed that their bank collects about 10 per cent of what they deposit to the Central Bank.

On his part, Sterling Bank’s Orlando Umoren who corroborated what the Access Bank official said, noting that Sterling Bank received and disbursed varied amounts of the

new notes.

He said: “We received a minimum of N150 million to be shared. In Kaduna, N150 million, in Kano, we received N100 million to be shared amongst the branches in the metropolis. They are being fed in the ATM only and not to be given to the customers across the counter. In Abuja here, what we are given is about 80 per cent. In Kano, it is less than 10.

“What we get in return is nothing comparable... The reason why the new naira note is not coming. It is in the furtherance of the cashless policy. The banks are still under pressure to ensure that they meet the deadline”.

The Regional Executive for Heritage Bank, Oniko Daniel called on the public to understand the policy as put up by the CBN and the position of the commercial banks as entities regulated by the apex bank.

He said, “If you load a cartridge, which is about 8 million, in less than 2 hours that 8 million is finished. It must be understood. People want to deposit N10 million and want to collect N10 million, but It is not possible. CBN is doing cash swaps in rural areas. The public needs to know the guidelines and what the CBN

is saying. CBN guideline is more or less a rule to the commercial banks”.

While speaking on whether the policy and the deadline set by the CBN on the new currency is feasible, the Chief Executive of Retail and Commercial Banking, North, First Bank Nigeria Plc, Shehu Aliyu said, they are guided by the guidelines put by the CBN and cannot determine anything regarding the policy.

He said “We have seen an upsurge of people coming to open accounts and deposit money into those accounts. We have been handling this as much as we can. After this hearing, we will bring details. We have been paying out new notes across the country.

Speaking, the Chairman of the committee faulted the CBN on the policy saying that it violated the CBN Establishment Act by setting up a deadline of January 31st for the old currency to cease as a legal tender.

He said, “Section 20(3) made it necessary, mandatory on the CBN not at any point to refuse to accept old notes simply because of the expiry date.

“The position of the law is that our old notes must continue under every circumstance to have value. The values of the old notes must be respected and protected by the CBN and the commercial banks.

House threatens to wield the big stick against Emeifele

The Speaker, Femi Gbajabamila has threatened that the House will issue an arrest warrant against the CBN governor, Godwin Emeifele over his refusal to honour the invitation of its Ad-hoc committee over the new currency matter.

He said, “The resolution of the House was predicated on information showing that the rollout of the redesigned naira notes has been an unmitigated failure. This failure has real and dire consequences on the ability of Nigerians to conduct business across the country.

“The refusal by the CBN to heed the invitation by the House of Representatives is evidence of a blatant disregard for the well-being of the Nigerian people who are their customers. It is also an insult

to the authority and prerogatives of the people’s parliament.

“Therefore, I will, pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 89 (1) (d) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Order 19 (2)(1) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, not hesitate to issue a warrant to the Inspector General of the Nigeria Police Force to compel the attendance of the CBN or Managing Directors who fail, refuse or neglect to respond to the summons by the House of Representatives”.

CBN begins cash swap in Bayelsa, Sokoto, Kogi, others

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has begun a cash swap policy in Bayelsa State through agents to distribute the newly redesigned notes to unbanked persons in rural communities.

A Manager with the CBN, Abuja branch, Mr. Nweke Jude, during a visit to the commercial banks in Yenagoa to monitor compliance, said the critical part of the assignment was to actually assess the newly introduced cash swap policy to ensure that ordinary people and the under-banked, especially in rural areas, would also have access to new notes through super agents and the banks.

There was jubilation at Wamakko town in Wamakko Local Government Area of Sokoto State as the CBN brought redesigned naira notes for swapping with rural residents.

Speaking while flagging off the exercise on Thursday, the Sokoto branch comptroller, Dahiru Usman explained that, it was meant to ensure redesigned notes reach people living in rural communities.

The CBN also commenced the implementation in the three senatorial districts of Kogi State simultaneously in its bid to make more new naira notes.

The cash-swap exercise was carried out at Ojokutu, Kabba junction, Ohinoyi’s palace, Okene Market Square, and Obeiba - Ihima in the central senatorial district where hundreds exchanged their old naira notes with new ones.



■ From left: Managing Director, Afrinvest West Africa Limited, Ike Chioke; Chief Executive Officer, InfraCorp, Lazarus Angbaso; Anhad Narula, Chairman, Africa Plus Partners; Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), Temi Popoola; Managing Director, Africa Plus Partners, Adeniran Ajakaiye; Senior Country Manager, Nigeria, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Kalim Shah; Divisional Head, Capital Markets, NGX, Jude Chiemeka; and Managing Partner, Famsville Solicitors, Dayo Adu; during a closing ceremony in commemoration of the Memorandum Listing of the Africa Infra Plus Fund 1 at the Exchange on Tuesday
Photo: NGX

CBN unveils Nigerian Domestic Card, bans dollar charges on local transactions

By Philip Shimnom Clement

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has launched the Nigerian National Domestic Card Scheme, AfriGo, targeted at creating a payment system that will boost financial inclusion for Nigeria.

At the virtual launch of the card, the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, said that transaction charges on all cards would henceforth be paid in Naira, except for international transactions.

According to the CBN governor, AfriGo would be cheaper and would be a matter of national pride, with potential to boost financial inclusion.

Emefiele said, "The National Domestic Card avails us the sovereignty of our data. Secondly, it comes at lower costs and thirdly, the issue of foreign

exchange.

"At this time when foreign exchange challenges persist globally, it is important for me to say that we have come up with this card to ensure that all card online transactions will now effective immediately, begin to go on the Nigerian National Domestic System.

"At some point in the next few weeks, I am sure that the CBN will come up with the cut-off. All domestic card transactions that will be conducted in Nigeria will have to be through the Nigerian Domestic Cards.

"Your existing cards are fine. You can continue using them but given that charges by foreign cards are in dollars, we will no longer pay dollars for the charges on those cards.

"We will only pay dollars for charges on transactions that are done outside Nigeria. NIBSS, the CBN and Nigerian banks will

work together to see how to segregate those transactions. To ensure that we pay fees or charges for international transactions that are conducted on both domestic cards, Visa or Master Cards, as they are known today.

"We will bar domestic charges from the Nigerian foreign exchange market at some point in the very near future."

The governor said that the introduction of AfriGo was not an attempt to discourage international investors' operations in the Nigerian payments space but that it had become necessary owing to its obvious advantages.

He said, "This effort is not an attempt to prevent international service providers from continuing to provide services in Nigeria. Rather, it aimed at providing more options for domestic consumers, while also promoting the delivery of services in a more cost-

effective and competitive manner.

"The CBN is committed to a robust and safe payment system and welcomes innovations from domestic and foreign investors.

"The Nigerian market is vast and the current participants have done so in the last 12 years to transform the ecosystem. Yet there is much ground to cover as millions of Nigerians are still without cards to consummate transactions.

"I am convinced that the National Domestic Card scheme will make this a reality in the coming months. We can no longer neglect the vast majority of Nigerians."

Also speaking at the event, Premier Oiwoh, Managing Director of NIBSS, said the scheme was developed to promote a robust in-country domestic card payment scheme tailored to address the specific requirements of Nigeria's payment industry.

Aviation not essential service, workers insist

● Say strike can't be outlawed

From Abdulateef Aliyu, Lagos

Following the statement credited to the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika that strike is now illegal in the aviation industry, the National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) has insisted that aviation is not an essential service and as such strike cannot be outlawed.

Sirika had said with the new Act of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) recently assented to by President Muhammadu Buhari, embarking on strike is now illegal as aviation has been classified as an essential service.

Daily Trust reports that the unions had sometime last year staged demonstrations over what they called a clandestine clause in the New Civil Aviation Act, which classifies aviation as an essential service where strike would not be tolerated.

But the unions were told by the National Assembly committees that there was no such clause in any of the Acts.

However, there are fears among the unions that the clause, which they protested against, might have succeeded in finding its way into the Act.

Speaking with our correspondent yesterday, General Secretary of NUATE, Comrade Ocheme Aba insisted there cannot be such a clause in any of the Act based on the assurance they got from the National Assembly and the National Industrial Court ruling that

aviation is not an essential service.

He said, "We don't think there is any such thing in any Act. The National Assembly wrote to us officially and informed us that no essential service clause is in any Act either the ones passed as at that time or the ones yet to be signed by the president. We have copies of the ones passed and there are no such things."

On the warning that strike would no longer be tolerated, he said, "He (minister) is completely behind the time. He is operating maybe from one remote village in Katsina where they have no access to the Internet because if he has... and we have also forwarded the ruling of the National Industrial Court to him that airlines do not provide essential services. So he is far behind the time. There are no such laws in Nigeria."

The union leader however clarified that the strike, which disrupted flight operations on Monday was carried out by the workers and not the unions and expressed sadness over the "collateral damage" done to passengers.

"Our problem was not with the passengers. Our problem was with NAHCO and we did not withdraw services from the passengers, we withdrew services from NAHCO.

"The unions did not do any strike and the stakeholders were aware of what happened. It was because the unions were not involved that was why the impact was so heavy."

Mafab adds Kano, Kaduna, PH, Enugu to 5G network rollout plan

By Zakariyya Adaramola

After launching its fifth generation (5G) network in Abuja and Lagos, Mafab Communications said it will launch the latest telecom network in Kano, Kaduna, Port Harcourt and Enugu in coming weeks.

Disclosing this during the telecom operator's 5G launch in Lagos on Thursday, the Chairman and Founder of Mafab Communications, Dr Musbahu Muhammad Bashir, said the company would be expanding its network across all states in Nigeria in due course.

"It is only logical that after the historic launch in Abuja, our next stop should be the Centre of Excellence, Lagos.

"Lagos is not just the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria, but also a prime destination for tourism, sports, entertainment and culture. And the future is now even brighter with more exciting prospects and possibilities with the digital play of

Mcom 5G Network", Bashir said.

The Mafab chair said Mcom 5G launch marked the beginning of immense opportunities for the country to achieve infinite possibilities with a purpose of enabling connectivity for a digital future.

As the second operator to launch 5G in Nigeria, he said Mcom would provide more coverage for Nigerians and worked on acceleration of broadband services.

Putting things in proper perspective; he said Mcom would play a major role in advancing new technologies that would push Nigeria beyond just being a consumer of technology but a country playing an active role in developing and implementing new technologies.

He added: "It will also enable our country to take its position as a global technology hub in Africa and the world at large. You may have heard it before, but it bears

re-telling that the 5G network will usher into this country a wide array of business opportunities, wherein various business outfits will expand their frontiers with operational ease and speed, especially in the fields of education, medical sciences, engineering, security, businesses like the banking sector, SMEs, smart cities, transportation, entertainment etc., and allow Nigerians meet the long-term goal of ensuring that everybody is connected.

"Our plans are quite ambitious and realistic. With the initial rollout in 6 cities, Mcom plans to rollout additional sites and cities across the country."

He said the 5G technology is not just a mobile network but represents a new culture, and a new era of connectivity where billions of devices exchange data and instill intelligence in our everyday life.

In his speech, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State said the launch of Mafab's 5G network in

Lagos would bring Lagos closer to realising its dream of becoming a Smart City.

"It is a fact that the contribution of the telecommunications industry has been a significant economic driver for Lagos State in particular and Nigeria as a whole, contributing more than \$70 billion and helping to create over half a million jobs. The prospects of what we can accomplish with the 5G network, which is next level technology, fills me with high hopes for the future of the different sectors of our economy, most especially the security sector", Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor said the overall objective of his administration is to harness technology to enhance and empower the residents and investors in Lagos in order to achieve the transformation of Lagos State into a smart City hub in Africa.

He added: "I am now very optimistic that we will achieve resounding success because the

opportunity that MAFAB 5G network represents has met our preparedness, part of which is the country's technology hub found in the Yaba district of Lagos, which when completed will be our own African Silicon Valley."

But unveiling the new logo of the organisation, Mafab's Communications spokesperson, Mr Adebayo Onigbanjo, said that as an operator born in the data age, Mafab would aim to serve customers.

"We would also serve the country by maximising the value of digital technology", Onigbanjo added.

In December 2021, after 11 rounds of bidding that lasted eight hours, Mafab and MTN Nigeria emerged as the two successful winners of the 3.5gigahertz (GHz) spectrum auction for the deployment of 5G technology in Nigeria. NCC also confirmed that the two companies fully paid \$273.6 million each for the 5G spectrum licence in February 2022.



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN ONGRID ELECTRICITY GENERATION LICENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 70 (2) OF THE ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR REFORM ACT

Zungeru Hydro Electricity Generation Company Limited whose office is situated at Shiroro Local Government Area, Niger State hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) whose principal office is situated at No. 1387 Cadastral Zone A00 CBD, Abuja, for the issuance of an on-grid electricity generation licence for the operation of 700MW Hydroelectricity.

Notice is hereby given that persons who have objections to the grant of the licence should send their written comments clearly articulating the basis for any objection, in accordance with the provisions of NERC Application for Licences Regulations 2010 and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Rules of the Commission) Regulations 2006 no later than 21 days of this publication to:

**Chairman
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
Plot No 1387 Cadastral Zone A00
Central Business District
Abuja**

NEWS

Airline Operator wants special fund, single digit interest loans for airlines

By Chris Agabi

The chairman, United Nigeria Airlines, Prof. Obiora Okonkwo, has called for a special fund for the airlines to be drawn at single digit interest rate.

He said the Nigerian indigenous airline

operators are greatly challenged thus the federal government should make deliberate effort to save the industry from collapse.

Prof. Okonkwo spoke on Thursday in Abuja at the airline's 2023 management retreat with the theme 'Positioning United Nigeria for Value Creation and Retention.'

He listed the dominant challenges plaguing airlines to include the exorbitant cost of aviation fuel, scarcity of aviation fuel, difficulty in accessing forex at the Central Bank of Nigeria official rate and high cost of commercial loans.

The United Nigeria chairman said flying is no longer elitist thus

government needed to accord it special attention as it had done with road transportation, agriculture and other sectors.

He clarified that operators were not demanding bailouts nor subsidies but low-interest funds to draw from and capitalise on their operations.



■ From left: Gbong Gwkom of Jos, Jacob Gyang Buba; Olu of Warri, Ogaime Atuwatse; Sultan of Sokoto, Mohammed Sa'adu Abubakar and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, during NIPSS Endowment Fund Committee Meeting at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on Thursday

Photo: NAN

\$2.59bn Badagry deep seaport: Navy gets new housing unit

From Eugene Agha Lagos

Ahead of the commencement of the \$2.59 billion Deep Seaport in Badagry, the Nigerian Navy, on Thursday laid the foundation of the Admiralty Shelter Estate, Topo-Badagry for the effective deployment of troops to the area.

It could be recalled that the Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, had

in October 2022, said he received approval to build the \$2.59 billion Badagry Deep Seaport, which was approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) in August.

The approval provides legal basis for the concession of the Badagry Deep Seaport, following the issuance of the full business case certificate by the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) last April.

Sensing a sharp rise in commercial operations when the seaport becomes operational, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo, approved the construction of the Admiralty Shelter Estate, Topo-Badagry, to enhance the operational efficiency of the navy around the Badagry waterways.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, the CNS said the Admiralty Shelter Estate, in Topo,

Badagry, was embarked on under a joint venture partnership arrangement between Navy Holdings Limited and Messrs Jewel Shelter Constructs Limited.

"Just last month, precisely on the 3 December 2022, a groundbreaking ceremony for the development of 147 houses at Cluster H at the Admiralty Estate, Asokoro and 150 units of Post Service Housing at the Navy Estate Karshi Phase 3 were conducted.

Mikano Motors records 400% sale growth in 2022

From Abdulateef Aliyu, Lagos

Mikano Motors Nigeria has recorded 400% sales growth in 2022.

It also started the year 2023 with fun and celebration, as the organisation last week gave special recognition and rewards to its outstanding staff at a ceremony at their assembly plant, Karamah city along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The company's

outstanding workers received awards ranging from the Most Creative staff to the Most Efficient staff of the year.

Speaking at the event, the General Manager, Mikano Motors, Ralph Haidar, commended the company's workers by describing their performance as outstanding during the year 2022.

He said, "We are using this event to recognise our staff who have shown commitment and dedication in an effort to take the

organisation to the next level. I must confess that our staff performed optimally.

"So, this award ceremony is about recognising their efforts, demonstrating team spirit and bonding. We are saying we value their contribution to the success of the company in 2022."

Haidar said, "Without them, it would have been impossible for the company to attain the kind of growth we experienced last year. With their effort, we were able to achieve 400% growth

on a year-to-year basis. We were the fastest-growing automotive company in 2022 and recorded the highest sales in Nigeria after Toyota. We could not have been able to attain such height without our staff cooperation and team bonding."

"This is a new year with renewed energy. We are encouraging our staff to do more. So, we are expecting more support, commitment and belief in our dream to take the industry beyond and above.

TSA, others have improved civil service efficiency – BPSR

By Linda Ifeachor

The Director-General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi, has said the introduction of some schemes, like the Treasury Single Account (TSA), has improved the efficiency of the civil service.

Dasuki stated this in Abuja while speaking on the topic, 'Agile HR Practices in Driving Performance in Public Service', at the Human Capital Strategy Forum organised by Bratim Business School.

He said, "In 2008, we said we hope to digitalise management of financial resources of government and we produced the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), Government Integrated Finance Information Management System (GIFMIS), Treasury Single Account (TSA) and BVN.

"With IPPIS, we know the number of people that are on the payroll of the federal government and before the end of the month, we know how much is needed to pay salaries of public servants," he said.

Dasuki also disclosed that BPSR has developed an application to enable auditors to work online through an open portal.

He further stated that it has also developed a civil service strategy to improve the skill and capacity of officers from point of recruitment, promotion and discipline.

The acting Dean, BRATIM Business School, Mr Tejan Ibrahim, said there is a need for organisations in the public and private sectors to embrace the tenets of inclusivity to create balance and effectiveness to be able to achieve competence in the workplace.

Customs trains 600 officers in 5yrs on trade facilitation, others

By Philip Shimnom Clement

As part of its drive to boost trade facilitation, human capacity development and revenue generation, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) says it has trained over 600 officers across its training colleges and commands.

The Comptroller General of Customs, retired Col. Hameed Ali, stated this yesterday in Abuja during the International Customs Day celebrations with the theme 'Nurturing the next generation, promoting a culture of knowledge sharing and professional pride in Customs.'

He said nurturing the next generation of professionals is vital for the continued success of any organisation, which is why customs is promoting a culture of knowledge sharing and training to fulfill its mandate.

"Since 2017, we have launched life-changing command and staff training programmes under which

over 600 young customs officers have been trained.

"Apart from building competencies in core customs operations, they have been exposed to other core values of leadership, teamwork, emotional intelligence, and crisis management among other areas that the service covers.

"The above accessions fall in line with our vision of strengthening the structure in NCS through institutional change.

"Our prestigious Nigeria Customs Command and Staff College has been graduating officers who return as directing staff to the college to ensure continuity of knowledge sharing," he said.

He added that the service will continue to equip its training institutions while ensuring adequate use and equal opportunities for officers to excel.

He further reiterated the drive of the service in meeting its revenue target as stipulated by the federal government through the deployment of technology for service delivery.

FG moves to end relocation of automobile industries

By Faruk Shuaibu

The federal government has initiated moves to reform the automobile industry to attract companies to invest in the country.

Speaking during a stakeholder consultative yesterday, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning

(FMFBNP), Engr. Nebeolisa Anako, said the increasing rate of relocation of manufacturing companies from Nigeria to neighboring countries such as Ghana, Benin Republic, among others due to the high cost of doing business is worrisome.

Anako noted that with national, regional and global value chains synonymous with the industry, jobs

can be created in countries based on their comparative advantages and Nigeria cannot be an exception.

"In order for us to benefit maximally from the industry, especially in view of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) window, there is a need for experts and stakeholders in the industry to deliberate, identify, and

fashion out a roadmap that will enable government addresses the specific issues affecting the industry.

"The sector needs to be revived to increase its contributions to the National development as well as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The crucial role of the Automobile Industry in the development of Nigeria's economy cannot be over-

emphasized.

"Hence, the Ministry has deemed it necessary to convene the meeting with this very important Sub-Sector of the economy in order to understand the challenges and constraints facing the industry and find ways to ameliorate them in order to encourage optimal performance in the Automobile Industry."

FOCUS ON KATSINA



Co-created content

EVERY FRIDAY

When President Buhari Visits Katsina



President Muhammadu Buhari is on a two-day working visit to Katsina, his home state, where he inaugurated some developmental projects executed by both the Masari-led administration as well as the federal government in the state.

The president, who came in from Daura, his hometown, began by the commissioning of underpass constructed by the APC-led administration of governor Aminu Bello Masari at Kofar Kwaya, with the view to de-congesting the hitherto ever-busy IBB Way at the intersection with the Yahaya Madaki way at Kofar Kaura roundabout in the Katsina metropolis.

In addition to the de-congestion, the well-built, well-decorated underpass has also given Katsina a modern look, befitting of a state capital, as obtained in other capital cities that are modernized across the country.

The President also commissioned other projects that include the Katsina Water Supply Booster Station, rehabilitated and upgraded also at Kofar Kaura; remodelled Katsina General Hospital; Revenue House, an edifice that houses the State Internal revenue Service as well as Kofar Kwaya underpass, all constructed by the Masari administration.

Other projects commissioned by the President include the Nigerian Meteorological Institute, established by the federal government as well as the Darma Rice Mills, a private company owned by business magnet, Alhaji Dahiru Bara'u mangal.

Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika and the Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar, were among the top government officials in the presidential entourage.

In the state, the President was accompanied by the Katsina state Governor and his Deputy, the Speaker of Katsina State Assembly, Rt. Horn. Tasi'u Musa Maigari, Katsina gubernatorial Candidate of the APC party Dr. Dikko Umar Radda, and many members of the state Executive Council.





YOUTHVILLE

Friday, January 27, 2023

...young at heart



To the heart of youth, the world is a highway side.

— Robert Louis Stevenson

Youth innovation can unlock

\$443m for Ekiti – Global Alliance



By Simon Echewofun Sunday

Despite being one of the smaller states in Nigeria, the young and innovative population of Ekiti holds the potential to unlock \$443 million (about N203.7 billion) of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for the region's economy.

This was shared by an economic advisor and advisory board member for the US-Africa Trade Council, Olusiji Aina, during a panel discussion at the recent youth event held in partnership between Innovate UK KTN Global Alliance Africa and The Convergence in the state.

With over 2,000 young people in attendance, the group explored the potential of innovation to unlock investment and job opportunities for the Ekiti youths.

"The young people of Ekiti are

in a very advantageous position. On one hand, they have been blessed with abundance of natural resources while on the other, they have direct access to Nigeria's large consumer demand.

"This means there are ample resources available for them to develop new and exciting products, which can be sold to a market where there is a lot of potential revenue to be generated. If we can help young people to build and scale new businesses, the region stands to benefit tremendously," Aina said.

These thoughts were echoed by the Vice President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture, Kola Akosile, who agreed that youth innovation in Ekiti State is a vital component of the region's future success.

However, the CEO of Technology and Entrepreneurship Hub, Illesanmi Ade-Ademola, said becoming a

successful innovator is no easy task.

"You can have a great idea, but without the proper support, you won't get far. This is because as a young person, you don't have the money, experience or business connections to help you take your idea off the ground," he said.

On his part, the CEO of Elab Impact Consulting, Uchendu Egbuna, called for the establishment of a series of innovation sandboxes for Ekiti youths.

"I say this because theoretical knowledge of entrepreneurship is one thing, but to truly be innovative, you must understand how to create value. It needs to be complemented with experimentation and hands-on experience, because it is only through trial and error that you become better at creating value and identifying gaps and opportunities in the market," Egbuna said.

Evolve boosts girls' education to tackle climate change

From Ayobami Balogun, Lagos

Evolve, a non-profit organisation that focuses on girl-child education, and its lead partner, Polaris Bank, have restated their commitment to curbing global warming through intervention in girl-child education in Nigeria.

The managing director, Pacegate Limited, Mr Umesh Amarnani, said the Evolve programme, which was launched in 2020 to address the global challenge of climate change through the education of underprivileged girls, is designed to impact over 50,000 direct beneficiaries and 200,000

indirect beneficiaries in the next five years.

While noting that education and youth empowerment are the most significant indicators of social progress, Polaris Bank's Group Head, Customer Experience Management & Sustainability, Bukola Oluyadi, restated the bank's commitment to the success of the programme.

"Our commitment to these has been the drive for the empowerment of the girl-child and thus the partnership with Evolve. Since 2021, we have partnered with Evolve and adopted several schools across Nigeria to cater for the needs of the girl child," he said.

General Manager

(Operations) of Pacegate Limited and Project Manager for Evolve, Mr Godwin Ejeh, called on teachers to embrace a value-based and holistic approach to education so as to make a lasting impact on students.

He called on relevant stakeholders and other nongovernmental organisations to collaborate on the initiative so as to have a wider impact on the girl child.

Some of the students present at the event shared their experiences on how the support received from the organisation has not only helped their educational development but also their personal growth.

Caleb University graduates 966 at 12th convocation

By Linda Ifeachor

Caleb University in Imota Lagos, adjudged to be Africa's best private university in research and entrepreneurship development has graduated 966 students at its recent 12th convocation ceremony.

According to the university's Information, Media and Publication Specialist, Mr Olawale Adekoya, the event witnessed the conferment of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees; diplomas and honorary degrees.

A total of 747 undergraduates graduated where 32 Students bagged First Class, 390 had Second Class (Upper), 313 got Second Class (Lower) and 13 had (Third Class). Out of the 219 Post Graduate Degrees students, 32 made Distinction, while 187 had Pass.

In a keenly contested race, Miss Eunice Osho emerged the most outstanding undergraduate student while Mr Timothy Oyelowo had the most outstanding postgraduate student

award.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nosa-Owens Ibie, urged the current undergraduate students to make use of their time in the school, and should not be worried because the school has deposited in them all they would need to face the reality of life head on.

The Professor of Mass Communication also urged the graduates to practise all they have learnt. He said, "your time here is just like that of the incubation period whereas by the end of your stay, the seed would have germinated.

The Pro-Chancellor, Prof Sunday Ajayi who extolled the virtues of the Visitor and Founder, Dr Oladega Adebogun, for his vision in establishing a world class institution like Caleb University, also praised the graduates for raising the bar.

The university also conferred honorary doctorate degrees on the Founder/Chairman of Channels Television, Dr John Momoh, and Chairman, TVC Communications, Mr Dele Alake.

Rap artiste Eva Alordiah shares 17 lessons at 34

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

"Write these on your heart, save them to read again." These were the starting words of Eva Alordiah, a Nigerian rap artiste, this week as she clocked 34.

In an email note, the artiste said: "They say - go to school, get good grades, so you can get a good job.

and maybe your life will work out.

"But NOTHING I learnt in school prepared me for the harsh reality of Life."

Top of the five of the 17 lessons she said she had learnt from 34 years of dealing with Life are about mastery and passion.

"If you must master anything, master yourself. To know many things yet not know yourself is to know nothing. Stop trying to find your passion, you already have it - and stop being idle, complaining, over thinking, and start doing the things you already know how to do well," she urged in two lessons.

Her third lesson is that life is just a blink people experience over the course of years whereby one can be here, and then one is not there. "So, use your time well.



"Don't get tuition and forget to use your intuition. The answers you want are already within you - question everything, ponder the answers and never take things as they appear to be," Eva said.

The singer also spoke about self-development. "Everything you want in life is on the other side of growth. You must develop your: Mind - read, then write; Spirit - align, then serve; Body - eat right, then train and then commit to only doing work you're proud of," she advised.

**Hadejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin
- Trust Fund (HJKYB-TF)**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN NIGERIA**

**Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for Water Resources Development in
the Komadugu-Yobe Basin Phase II –Additional Environmental and Social
Impact Assessment Studies**

The Hadejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin Trust Fund of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has applied for funds towards the cost of Preparation of a Strategic Action Plan for Water Resources Development in the Komadugu-Yobe Basin Phase II: Additional Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Studies. It intends to use part of the fund to finance contracts of two individual Consultants to undertake the following Additional Studies to Complete the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA's) of Challawa Gorge Dam Watershed Management Sub-Program; Gashua Irrigation Scheme Rehabilitation Sub-Program; and Jama'are River Regulation Sub-Program:

- 1) Preparation of a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the Challawa Gorge Dam Watershed Management Project.
- 2) Preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the Challawa Gorge Dam Watershed Management Project and Gashua Irrigation Scheme Project.

An individual consultant will be assigned to each project and the assignment is part of the preparation and appraisal of the Komadugu Yobe Basin Priority Projects Program in Nigeria for possible financing by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other Development Partners.

The services included under each assignment are as follows:

1. Each Consultant shall familiarize him/herself with the existing draft ESIA for the respective project, with the outlook of doing a detailed analysis of the environmental and social risks of the project.
2. Each Consultant shall visit the respective project sites and engage with relevant stakeholders of the Komadugu-Yobe Integrated Water Management Program.
3. Each Consultant shall determine the land acquisition, resettlement, compensation and valuation of land required or affected by infrastructure, as well as stakeholder consultations and disclosure requirements consistent with the applicable environmental laws and regulations.
4. The RAP Consultant shall provide a plan that outlines procedures that the client will follow, and the actions that it will take, to mitigate adverse effects, compensate losses, and provide development benefits to persons and communities affected.
5. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Consultant shall undertake stakeholder analysis to determine who the stakeholder are, their needs, expectations and objectives, etc.
6. The SEP and GRM Consultant shall undertake stakeholder engagement with all groups to identify grievances, responsibilities, and grievances redress mechanisms.
7. The SEP and GRM Consultant shall outline for the client a stakeholder engagement plan and grievances redress mechanism procedure based on discussions with stakeholders.

Hadejia Jama'are Komadugu Yobe Basin - Trust Fund (HJKYB_TF) now invites eligible Individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested Consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services and describing similar assignments previously undertaken and stating experience in similar conditions.

Qualification

The minimum qualifications and experience of the Consultant are:

1. Each Consultant shall have a minimum of a master's degree in Environmental Sciences with fifteen (15) years relevant experience in undertaking strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments, and in environment management planning. Also, knowledge of AfDB Environmental and Social (E&S) Safeguards policy and procedure is a must, in addition to having specialized training in EIA/EM.
2. The RAP expert should have at least 7 years hands-on experience of preparing RAP for multinational donor funded projects.
3. The SEP and GRM expert should have at least 7 years hands-on experience of preparing SEP and GRM for multinational donor funded projects
4. Each Consultant shall be fully certified and registered for conducting EIA in accordance with recognized environmental management authorities.
5. Experience of working in a similar project supported by or related to AfDB will be an added advantage.

Assumption of duties and Duration of Contract

The successful applicant may be expected to assume duties on by end of February 2023 or earlier. The duration of each contract is four months.

Evaluation Criteria

The prospective consultants' expression of interest will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- i. General qualification and suitability for the task to be performed: 40%
- ii. Experience in the specific assignments described in the TOR: 40%
- iii. Experience with international organizations: 10%
- iv. Language Proficiency: 5%
- v. Knowledge of the African Region, and Nigeria in particular: 5%

Detailed Terms of reference for each assignment can be requested from: HJKYB-TF TF Secretariat Email: kybtrustfund@yahoo.com, with copy to Prof. Hassan H. Bdiya, Executive Secretary, Email: Hansliya@hotmail.com.

Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's *Procurement Policy for Bank Funded Operations (October 2015)*, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>.

Expressions of interest with updated Curriculum vitae must be emailed/delivered to the address below not later than 13th February 2023 at 5.30 p.m. and indicate "Individual Consultant Services for the KomaduguYobe Basin Investment projects and the assignment interested in (RAP or SEP)".

Prof. Hassan H Bdiya, Executive Secretary
Address: Km 16 Potiskum Road, P.O. Box 479, Damaturu, Yobe State.
E-mail: kybtrustfund@yahoo.com, and Hansliya@hotmail.com.
Phone: 08034084937



**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
TO MANAGE AND OPERATE THE KANO STATE
ULTRAMODERN SPECIALIST HOSPITALS**

In its efforts to improve the health standard of its teeming populace and the country at large, KANO ULTRA-MODERN SPECIALIST HOSPITAL BOARD invites competent and qualified companies to manage these hospitals under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program in compliance with the Kano State Ultramodern Specialist Hospitals (KUSH BOARD). They are:

- Muhammad Buhari Specialist Hospital, Giginyu, Kano
- The Ultramodern Cancer Centre, Giginyu, Kano

Interested Companies must submit their expression of interest with the following documents which include:-

1. Certificate of incorporation/evidence of registration at the corporate affairs commission (CAC)
2. Tax clearance certificate covering at least 3 years preceding the current year.
3. VAT registration certificate and evidence of payment
4. Standard organization of Nigeria (SON) certification.
5. Audited accounts for at least 3 years from the current year.
6. Company profile, organisational structure including names of directors and management team, address of the company and contact details.
7. Evidence of execution of similar jobs including skill acquisition and experience of personnel.
8. Bank guarantee or performance bond from an insurance company.
9. Professional body registration if any e.g ICAN, COREN, MBA, SEC, MDCN etc.
10. Details of bankers or financiers and evidence of existing relationship.

All application should be addressed to the **chairman KUSH BOARD, Kano on or before 6th February 2023.**

Contact Address:
**Sheikh Khalifa Isyaka Rabi, u Peadiatric Hospital,
Zoo Road, Kano**

Contact numbers:
08034257411, 08105593512

Signed
Chairman KUSH BOARD

Congratulations!



Mr. Mohammed Bello-Koko

Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority

We join all lovers of merit in Nigeria to celebrate you, Mohammed Bello Koko, our MBK, today on your well-deserved award of 'Public Icon of the Year' by the respected Vanguard Newspaper.

The capacity, competence and professionalism you have demonstrated since your assumption of the office of Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority are eloquent for all to see.

This award is a most deserving recognition.

It speaks to the responsibility you are known for which is drawn from your sound pedigree, intellectual depth, robust experience and impeccable credentials that have defined your leadership and managerial delivery both at the private and public sectors.

We wish you the best and pray to the Almighty to never cease to continue to bless you.

Congratulations once again!

Signed

Aso Wenah
Emeka Obiakor
Ricardo Mansour

Amin Ali Abubakar
Chimezie Nwagbo kanu
Anga Sunday Harry
John Ezugo

Wenenda Kingsley Wali
Esema Aguse
Edwin Nawaokezie



NINGI EMIRATE COUNCIL BAUCHI STATE

Congratulations!

on your **45**

**Years Anniversary
on throne,
YOUR HIGHNESS**

EMIR OF NINGI
**ALHAJI DR, YUNUSA
MUHAMMADU
DAN-YAYA, CON**

Glory be to Allah, the Most Beneficent, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful. Members of the Ningi Emirate Council in Bauchi State, felicitate with **His Highness, the Emir of Ningi, Ahaji Yunusa Muhammadu Danyaya CON**, on the occasion of his 45th years on the throne.

The council and indeed the entire people of Ningi attest to His Highness's sense of justice, fairness and equity, who is also the longest reigning monarch in the history of the Emirate from 27th January 1978 to 27th January 2023.

"While we appreciate your contribution to the development of Ningi Emirate, Bauchi State and Nigeria in general, we pray Allah to give His Highness good health and the wisdom to make more impact in service of our Emirate. May Allah bless this day and may your reign be long and continue to lead on the right path

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF PEACEFUL REIGN.

HAPPY 45th ANNIVERSARY YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS

Signed:
NINGI EMIRATE COUNCIL



Students in Gombe protest fees hike in tertiary institutions

From Haruna Gimba
Yaya, Gombe

The student's wing of the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG-SW) yesterday staged a peaceful demonstration in Gombe to protest against the increase in tuition fees by public tertiary institutions in the country.

The students, who converged at the Gombe Emir's palace, expressed fear that the fee hike announced by some universities and other public tertiary institutions would lead to massive dropout.

Addressing newsmen, the National Coordinator of the CNG-SW, Ms Emuseh Gimba Bokunga, said the protest was in line with the group's ultimate goal of achieving accessible, affordable and

qualitative education to Nigerian students.

She explained that the group staged the protest in Gombe, to draw the attention of the government and the consequences of the fees hike on the educational development of the country.

The coordinator disclosed that before the protest, the group had taken time to study and understand the increments as announced by several universities and other higher institutions authorities in the North.

"As is the tradition of the CNG-SW, we took time to understand the situation and assess the inherent dangers the hike in the tuition fees would pose to Nigeria and especially to the northern region, which has been abandoned to the mercy of rampaging banditry and insurgency,"

Bokunga said.

According to her, the increment will lead to massive dropouts and force millions of students to the street as well as compelling many students to give up their dreams of acquiring higher education.

Ms Bokunga added that the hike would also breed frustrated and uncontrollable youths that will be open to all vulnerabilities, temptations, "And other influences that could ultimately lead to an increase in organised crimes and worsen the current insecurity in the country."

The group also called on the northern elite and other stakeholders to speak up to reject and discourage the passage of the Education Loan Bill, "Because the life span and sustainability of the loan is not guaranteed."

2 killed as rival cult gang storms birthday party in Lagos

From Eugene Agha,
Lagos

Two persons were on Wednesday night hacked to death when suspected secret cult gang members stormed the venue of a birthday party at Shomolu area of Lagos.

Several other party goers also sustained injuries in the shootout as they scammed for safety.

It was learnt that the fracas was between two rival cult gang members in the area.

The incident, which reportedly occurred at Okesuna Street, off Abiodun area of Somolu created serious confusion as residents and passers-by scammed for safety, following the exchange of gunshots.

According to an eye witness, suspected members

of Aiye had trailed some rival gang members, Eiye, to the venue of the party.

The witness said the gang opened fire on the rival groups as soon as they identified one of them.

Eyewitnesses at the scene of the incident also stated that some guests at the party sustained gunshots as the warring gangsters shot sporadically.

One of the deceased persons was identified as Alabi, a.k.a. Para, who was hit by bullets during the exchange of gunfire by the gangsters.

A resident, who simply identified himself as Adesegun said: "It happened during a birthday celebration by one of the big boys in Okesuna area, Olumide

Adebayo, popularly known as Ogbor"

"It actually started between two Bariga gangsters Lukmon a.k.a. Baggio and Dayo a.k.a. Filo but another gangster from Somolu, Tope a.k.a. Sypon joined the clash.

The eyewitness also narrated that "At the party, it was Tope Sypon and Dayo Afilo that had a misunderstanding between them but because of the battle for superiority in Bariga between Lukmon Baggio and Afilo, he(Baggio) supported Sypon against Afilo."

When contacted, the image maker in charge of the state Police Command, Benjamin Hundeyin claimed not to have been briefed on the incident

Fuel scarcity: Residents barricade Lagos-Benin Road

From Usman A. Bello,
Benin

Residents of Benin City yesterday barricaded the Benin-Lagos Road by Olukun axis, following the scarcity and hike in the price of fuel.

Commuters and other road users were stranded for long hours on the road while others had to walk long distances before getting to their destinations.

A trader, who was caught in the blockade,

Grace Emmanuel, lamented that she was conveying her goods to Ekiadolor where she would sell them in order not to incur losses.

"But with this protest, I might incur serious losses and other people caught in the protest would also suffer losses," she said.

She backed the protest against fuel scarcity but said road blockage would take tolls on many people.

A motorist, David Odion, lamented that she had spent over three

hours waiting for the protesters to leave the road.

"I have been in the same spot for several hours and I don't know when I will leave here. We are all suffering but this is where I earn my leaving," he said.

He, however, called on both the state and local governments to look into the fuel crisis in the country so that commuters and motorists could heave a sigh of relief.



Request for Bids (RFB)
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION (NCDC)
REGIONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (PHASE II)
(WORLD BANK ASSISTED)
CREDIT IDA 59700-NG

PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT (PHONES, LAPTOPS & TABLETS) FOR THE TRAINING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VETERINARIANS ON NADIS DATA MANAGEMENT AND REAL TIME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE.

RFB No. REDISSE-GDS-RFB-15-2022
ISSUANCE DATE: 27th JANUARY 2023.

1. The **Federal Republic of Nigeria** has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (Phase II)** and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT (PHONES, LAPTOPS & TABLETS) FOR THE TRAINING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VETERINARIANS ON NADIS DATA MANAGEMENT AND REAL TIME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE** for Animal Health Sector.
2. The **Nigeria Centre for Disease Control / Regional Disease Surveillance Systems**

Enhancement Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

| LOT | Description | Qty | Bid Security | Delivery Period | Location |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| PROCUREMENT OF IT EQUIPMENT (PHONES, LAPTOPS & TABLETS) FOR THE TRAINING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VETERINARIANS ON NADIS DATA MANAGEMENT AND REAL TIME DISEASE SURVEILLANCE | | | | | |
| A | Samsung Mobile phone or Equivalent | 1,548 | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | NAIC ABUJA |
| B | Samsung Tablet or Equivalent | 1,453 | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | NAIC ABUJA |
| C | Laptops | 37 | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | NAIC ABUJA |

NB: Bidders may bid for any or more Lots and discounts offered for the award of combined slices will be considered in bid evaluation. Domestic preference is not applicable.

• ALL BIDS MUST BE IN NIGERIAN NAIRA.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open, National competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", July 2016, revised November 1, 2017 and August 1, 2018 and 2020 revised guidelines and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Nigeria Center for Disease Control, Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (REDISSE II)**, and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 0900 to 1700 hours local time at the address given below. Qualifications requirements include:

- Documentary Evidence of two contracts of similar nature and magnitude during the last five (5) years
- Valid and up to date certifications with FIRS (Tax Clearance), NSITF, PENCOM, ITF & BPP
- Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years i.e 2019, 2020 & 2021 to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.
- Bidders should provide manufacturers authorization / authorization to sell on behalf of the supplier / Certificate of partnership.

5. The bidding document in **English** may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Twenty Thousand Naira (N20, 000.00)** only. The method of payment will be through **REMITA Platform via Account Name: NIGERIA CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL / WORLD BANK PROJECT. NAME OF SERVICE / PURPOSE – WORLD BANK / REDISSE.**

The document will be sent by courier or collected by hand.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12.00 NOON, MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023**. Electronic Bidding **will not** be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **12.00 NOON, MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023**
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a **Bid Security of at least three percent (3%) of the bid for any Lot a bidder wishes to bid for with price denominated in the Nigerian Naira.**
8. The address referred to above is:

Nigeria Center for Disease Control
Mrs. Kemi Ladeinde - Project Coordinator,
Plot 804 Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi-Abuja, Nigeria
kemi.ladeinde@ncdc.gov.ng



REVENUE MOBILISATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission cordially invite the relevant Stakeholders to a One-Day Zonal Public Hearing on the Review of the Remuneration Package for the Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders slated to hold simultaneously in the six (6) Geo – Political Zones of the Federation as follows:

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Date: | Wednesday, 1st February 2023. | | |
| Venue: | North West | – | African House, Government House Kano, Kano State. |
| | South South | – | Banquet Hall, Government House Yenogua, Bayelsa state. |
| | South East | – | Nike Lake Resort, Enugu, Enugu State |
| | North Central | – | Victoria Hall, New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos Plateau state. |
| | North East | – | Command Guest House, Kano Road Bauchi, Bauchi State |
| | South West | – | Adebemi Hall, Oba Adeshida Road Akure Ondo State. |

Time: 9: 00a.m

M.B. Shehu.
Chairman.

TRUST ISLAMIC FORUM

How memorising Qur'an enhanced my academic performance, female student

Maryam Umar Mairiga, an SSS III student, memorised the entire glorious Qur'an within three years, juggling her academic activities with Tahfeez (Qur'an memorisation). At her waleemah held last Sunday in Abuja, the 17-year-old, who aspires to be a haematologist, spoke to *Daily Trust* on how she achieved the feat, the strategy employed and how committing the 114-chapter Holy Book to memory enhanced her academic performance in school.

By Abdullateef Salau

How do you achieve the feat?

There is a saying that nothing good comes easy. It wasn't easy to memorise the entire Qur'an because I was juggling the Qur'an memorisation class with school activities.

When I started in 2017 (then I was in JSS 1), there was this phobia of starting secondary school and then attending Tahfeez (Qur'an memorisation) class and still going to another Islamiyyah (Arabic school). I don't think it was feasible but Alhamdulillah, I managed to stand firm and complete it.

How long does it take you to memorise the entire Qur'an?

It took me about three years to memorise the Qur'an. I started in 2017 and completed it in 2020.

Is there any particular strategy you employed?

The strategy was given by my Qur'an teachers. They made us adopt something that was easy for us, like memorising two pages a day. One page after Fajr (dawn) prayer and the second one after Magrib (sunset) prayer. During that period, I was able to balance my social, academic and family time.

How do you feel memorising the Qur'an?

I memorised for the sake of Allah. I just want to be classified among the righteous believers



■ Maryam

whom Allah will favour on the day of judgement.

Would you say memorising the Qur'an, in a way, enhances your academic performance?

Yes, it does and makes my studies easy for me because if I look at the sciences in the Qur'an, I can easily relate it with what we are being taught in science class. It is an added advantage for me.

After memorising the Qur'an, what is the next thing?

The next stage now is learning the Tafseer (the exegesis) of Qur'an and working with it. I have learnt the meaning of the last ten chapters and am now learning the meaning of the

upper part.

Working with the Holy Qur'an is actually the hardest part because we can't just learn to recite and memorise it but must also implement its teachings in our lives.

How will you advise your peers?

They should be steadfast because Qur'an memorisation requires consistency. If you are not consistent, the Qur'an will leave you. One beautiful thing I have learned about the Qur'an is that if you take hold of it, it will guide you in your academic and social life. So, you just have it first and then it will make other pursuits easier for you.

Top UN chief to Muslim nations: Remind Taliban of women's rights in Islam

The UN's deputy secretary-general called on Muslim nations to remind Afghanistan's de facto authorities, the Taliban, that women have rights in Islam.

Amina Mohammed travelled to a few countries including Türkiye, Indonesia and some of the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, before her delegation visited Afghanistan to gain insights from an engagement with the Taliban.

"There's a proposal on the table now that the UN together with the OIC -- the Organization of Islamic Cooperation -- would co-convene with a number of countries an international conference within March on women in the Muslim world, and this would bring in the issues of Afghanistan, but also the region," she told reporters at UN headquarters after completing a four-day trip to Afghanistan.

She emphasised that it is very important for Muslim countries

to come together and remind the Taliban that women have rights in Islam.

"A lot of what we have to deal with is how we travel the Taliban from the 13th century to the 21st, and that's a journey," she said.

The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan on Aug. 15, 2021 followed by the disruption of international financial assistance has left the worn-torn country in economic, humanitarian and human rights crises.

The Taliban regime has recently moved to close universities to female students across the country until further notice and has barred girls from attending secondary school, restricted women and girls' freedom of movement, excluded women from most areas of the workforce and banned women from using parks, gyms and public bath houses.

Women get leadership roles in Mecca, Medina mosques

Saudi Arabia has announced the appointment of 34 women in leadership positions at the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques to develop services for women's pilgrims, local media reported.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Sudais, President of the Two Holy Mosques' Affairs, issued a decision assigning 34 women in the agencies and departments of the Kingdom's highest Islamic entity to serve female pilgrims in the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medina.

The decision is among qualitative shifts that aims to empower qualified Saudi women in high-profile positions dedicated to serving women who visit the Two Holy Mosques.

In August 2021, the Presidency of the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques announced for the first time the appointment of two women as assistants to the general president. (*Anadolu Agency*) (gulfnews.com)

THE RELIGION WITH ALLAH IS ISLAM

AFIS A. OLADOSU
08122465111 (Text only)

The month of Rajab is here

Once again, dear brethren, we are back to the path again. The month of Rajab is here. "Rajab is a great month in the sight of the Almighty (SWT). It is incomparable in eminence and glory. It is deemed to be a month specially favoured by the Almighty such that wars and all acts of violence even against forces of evil are prohibited. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) is reported to have said: Verily, Rajab is the month of the Almighty, Sha'ban is my month and Ramadan the month of my Ummah; whoever fasts a day in the month of Rajab will be granted the great reward of Ridwan (attainment of eternal bliss); the wrath of Allah (SWT) shall be distanced from such a person and the hell fire shall be closed against him".

A couple of days ago, the Muslim world began the countdown to the sacred month of Ramadan. It did when the crescent which signaled the beginning of the month of Rajab appeared in the horizon. The month of Rajab is the seventh month of the Islamic calendar. Arabic linguists would remind us that the lexical definition of the word Rajab, particularly when it is converted to the tri-literal verb -rajaba, means "to respect". In other words, the word Rajab speaks to the essence of the month - a month in which Muslims are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and decorum.

The month of Rajab is regarded as one of the four sacred months in Islam. The other months are Muharram, Dhul-Qi'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Rajab. But why is the month sacred? The month is held in awe and reverence because Almighty Allah, the creator of the heavens and the earth, demands that from us. In fact, He reveres and adores the month in His majesty. This explains why He says "do not perpetrate injustice against yourself during the sacred months". Why is it that Allah holds the month in reverence? He does that based on His will and wisdom, The Will of Allah is unknowable; the wisdom of Allah is intractable. But that which is indubitable is this: Allah forbids all acts of violence during the sacred months except when the Muslims come under aggression.

Notions of the sacredness of the four months are also found in pre-Islamic annals. During this period, the Arabs used to consider warfare an infraction against the divine will.

The month of Rajab is equally held sacred, as has been mentioned, because it comes as a prelude to the months of Sha'aban and Ramadan. Each time the crescent announcing the beginning of the month of Rajab appeared, Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be on his soul) used to supplicate to Allah in the following words:

Allahumma baa-rik-lanaa fi-rajab wa sha'ban wa bal-lig-na shah-ra ramadan

"O Allah, make Rajab and Sha'ban blessed months for us, and grant us the blessing of witnessing the month of Ramadan (i.e. prolong our life up to Ramadan, so that we may benefit from its merits and blessings)."

Put differently, the month of Rajab is a divine blessing to the Muslims as it opens the floodgate of divine redemption and salvation for those who, among the Muslims, would be willing and ready to avail themselves of its inestimable values.

Perhaps the greatest reason it enjoys an iconic status in Muslim weltanschauung is that the Prophet's journey from the earth to the presence of Almighty actually took place during this month. Allah alludes to this important journey in Quran where He says: "Glory be to Him Who took His servant (Muhammad) on a journey one night from Masjid-al-Haram (in Mecca) to Masjid-al-Aqsa, whose vicinity We have blessed, so that We may show him some of Our signs: surely He is the One Who is the Hearer, the Observer. (Quran 17:1). Otherwise known as al-M'iraj, the Prophet's journey to the heavens began in Makkah, unto Jerusalem, from where he was guided in the ascension to the heavens by Angel Jibril (upon him be peace).

Brethren, the month of Rajab is also significant because in it the battle of Tabuk, which took place in the ninth year after the hijrah from Makkah was fought in defense of Islam. It was also during the month of Rajab that the second Oath of Aqabah took place. It was during the month of Rajab that Salahudin al-Ayyubi rescued Jerusalem from oppression of the oppressors.

Now how should you conduct yourself during this month? It is useful and reasonable that you endeavour to do as many good deeds as you can in it. Keep regular prayers and fast as many days in it as possible but do not go to the extreme of saying you want to fast the whole twenty-nine or thirty days. The Prophet did not recommend that for us.

Seek forgiveness of your sins as many times as you can. A recommended formula goes thus: Astaghfirullah wa as-aluhu a-tawbah -meaning: "I seek forgiveness from Allah and penitence", and endeavour to give Sadaqa - charity and alms giving. The Prophet says: "the best of you is the one who is most compassionate with the creatures of Allah".

We have lost all our life savings to fire – Balogun market traders

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

Scores of traders at the popular Balogun market in Lagos Island have lamented the loss of all their life savings to yet another fire outbreak.

A midnight fire outbreak on Thursday razed down a five-storey building located along Gbajumo Street, Balogun, where clothes, bags and shoes are sold.

Although no life was lost to the midnight fire, some rescuers sustained different injuries while trying to fight the fire.

The traders in the affected building have been lamenting the losses.

John Okorocho, who claimed to be a trader in the affected plaza, said he recently stocked his shops with over N20 million worth of goods immediately business resumed in January after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Another trader, Chris Onuorah, said he lost cash and goods worth over N50 million.

Onuorah, who sat fighting back tears, said he once heard that hoodlums deliberately set markets

on fire under the covers of darkness only to loot and steal people's property.

He added that he never knew that he would also fall victim.

"I drove to Balogun at the speed of light only to discover that the fire started from the ground floor and some residents had gathered to fight the fire.

"We were happy when the fire went off around 1pm only for it to start up again around 3am. It was the second fire that did the damage to our entire goods," he said.

Our correspondent

gathered that the close knitted nature of the houses marred the operation of rescuers as they were unable to move their firefighting equipment to the scene.

Ibrahim Farinloye, Public Relations Officer of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said accessibility to the source of fire was pretty difficult.

He said rescuers had to resolve to the demolition of shanties around the area for easy access of fire trucks.

He said the affected building was a five-storey building.

Jerry Gana urges Buhari to find lasting solution to fuel scarcity

From Tosin Tope, Akure

Professor Jerry Gana, erstwhile Minister of Information, has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately look into the fuel scarcity currently being experienced nationwide and provide a lasting solution.

Gana, who described the long queues at the few petrol stations that have the product in stock as unacceptable, wondered if President Buhari who also doubles as the Minister of Petroleum was not aware that Nigerians are passing through needless pains and stress.

He spoke on Thursday at the 106th anniversary of the Archbishop Vining College of Theology in Akure, the capital of Ondo State,

The former minister specifically said that commercial drivers and commuters have been facing untold hardship in their attempt to fill up their tanks.

"We expect them to perform their duty because the fuel shortage is a serious problem and we know the government of the day should certainly do something decisively about the fuel crisis.

"And so, we direct them, request them, and urge them on behalf of the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to do something urgently. It is not an appeal but the people of the nation are calling on the government to do something urgently," Prof Gana added.

On the issue of the recently resigned naira notes by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the former minister lamented the difficulties Nigerians are going through in getting the new currencies.

According to him, despite the January 31, 2023 deadline set by the apex bank, many Nigerians are yet to obtain the new notes.

He, however, joined his voice to demand the extension of the deadline set by the CBN.

While urging Nigerians to remain steadfast, Prof. Gana said the next month's election is another chance for citizens to choose wisely.

He also called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to make sure the February 25 and March 11 elections are free and fair and acceptable to Nigerians.

FG to establish free trade zone in Ekiti

From Raphael Ogbonnaiye, Ado-Ekiti

The federal government, through the Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority (NEPZA), has restated its commitment to make Ekiti State a major free trade zone in Nigeria by supporting the state in delivering an economic and knowledge free zone where education based industries and technological companies can operate from.

The Managing Director of the authority, Prof. Adesoji Adesugba made this known in Ado-Ekiti during a courtesy visit to Ekiti State governor, Mr Biodun Oyeibanji, yesterday.

The NEPZA boss said the establishment of the economic zone would boost the economy of the state and increase its internally generated revenue as well as reduce over-reliance on federal allocation.

Prof. Adesugba commended the governor for being proactive and his ideas of creating education

and knowledge zones.

He assured the state of the support of the authority and prompt completion of the project.

Prof Adesugba, who assured Nigerians that the free trade zone would be ready within 18 months, said he was in the state to confirm the commitment of the federal government towards the successful completion of the project.

He called on drivers and captains of industries to invest in the state when the zone is ready.

In his remarks, Governor Oyeibanji stressed the need for the federal government to fast-track the completion of the project to attract more investors to the state, adding that productivity would always lead to shared prosperity.

While using the opportunity to flaunt the intellectual resources of the state, the governor stated that it was not wise for any state to drive its economy on monthly federal allocation as it could not be used for effective wealth creation.



Italian Plaza at Gbajumo Street, Balogun Market razed by early morning fire in Lagos yesterday

Photo: Benedict Uwalaka

Gombe govt approves N38bn contract for 17 roads project

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

The Gombe State government has approved a N38 billion contract for the construction of 17 roads and bridges across the 11 local government areas of the state.

Addressing journalists at the end of the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting, the Commissioner of Information and Culture, Meshack Audu Lauco, said the projects include a 10.5 km road network in the

Tunfure area of Gombe metropolis.

He said the council meeting presided over by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya awarded the road network projects contracts to open up the area at the cost of N6.49 billion.

Lauco also identified other projects as the Kaltungo General Hospital Road network, three span bridge at Titi to Stangayari, road network at the General Hospital Kumo, 4.55km Jalingo township roads and

the 2.7km Bajoga township roads all in Funakaye LGA.

"Also awarded are; the 4.03km Dumbu-Tsando road, the construction of a 1.8 km access road to Government Mega College, Dadin Kowa and the 1.5 km access road in Government Mega College, Dukku.

"Equally approved by the council are contract for the construction of 1.55 km of road network in the General Hospital Bajoga, the rehabilitation of 4.7km Kumo township roads and the 11.5km Kwadon-

Kunji-Jada-Goni Bukar-Laleko to Sabongari," he said.

The commissioner added that the council also approved the contract for the construction of a four span bridge at 'Hayin Kwarin Misau,' the 6 km Kaltungo township roads, as well as the construction of access road to Government Mega College, Kaltungo and the construction of 7km Billiri township road and a spur road to Kanuwal of Yamaltu Deba LGA.

Killing: Niger lifts curfew on Lambata

Gov. Abubakar Sani-Bello of Niger has directed the lifting of the curfew on Lambata town in Gurara Local Government Area of the state.

The directive is contained in a statement by the Secretary to the state Government, Mr Ahmed Matane in Minna on

Thursday.

The governor had on Jan. 15 imposed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. as a result of violent clash that led to the killing of the village head of Lambata, Alhaji Muhammed Abdulsafur.

Matane explained that the lifting of the curfew would begin from Jan. 26.

He said that the curfew was lifted having reviewed the security situation and return of peace in Lambata town and environs.

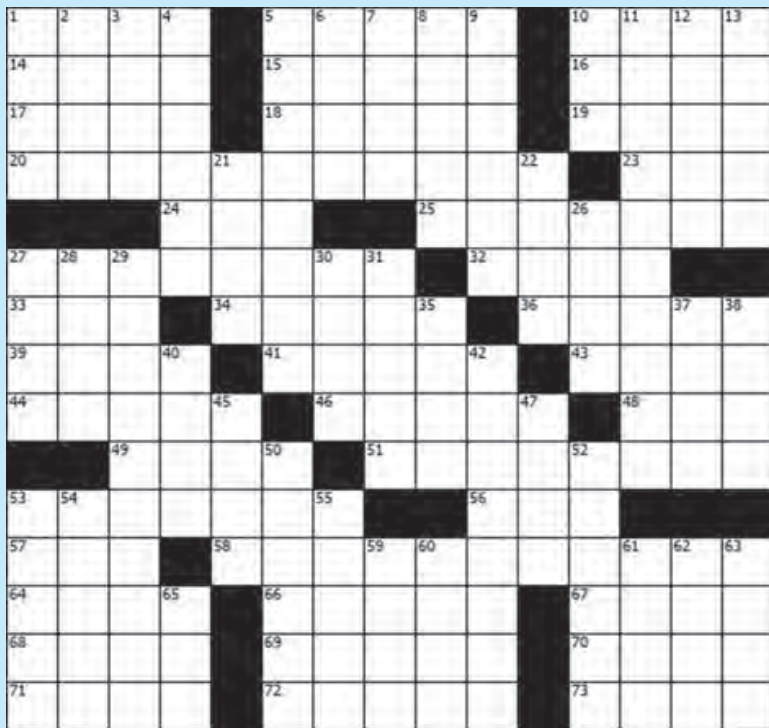
He said that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Ogunde Ayodeji had visited Lambata town and commenced investigation into the matter that led to the

killing of the village head, stressing that arrests had also been made in connection with the violent clash.

Matane, however, urged the people of Lambata and the public to always be law-abiding and to remain peaceful with one another regardless of social, political or religious affiliations. NAN

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EASY CROSSWORD >>



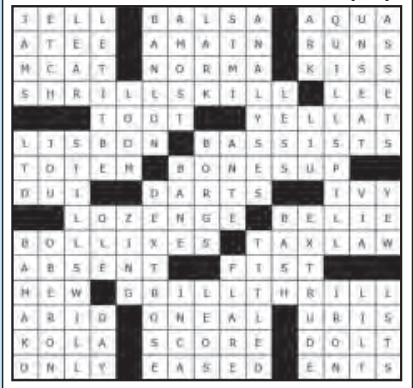
Across

- 1. Royal in the 1976 Olympics
- 5. "Hit the road!"
- 10. Italian export
- 14. Meridian hour
- 15. Sister of Urania
- 16. It's enough, according to some
- 17. End in London
- 18. American astronomer Carl
- 19. Denies access to
- 20. Missing person alert?
- 23. ___ Paese
- 24. Purchase from Vanna, perhaps
- 25. City in Thessaly
- 27. Fell a tree
- 32. Institution founded in 1701
- 33. Bud's buddy
- 34. The original "Slammin' Sammy"
- 36. Eye emphasize
- 39. Parker's sax, e.g.
- 41. Aegean island
- 43. An Aleutian island
- 44. Indiana's state flower
- 46. Site of a Herculean lion killing
- 48. It carries a small charge
- 49. Freelance payments
- 51. Exercising influence or control
- 53. Explorer who named Louisiana
- 56. Nest egg feature

Down

- 1. All over again
- 2. His story is in Genesis
- 3. Part of an aircraft
- 4. Lure into a snare
- 5. Rap or jam periods
- 6. Bird's pouch
- 7. Ravi Shankar melody
- 8. Two words before costs
- 9. Day Mama Cass sang about
- 10. "The Gift of the Magi" gift
- 11. How the invisible man votes?
- 12. Ranch expanse
- 13. Inventor Nikola
- 21. They can be made to meet
- 22. Like much testimony
- 26. Upper pelvic bones
- 27. Show approval, in a way
- 28. Excavation
- 29. "Groovy!"
- 30. Disaccustom by degrees
- 31. Specified
- 35. Major-___ (chief steward)
- 37. Institution founded in 1440
- 38. Weakest of the litter
- 40. High draft rating
- 42. Advanced study groups
- 45. Cry out loud

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD (45)



- 47. Puts on the small screen
- 50. Exhibit poor posture
- 52. Italian port
- 53. Teased, in a way
- 54. One of "The Honeymooners"
- 55. Helena rival
- 59. Yule follower
- 60. Like some tea
- 61. Fervent
- 62. Lifer's domain
- 63. Canal of song
- 65. Mayday!

SUDOKU >>

How to play: The number 1 through 9 will appear once only in each row, column, and 3 x 3 zone. There are 9 such zones in each sudoku grid. There is only one correct Solution to each sudoku.

Good luck!

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Solution to Sudoku 45

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | 3 | | 8 | | 4 | | |
| | | | 4 | | 9 | 6 | | |
| | 8 | 7 | 6 | | 4 | | | |
| 1 | | | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 8 | 7 | | | | 9 | 6 | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | | | 7 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 |

SNAPSHOT >>

Dog accidentally shoots a hunter dead



A dog shot and killed a man in the United States over the weekend, police said, after the animal stepped on and accidentally discharged a gun left on the backseat of a pickup truck. The victim, who was sitting in the truck's front passenger seat, was struck in the back as he and the pet were out on a hunting excursion Saturday, according to police in the central US state of Kansas. "A canine belonging to the owner of the pickup stepped on the rifle, causing the weapon to discharge. The fired round struck the passenger, who died of his injuries on scene," the Sumner County Sheriff's office said. "The investigation is ongoing, but the preliminary investigation shows it to be a hunting related accident," the sheriff's office added in a separate statement. Officials did not say whether the 30-year-old man who died was the dog's owner. Accidental shootings are tragically common in the United States, a country where there are more guns than people. According to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 500 people died in firearm accidents in 2021.

- alarabiya

SIGN LANGUAGE >>

Funny yard sale sign



- fleamarketflipper

5 miners feared killed in Kaduna

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Kaduna

Five local miners were feared dead after bandits attacked a mining site at Hayin Udawa town in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna

State. The incident happened yesterday afternoon when the bandits attacked the victims working on the site. A community leader in the town who simply identified himself as Muhammadu Umaru

confirmed the attack. Details of what actually happened were sketchy but the victims were from Udawa village according to local sources. "Five of our local miners were killed yesterday (Wednesday) while working in the bush. They

were all from Udawa town. They usually go into the bush for mining activities but there were others who sustained gunshots," he said. He said the scene of the attack was not far away from the site where bandits ambushed the

personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), killing seven as well as six miners a few weeks ago. Calls to the state Police Command Public Relations Officer, DSP Mohammed Jalige remained unanswered.

Death toll from Nasarawa bombing has risen to 40 –Gov Sule

From Umar Muhammed (Lafia) with AFP report

The death toll from airstrikes that killed a group of herders in Nasarawa State has risen to 40 from 27, the state government said Thursday.

The air raid on took place on Tuesday in Rukubi, a village on the border between Nasarawa and Benue states, a region known for ethnic and religious violence.

"We now have approximately 40 people that were killed," Nasarawa's governor Abdullahi Sule told reporters on Thursday after a meeting with the leadership of Meyeti Allah Kautal Hore led by its National President, Alhaji Abubakar Bello-Bodejo, in Government House, Lafia.

Our correspondent reports that no fewer than 200 leaders of the Fulani communities in the state, including those from Benue state attended the emergency meeting.

Daily Trust reported how 38 herders in the Rukubi community of Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State were killed in airstrikes by the military.

The herders, multiple sources said, were killed while returning from Makurdi, the Benue State capital, where they went to retrieve over 1,000 cows seized by the Benue Livestock Guards.

The governor urged the family of the victims to be calm, assuring them the matter would be thoroughly investigated.

Ethnic tensions

There have been accidental airstrikes on civilians by the military in the past in northern Nigeria, where troops are fighting jihadists and criminal gangs.

In September 2021, officials said an accidental Nigerian military airstrike on a village in Yobe State killed at least nine civilians.

The air force said its jet had been pursuing a group of jihadists in the area.

In January 2017, at least 112 people were killed when a jet struck a camp housing people displaced by jihadist violence in the town of Rann, near the border with Cameroon.

The Nigerian military blamed a "lack of appropriate marking of the area" for that bombardment in a report issued six months later.



■ From left: Director, Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Abubakar; former Head of State and Founder of NYSC, General Yakubu Gowon (rtd); Acting Director General of NYSC, Mrs Christy Ifeyinwa Uba and Director, Press and Public Relations, Mr Eddy Megwa, during the Acting Director General's visit to General Gowon at his residence on Thursday.

PHOTO: NAN

1 dies, 2 injured as articulated vehicle bursts into flame in Kogi

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has confirmed one person dead and two others injured on Thursday when an articulated vehicle crashed and went into flame in Kogi.

Stephen Dawulung, the Kogi FRSC Sector Commander, confirmed the incident to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lokoja.

He described the incident, which involved nine persons, as "very unfortunate."

Dawulung said that the two injured persons were evacuated by FRSC personnel to Honey Cold Hospital for medical attention, while the corpse of a motorcycle operator crushed by the truck was handed over to his family.

"The incident, which occurred at exactly 12.40 p.m of Thursday left the truck, a car and three motorcycles burnt.

"The high speed with which the truck driver came with was the main cause of the multiple

incidents, which first started with the crushing of one okada rider carrying a passenger.

"As he couldn't control the truck, he went ahead and crushed two other okada men before crossing to the opposite direction, where he crashed into a car, which bursted into flame immediately.

"Unfortunately the truck that was fully loaded with Fertilizer caught fire also, burning the goods and the motorcycles

involved in the crashes," the sector commander said.

He appealed to motorists to avoid speeding and carelessness while on the highway.

Dawulung said the truck driver should have known that he was already in Lokoja and ought to have slowed down to avoid accident.

"This is the reason why as a corps, we penalize traffic offenders to serve as deterrent to other motorists," he said. NAN

Ondo council boss suspended over 'graft, abuse of office'

From Tosin Tope, Akure

Goke Jatuwase, the Chairman of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State, has been suspended over allegations of misappropriation of the council's funds.

Mr Jatuwase was suspended by members of the legislative arms of the council after rising from a plenary session on Thursday.

Daily Trust obtained a copy of the suspension letter where a 'vote of no confidence' was passed on Mr Jatuwase by 11 councillors of the legislative arm.

In the letter, Mr Jatuwase was ordered to immediately hand over and transmit power to the Vice Chairman of the LGA, Mr Mebino Obele, pending an investigation.

The councillors also accused Mr Jatuwase of gross misconduct and indiscipline, high level of incompetence, and callousness including a total disregard for democratic principles and the yearning for the teaming population of Ilaje LGA.

"Lack of transparency in the management of funds for the last two years. Mr Chairman, be

informed that your suspension takes immediate effect. Therefore, you are hereby totally prevented to perform any role whatsoever of the executive chairman, Ilaje Local Government Hence you are required to, with immediate effect, transfer power to the Vice Chairman, Hon. Mebino Dickson Obele."

Reacting to his suspension in a telephone interview with Daily Trust, Mr Jatuwase said he only got to know about his suspension through social media.

He added that he had not been served officially, stressing that the legislative arm has no right to suspend him.

"I only know about my suspension on social media. I have not gotten the letter officially and they can't even communicate me. It's the clerk, not within their right.

"So, they don't have such a right because they are half-baked educated persons and they would have to reverse themselves," Mr Jatuwase said.

He, however, denied engaging in anti-party activities as alleged by the councillors.

MURIC hails Sanwo-Olu for appointing 2 Tutor Generals

The Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) has commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State for appointing two school principals, Dr Shareefah Adejoke Yusuf and Mr Amuni Abayomi Mustapha as Tutors-General in the state.

MURIC Director, Prof. Ishaq Akintola, said this in a statement on Thursday in Abuja.

"Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has appointed two school principals who are Muslims, Dr Shareefah Adejoke Yusuf and Mr Amuni Abayomi Mustapha as Tutors-General/Permanent Secretaries in the state's civil service.

"The appointments were contained in a circular with reference CIR/HOS/23/Vol. 1/111 issued by the State Head of Service, Hakeem Muri Okunola on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

"We commend the step taken by the governor. But like Oliver Twist, we will ask for more. Sanwo-Olu has given Muslims two slots out of six. There are six tutor generals in Lagos State and all six had been Christians since Sanwo-Olu became governor. MURIC and

other Islamic organisations in the state had been clamouring for a fair redistribution of the six slots for years.

"In essence, three slots each should go to Muslims and Christians. While we thank him for what he has done so far, the governor still has to boldly redistribute the slots in the name of equal rights, fairness and justice.

"It was three on each side in the days of Bola Tinubu and Babatunde Fashola. There is no reason why it should change.

"If Lagos Muslims want to be rigid, they can even demand all six slots in Sanwo-Olu's second term because the Christians have monopolized the same six slots for four years. But we are not going to do that. Let the records speak for us," he said.

Akintola added: "We call on Babajide Sanwo-Olu to balance the equilibrium as soon as he is sworn in for his second term by the grace of Allah by appointing one more Muslim as tutor general. There are more than enough Muslim candidates who are eminently qualified for that post." (NAN)

Elections will hold in S'East as scheduled – Military

By Idowu Isamotu & Umar Muhammed (Lafia)

The military high command, on Thursday, warned unknown gunmen and members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) against threats to scuttle the 2023 general elections in the South East.

It also said no territory was under the grip of terrorists, bandits and other criminals, although they may be present in some local governments.

The Director, Defence Media Operation, Maj.-Gen. Musa Danmadami, gave the warning at Defence Headquarters, Abuja while answering questions during a media briefing on the activities of troops attached to various operations across six geo-political zones in the country.

“Election will be held as

● Mum on 38 herders killed in airstrikes

scheduled in the South East. No gunman or unknown gunmen or what is it called can stop the election. We have continued to carry out various operations and we will continue to carry it out,” he said.

Daily Trust had reported how IPOB members had beheaded the Chairman of Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State, Christopher Ohizu, and how they had been threatening to stop elections in the South East zone of the country.

Danmadami added, “No territory is being held on to by the terrorists, bandits or other criminals. Yes, we have several pockets of them in some parts of the country, which is why operations are going daily.

“Of course, they may be disturbing some local government areas, but to say they have a territory they hold

on to, no!

“Like I told you, we’ve been carrying out a lot of operations to make sure that their enclaves are destroyed and eliminated. On the election, the Chief of Defence Staff had said repeatedly that the armed forces would remain apolitical.

“The police are the leading agency as far as election matters are concerned, they have the mandate, while other security agencies would support them to achieve this. I can tell you that any unwanted act during elections would be dealt with decisively.”

On the killing of herders in the airstrikes in Nasarawa State, the senior military officer said he would not want to comment on the issue since the state governor, Abdullahi Sule, had already spoken.

Daily Trust reported how

38 herders in the Rukubi community of Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State were killed in airstrikes by the military.

The herders, multiple sources said, were killed while returning from Makurdi, the Benue State capital, where they went to retrieve over 1,000 cows seized by the Benue Livestock Guards.

Meanwhile, Governor Sule yesterday met with the leadership of Meyeti Allah Kautal Hore led by its National President, Alhaji Abubakar Bello-Bodejo, in Government House, Lafia.

Our correspondent reports that no fewer than 200 leaders of the Fulani communities in the state, including those from Benue state attended the emergency meeting.

The governor urged the family of the victims to be calm, assuring them the matter would be thoroughly investigated.

2023 elections: Reps call for closure of tertiary institutions

By Balarabe Alkassim

The House of Representatives has called on the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), and other bodies to order all tertiary institutions to suspend academic activities till after the general elections.

It also called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to make special arrangements for students to collect their permanent voter cards (PVCs).

This followed the adoption of a motion on matters of urgent public importance moved by Rep Kabiru Ibrahim Tukura at the plenary on Thursday.

Presenting the motion, he said that the academic calendars of tertiary institutions had been structured to disenfranchise students as they had not considered the dates of the elections.

He said, “According to available statistics, there are over 2.1 million students currently studying in Nigerian universities while over 2.4 million are students in polytechnics, monotronics, and colleges of education.

“3.8 million of the newly registered voters are students accounting for 40.8 per cent of the total number of newly registered voters as stated by the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmoud Yakubu, at the commission’s 2022 third quarterly meeting with political parties in Abuja.”

He added that while the students were busy with academic activities, INEC was engaged in distributing PVCs at the wards across the 774 local government areas which deprived many of them of the opportunity to get their PVCs.

Students urged on religious, ethnic tolerance

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

Secondary schools students in Jos, the capital of Plateau State, have been urged to tolerate people of other religions and ethnicities.

The students, who were drawn from different secondary schools within the state capital, were taught on the importance of education and technical skills in commemoration of this year’s International Day of Education organised by Get Them Young Initiative (GTYI), yesterday in Jos, with the theme, ‘Invest in people, prioritize education.’

The team lead of the group, Nafisat AbdulAzeez, said the programme was to develop and enhance peaceful co-existence among students, and acknowledge the role of education in peace and development.



■ From left: (Sitting): Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Election Monitoring Support Centre (EMSC), Prof. Mohammad Kuna; representative of the Lagos Residence Electoral Commission, INEC, Oladepo Ajayi; Chairman, Planning, Monitoring and Strategy Committee, INEC, Prof. Khoda Gumus; Director, Planning and Monitoring, Chima Duruaku and participants, during the opening ceremony of the commission’s EMSC workshop for South Zone in Lagos on Thursday

Photo: NAN

Lassa fever: Edo records 10 deaths, Anambra 1

From Usman A. Bello (Benin) & Titus Eleweke (Awka)

The Edo State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Obehi Akoria, has said 10 persons have died of Lassa fever since the outbreak of the disease in the state.

Akoria, who disclosed this to journalists in Benin, said confirmed cases had also risen to 97.

She said Etsako West, Esan West and Esan North East local governments were the most affected out of the 18 local governments and accounted for 75 per cent of confirmed cases in the state.

“Etsako West recorded 38 cases of the 97 confirmed cases

in the state; Esan West recorded 24; Esan North East, 19; Esan Central, 3; Esan South East, 2; Etsako East, 2; Owan East, 2; Akoko Edo, 2; Ovia North East, 2; Oredo, 2; and Etsako Central, 1.”

She added that the total fatalities recorded in the state were from Etsako West, Esan West, Esan North East, Etsako East and Oredo local governments.

The commissioner said the state government had stepped up surveillance and response activities to curb the spread of the disease and ensure the health and well-being of residents in the state.

Also, Anambra State

recorded 15 suspected cases of Lassa fever and one death in January.

The state’s Commissioner for Health, Dr Afam Obidike, revealed this on Thursday in Awka, the state capital.

Obidike said the team had also placed relevant surveillance measures to curtail the spread of the disease in the state.

He further said the state government had constituted contact tracing teams to follow up on the cases.

The commissioner urged residents to reduce the risk of Lassa fever infection by keeping their environments clean always.

“Block all holes in your

house to prevent rats from entering. Cover your dustbins and dispose of refuse properly. Practice good personal and hand hygiene by frequently washing hands with soap under running water,” he said.

He also advised residents to visit the nearest health facility if they noticed any of the signs and symptoms associated with Lassa fever which include fever, weakness, headaches, vomiting and muscle pain.

The commissioner said the state had not recorded any case of diphtheria but was on high alert and taking proactive measures to guard against the spread of the disease to the state.

Troops neutralise 84 terrorists in NE/NW, rescue 122 victims in 2 weeks

Defence Headquarters says the military has in the last two weeks eliminated more than 84 terrorists and rescued 122 abducted victims in North East and North Western parts of Nigeria.

The Director, Defence Media Operations, Maj.-Gen. Musa Danmadami, made this known at a bi-weekly news briefing on ongoing military operations in the country, on Thursday in Abuja.

In the North East zone, Danmadami said the troops of Operation Hadin Kai neutralised a total of 42 Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists and apprehended 14 during the period.

He said that troops also rescued six abducted civilians while a total of 267 terrorists and family members, comprised of 22 adult males, 128 adult females and 117 children surrendered to troops at different locations within the theatre.

Danmadami added that the troops had within the period, recovered 12 AK47 rifles, two locally fabricated guns, one FN rifle, one G3 rifle, three QJC guns, and two 60mm mortar bombs among others.

He said the air component of Operation Hadin Kai conducted a series of air interdiction operations at terrorist hideouts, enclaves and camps in Dogon Chuku in the fringes of Northern Tumbums.

He added that the air interdiction mission was also conducted at Arina Kasa in Southern Tumbums of the Lake Chad Basin, Chidike in the Mandara Mountains and Gezuwa area, all in Borno.

According to him, the battle damage assessment revealed that several terrorists were neutralised while their structures and logistics were destroyed in the air strikes.

In the North West, Danmadami said the troops of Operation Hadarin Daji neutralised 42 terrorists, apprehended four and rescued 26 abducted civilians in several land and air operations within the period.

In North Central, Danmadami said the troops of Operation Safe Haven, Guards Brigades and Whirl Stroke with Civilians Joint Task Force, neutralised seven terrorists.

He also said that the troops apprehended 19 terrorists and two gun

runners as well as rescued 36 kidnapped victims in different operations

Danmadami added that the troops of the Joint Task Force, Operation Delta Safe, in the last two weeks destroyed 39 illegal oil refining sites in the South South zone.

He said the troops in the conduct of Operation Octopus Grip and other operations destroyed 48 cooking ovens, 103 storage tanks, 27 dugout pits and 33 wooden boats during the period.

He said the troops also recovered one tug boat, a

barge, 3 pumping machines, three speed boats and 13 vehicles.

According to him, troops recovered 274,000 litres of crude oil, 71,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil, and 15 Ak47 rifles, while 40 suspected economic saboteurs were arrested.

In South East, the defence spokesman said the military and other security agencies had sustained the offensive against the activities of the outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra/Eastern Security Network criminals in the zone.

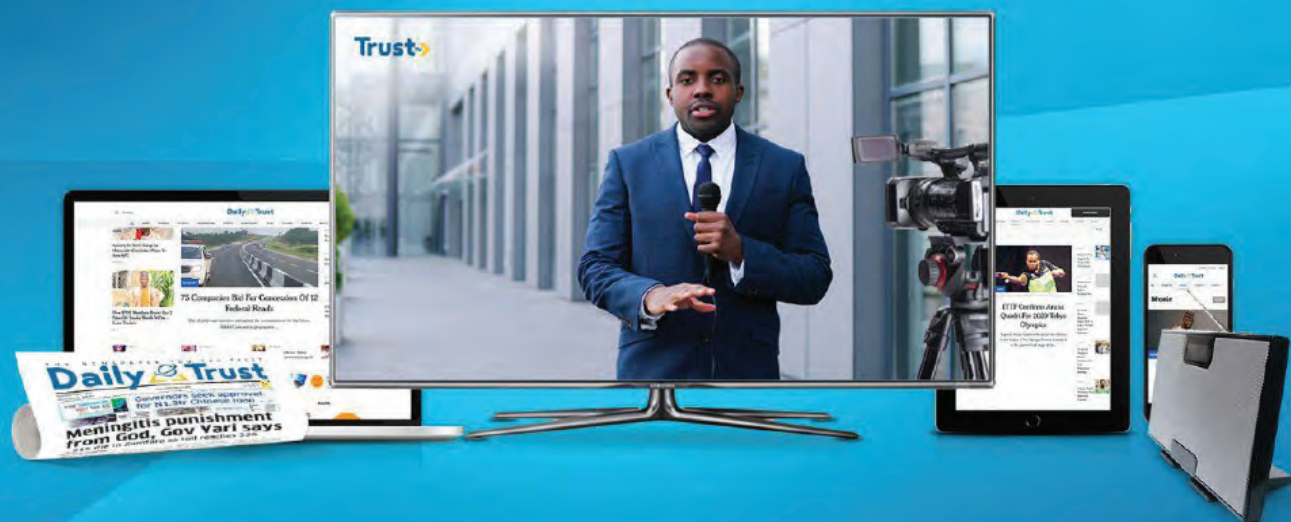
He said the troops had

neutralised six terrorists, arrested 24 and rescued 16 abducted civilians.

According to him, several calibres of arms and ammunition including AK47 rifles, pump action rifles, IEDs and locally made explosive pipes among other items were also recovered.(NAN)

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| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>MANEJU: I FORMALLY KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS EMMANUEL MANEJU FAITH, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS SULEMAN KADIZAT MANEJU ALL OTHER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID, ALL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>I was formerly known as JAMILA JIBRN ISAH now wish to be known as and called IBRAHIM JAMILA ISAH. All documents remain valid The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) authorities, general public and any other authorities concerned to please take note.</p> | <p>CHANGE OF NAME: I am formerly known and addressed as PEACE ANAYO PNINYECHI. That I now wish to be called and addressed as PEACE ANAYO as it appeared on all my documents. That I want the National Identity management commission, JAMB and all authorities concern to please take note.</p> | <p>CORRECTION OF NAME: That during account opening and registration of my B V N, my name was wrongly captured as PETER JULIANA ADAH instead of BEN-PETER JULIANA ADAH. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public please take note.</p> |
| <p>AIBANGBEE: I FORMALLY KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS AIBANGBEE PRINCE OSAIGBOVO, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS OSAIGBOVO AIBANGBEE PRINCE ALL OTHER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID, ALL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>CHIBABI: I formerly known as CHIBABI DARLINGTON MAKEDONO, CHIBABI DARLINGTON and DARLINGTON IBRAHIM CHIBABI now wish to be known and addressed as CHIBABI DARLINGTON MAKEDONO. All former documents remain valid. The Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Authority concerned and general public should please take note.</p> | <p>OSHIQOUE: I formerly known and addressed as EGWAOGIE JOSEPH OSHIQOUE. Now wish to be known and addressed as EGWAOGIE JEFFREY OSHIQOUE. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>BARAU: I Formerly known as Suleiman Suleiman Mohammed, Now I wish to be known and addressed as Barau Suleiman, And my correct date of birth is 1st April 1991. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public please take note.</p> |
| <p>GRACE: I, formerly known as OWOBI OJO LINDA, now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE OJO SAMUEL. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>Tijjani: I formerly known as Tijjani Sunusi now wish to be known and addressed as Tijjani Sunusi Bashir. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.</p> | <p>ASIYA: I formerly known and addressed as AISYA ACHEKUOGENE SALIU. Now wish to be known and addressed as ACHEKUOGENE ASIYA JACINTA. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>MAHMOOD : I formerly known and addressed as MAHMOOD AMINU ABDULLAHI but now wish to be known and addressed as MAHMOOD AMINU ABDULMALIK All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned should take note, please.</p> |
| <p>CHIKA: I, formerly known as NWOKEOCHA CHIKA FLORENCE, now wish to be known and addressed as AZUMARAH CHIKA FLORENCE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>Hassana: I formerly known as Hassana Gambo Garba now wish to be known and addressed as Hassana Gambo Bulama. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.</p> | <p>PETER: I formerly known and addressed as MISS ONOFUA PRECIOUS EHIAMNORIA. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS PETER PRECIOUS EHIAMNORIA. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>I, formerly known and addressed as NASIRU AHMAD BURGA now wish to be known and addressed as NASIRU BURGA AHMAD. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.</p> |
| <p>MAUREEN: I, formerly known as ONYECHI MAUREEN IFEYINWA, now wish to be known and addressed as EZI-ASHI MAUREEN IFEYINWA (MRS). All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS HAFSAT ISHAKU, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MUHAMMAD HAFSAT ISHAKU ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC TO TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>EKHAYEME: I formerly known and addressed as BALOGUN PRECIOUS. Now wish to be known and addressed as EKHAYEME PRECIOUS OMOEINEH. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>RUKAYYA : I formerly known and addressed as RUKAYYA SHEHU but now wish to be known and addressed as RUKAYYA SHEHU NAZIF All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned should take note, please.</p> |
| <p>JOY: I formerly known as JOY OGOONS, now wish to be known and addressed as JOY OGOONS-EROBOMHAN. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>Patience: I formerly known as Miss. Patience Eneogbu Unogwu now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Patience Eneogbu Kpenge. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.</p> | <p>JOY: I formerly known and addressed as HARRISON JOY UGELAH. Now wish to be known and addressed as HARRISON BOSEDE JOY. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>I formally known as Miss EDET MARYAM ABUBAKAR, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. MUSA MARYAM ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, Authority concern and general public should please take note.</p> |
| <p>I was formerly known and address as GREGORY NANCY but wish to change and correct my name to GREGORY NANCY ZIDYEP, now GREGORY NANCY. All my relevant documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>I, formerly known and addressed as PUSYA DAYEN APOLOS now wish to be known and addressed as DAYEN APOLLOS. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.</p> | <p>ETU: I formerly known and addressed as BENJAMIN ETU JOHN. Now wish to be known and addressed as BENJAMIN ETU. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESS AS Sulaiman Lukman ,NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESS AS Suleiman Lukman . ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITY CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE</p> |
| <p>LYNDA: I formerly known and called OGBU LYNDA CHINAZA, now wish to be known and called SUNDAY LYNDA CHINAZA. All former documents remained valid. General public should please take note</p> | <p>GOWON: This is to notified the general that my name was wrongly capture as ATIKU GOWON instead of HABIBU GOWON. Now wish to be known and addressed as HABIBU GOWON. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and public to take note.</p> | <p>I' formerly known and called as Sulyman Zainab Muhammad, Now wish to be known and called as Muhammad Zainab Muhammad, ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as AZEEZ ABOSEDE FALILAT. Now wish to be addressed as MUSTAPHA BOSEDE FALILAT. All former documents remain valid any authority concerned and general public take note.</p> |
| <p>I was formally known and called FALMATA AHMED BUKAR, that I now want to be known and called FALMATA SHERIFF ALI KACHALLAH, that all documents remain valid. The general public please take note</p> | <p>SULEMAN: This is to notified the general public that my name was wrongly capture as SHAIBU S. AISHAT instead of SULEMAN AISHAT SHAADHILYU. Now wish to be known and addressed as SULEMAN AISHAT SHAADHILYU. Call former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>ADDITION OF NAME: UMAH: UMAH: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS UMA STEPHEN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESS AS UMAH AONDOAVER STEPHEN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMIND VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as MRS. DOREEN ANDEM GIGI. Now wish to add BASSEY, to be addressed as MRS. DOREEN ANDEM BASSEY GIGI. All former documents remain valid any authority concerned and general public take note.</p> |
| <p>I formerly known as MISS OWOYEYE ABIODUN OLUWASEUN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS AKEREDOLU- OWOYEYE ABIODUN OLUWASEUN. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>YAKUBU: I formerly known and addressed as SANI YAKUBU. Now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU ABDULSALIM. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>ONAH: I WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS AGU LOVINA ONYINYE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESS AS ONAH LOVINA ONYINYE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMIND VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>I formally known as Miss ADAM KHADIJA, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. ZAKARIYYA KHADIJA. All former documents to remain valid. NYSC, Authority concern and general public should please take note.</p> |
| <p>OFURE: I formerly known as OFURE KINDNESS OKHIIHE, now wish to be known and addressed as OFURE KINDNESS ESU. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>SAMSON: I formerly known and addressed as AMANOAH TGHENA LUKE. Now wish to be known and addressed as Abu Samson. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>AONDOAKAA: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS AONDOAKAA SAMSON NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESS AS AONDOAKAA SAMSON AONDOA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMIND VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.</p> | <p>RAMFA. I Formerly known as MUHAMMED USMAN RAMFA But now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED USMAN RAMFA All my documents remain valid General public should take note.</p> |
| <p>YUAHANEZU: I formerly known as YUAHANEZU ASABE JUBRIL, now wish to be known and addressed as YUAHANEZU JUBRIL-JAFAR. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as OZO ANTHONIA PAUL. Now wish to be known and addressed as ASAIPKE OMOAKIPHE ANTHONET. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>IKECHUKWU: I formerly known as ENWEREM VINCENT IKECHUKWU, but now wishes to be known and addressed as ENWEREM VINCENT IKECHUKWU. All formal documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>REMOVAL OF NAME: GBATEMAN: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND CALLED AS GBATEMAN JUSTIN FRIDAY NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESS AS GBATEMAN JUSTIN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMIND VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.</p> |
| <p>I formerly known and call RUWA LIMAN now wish to be name and call ABDULLAHI LIMAN and my corrected date of birth is 26/12/1976 now 01/01/1985 is it captured on my BVN all my former documents remains valid authority and general public should take note please.</p> | <p>EGHOGHO: I formerly known and addressed as AFEKHOBE GRACE EGOHOHO. Now wish to be known and addressed as AFEKHOBE GOD'SGRACE EGHOGHO. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.</p> | <p>I' formerly known and called as Biere Chinwe Lucy. Now wish to be known and called as Aliba Chinwe Lucy. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as ABDULHAMID MUSA, now wish to be known. Called and addressed as ABDULHAMID MUHAMMED, all former documents remained valid. All authorities concerned and General public please take note.</p> |
| <p>MAIGIMA: I, formerly known as YUSUF MAIGIMA ALIYU now wish to be known and address as MAIGIMA YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>PATRICK: I formerly known and addressed as STEPHEN UNUHAKHE SEDE. Now wish to be known and addressed as STEPHEN PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note</p> | <p>I formerly known and called as IBRAHIM HALIMAT. Now wish to be known and called as KEHINDE HALIMAT ONYAVOTU. My date of birth is 1/1/1992 now 12/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and General public should please take note</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as OKANWU NNEKA JANE, now wish to be known. Called and addressed as ANIEFUNA NNEKA EGODINANWA JANE, all former documents remain valid. All authorities concerned and General public please take note.</p> |
| <p>AISHA: I, formerly known as AISHA MUHAMMAD SAIDU now wish to be known and address as AISHA ABUBAKAR SAIDU. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>I formerly known and addressed as USMAN KASIMU SUFYANU, now wish to be known and addressed as ALIYU SUFYANU. All former documents remain valid. Bank and general public should take note.</p> | <p>STANLEY : I formerly known as STANLEY UCHE NELSON now, wish to be known and addressed as STANLEY UCHE ARUKWE. All documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public should please take note.</p> | <p>MUDANSURU: I formerly known as MUDASSIR HARUNA 2.MUDANSIRU HARUNA 3.MADASIRU HARUNA now wish to be known and addressed as MUDANSURU HARUNA. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.</p> |
| <p>I formally known as DANIEL, DEBORAH now wish to be known and addressed as NANZING, DEBORAH NEHEMIAH and my correct Date of Birth is 30-10-1997 now 30-10-1991. all former documents remain valid general public should please take note.</p> | <p>I was formerly known as Aisha Muhammad Ahamed now wish to be known and called as AISHA MUHAMMAD AHMAD. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note</p> | <p>I formerly known as SANIBA AYUBA now wish to be called and addressed as NASIBA ABUBAKAR. All former document remain valid Authority concern and general public to note</p> | <p>I formerly known as YUSUF GALADANCHI now wish to be called and addressed as ABUBAKAR YUSUF. All former document remain valid Authority concern and general public to note</p> |

Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 2

ABBA, I formerly known as **ADAM ISAH ADAM** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABBA ADAM ISAH**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

FALINYI: I formerly known as **FALIYI DANJUMA MIDALA** now wish to be known and addressed as **FALINYI PENUEL**. All former documents remain valid. **UBA BANK** and General Public Should please take note.

ZARA: I formerly known as **ZARA YUNUSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZARA YUNUSA NDAHI**. All former documents remain valid. **NIMC** And General Public Should please take note.

ABUBAKAR: I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR ABBA MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ABBA KAWU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **SA, ADU IDRIS** now wish to be called and addressed as **SA, ADU MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **MAHMUD AHMAD ISA** now wish to be called and addressed as **Mahmud Ahmad Isah**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **RUKKAYA KABIR KABIR** now wish to be known and addressed as **RUKAYYA KABIR IDRIS** all former documents remain valid. General public and the authority concerned should take note

I, formerly known as **ASHIRU SANI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ASHIRU SANI MOHAMMAD** all former documents remain valid. General public and the authority concerned should take note

I formerly known as **AMINA DALLAMI SULEMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **AMINA MOHAMMED DUALA**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **SALE SARATU BADAMASI**. now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULLAHI SARATU SAID**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note

I formerly known as **SALIDU SALISU ALIYU**, 2/8/1993, now wish to be called and addressed as **ALIYU SAIDU ALHAJI** 22/6/1998. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **AMINA DALLAMI SULEMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **AMINA MOHAMMED DUALA**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and the general public should please take note

NUHU, I formerly known as **MUHAMMADU NUHU** now wish to be called and addressed as **NUHU MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

MUHAMMAD, I formerly known as **MUHAMMAD BALA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUHAMMAD BALA AHAMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

AMINATU, I formerly known as **AMINATU HAMZA BAFFAH** now wish to be called and addressed as **AMINATU SALISU HASSAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR, I formerly known as **ABUBAKAR ABDULLAHI MAHARAJA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ABDULL MAHARAJA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

MOHAMMED, I formerly known as **NURA MOHAMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOHAMMED NURA JOGANA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

EMMANUEL, I formerly known as **EMMANUEL ADI I**, now wish to be called and addressed as **EMMANUEL ADI IWOMA**. All former documents remain valid. **UBA BANK** and **UNION BANK** should please take note.

ALHAJI, I formerly known as **ALHAJI SULE** now wish to be called and addressed as **SULE YUSUF**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ABDURRAHEEM, I formerly known as **ABDURRAHEEM USMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDURRAHEEM USMAN MELAIYE**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

FARIDA, I formerly known as **FARIDA USMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **FARIDA USMAN MELAIYE**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

NURA, I formerly known as **NURA SALUHU BASHIR** now wish to be called and addressed as **NURA SALIHU BASHIR**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

AISHA: I, formerly known as **AISHA MUSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA ABDULLAHI** All former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

YUSUF: I, formerly known as **TERAH MERCY AUTAH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF TERAH MERCY**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

AISHA: I, formerly known as **AISHA AHMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

YUSUF: I, formerly known as **YUSUF ISA**, now wish to be known and called **YUSUF ISAH**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

I have been bearing **FORGIVENESS SUNDAY** since birth that I now wish to be known and call **PRECIOUS SUNDAY**. general public and authority concern please take note?

I have been bearing **BLESSING SAMBO** since birth that I now wish to be known and call **MUSA BLESSING**. Union bank and authority concern please take note?

IBRAHIM: I, formerly known as **MISS DANFULANI AISHAT INUWA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS IBRAHIM AISHAT INUWA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

AMINU: I, formerly known as **YUSUF AMINA MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINU AMINA MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

SARAH: I, formerly known as **SARATU SATI** now wish to be known and addressed as **SARAH SATI** All former documents remain valid. Any authority concern and general public should please take note.

I have been bearing **JIDONA AHMADU** since birth that I now wish to be known and call **SAMUEL HARUNA**. general public and authority concern please take note?

JACOB: I, formerly known as **JACOB MOTUNRAYO TEMITOPE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JACOB MOTUNRAYO RACHEAL**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

DANIEL: I Formerly known as **DANIEL EZEKIEL KURMI** Now wish to be called and addressed as **DANIEL JOSHUA KURAMAZAH** All former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

ASABE: I formerly known as **ASABE BITRUS** now wish to be known and address as **ASABE BITRUS BAWA**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

DORATHY: I, formerly known as **DORATHY LUKA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DORATHY ALHAMDU** All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

I, ADAMU MICAH JATAU My Correct date of birth is 7th/October/1994 and not 7th/October/1995 **NECO OFFICE** Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

AMINA: I formerly known as **AMINA IBRAHIM** now wish to be called and address as **AMINA IBRAHIM BELLO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public should please take note

HARUNA: I, formerly known as **ZULAIHAT IDRIS UMAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HARUNA ZULAIHAT IDRIS**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, general public and any authority concerned to please take note

ABDULMUHMIN: I, formerly known as **ABDUL-MUHMIM OYEWOLE SULYMAN**, now wish to be known and called **ABDULMUHMIM OYEWOLE SULAYMAN**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

SAJAM: I, formerly known as **SAMBO TIMOTHY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAJAM TIMOTHY SAMBO**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

SAMAILA: I, formerly known as **ISMAIL ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and called **SAMAILA ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid. GTB, general public and any authority concerned to please take note

SIDILGHABIT: I, formerly known as **SIDILGHABIT AHMAT TARWAK** now wish to be addressed as **SIDILGHABIT AHMAT SIDI**. All former documents remain valid. General Public take note.

SUWAIBA: I, formerly known as **SUWAIBA YUSUF** now wish to be called and address as **SUWAIBA YUSUF MRS SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public should please take note

FATIMA: I, formerly known as **MISS FATIMA ZARAH SULEIMAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS FATIMA ZARAH SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

NWAUWA: I, formerly known and addressed as **NWAUWA UCHE PEACE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **NWAUWA UCHEENA PEACE**. That I was born on 8th day of September, 1976 not 8th day of September, 1977. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as Miss **ADENIKE KUYINU**, Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. ADENIKE OSHINOWO**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **ABU MARIAM HAJIYA**, Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. OLADIPUPO MARIAM HAJIYA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

ADEOLUWA-ESAN: I, formerly known and addressed as **JOHNSON OLABISI OLUWADAMILARE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADEOLUWA-ESAN OLABISI OLUWADAMILARE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

That I was formerly known, called and addressed as **TANIMOMO, MARY MONISOLA**. That henceforth I wish her to be known, addressed and called **OLOYEDE, MARY MONISOLA**. That the difference in my name is due to marriage. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS LIFOWORA SARAH FUNMILAYO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS BALOGUN SARAH FUNMILAYO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITY CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

SULEMAN: I, formerly known and addressed as **Mrs LAWAL TITILAYO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Miss SULEMAN TITILAYO**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

IJAIYA: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADENIYI ABIOLA ADEBUKONLA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **IJAIYA ABIOLA ADEBUKONLA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

AWOLESI: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss ADELOWO MODUPE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs AWOLESI MODUPE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

LAWAL: I, formerly known and addressed as **OLAONIYE ADEBOKOLA AISHA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAL ADEBOKOLA AISHA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

IDOWU: I, formerly known and addressed as **AKIRI TEGA TOSIN**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs IDOWU TEGA TOSIN**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and General public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME I formerly known and addressed as **FOLORUNSHO AISHAT AYOMIDE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINPELU AISHAT AYOMIDE**. Due to marriage wish to change my date of birth from 24th of September 1999 to 24th of October 2000. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

AFFIRMATION OF NAME I, **FABIYI MONSURAT ABAKE** is the same person as **SOLANKE MONSURAT**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ADEGBOLA TEMITAYO ADENIKE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS DADA TEMITAYO ADENIKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I formerly known and addressed as **OLUFARATI MARY FUNMILAYO**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ALABI MARY FUNMILAYO**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authority concerned please take note.

SANI: I formerly known and addressed as **AHMED MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SANI MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. With correct **DOB 01/01/2001 NOT 01/01/2000** All concern authority And General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME That my name was wrongly written as **AJAH PATRICIA AMOOGECHE** instead of **AJAH PATRICIA OGECHI**. That I swear to this affidavit that my new and correct name is **AJAH PATRICIA OGECHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

SANI: I formerly known and addressed as **AHMED MUHAMMAD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SANI MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. With correct **DOB 01/01/2001 NOT 01/01/2000** All concern authority And General public should please take note.

AISHA: I formerly known as **AISHA LAWAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA UMAR LAWAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADAMU: I, formerly known as **ADAMU MUSA BELLO** now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

UMEH: I, formerly known as **INNOCENT UMEH** and **INNOCENT NDUBISI UMEH** now wish to be known and addressed as **NDUBISI INNOCENT UMEH**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ALIYU: I, formerly known as **ABDULFAYYA MOHAMMED AUDU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULFATAH MUHAMMAD ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

HAJJA I formerly known and addressed as **HAUWA TIJJANI** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAJJA ALKALI** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

DONATUS: I formerly known as **AUDU DAUDA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TSUWANG DANIEL DONATUS**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I DAHIRU formerly known and addressed as **BASHIR BALE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DAHIRU HAMMA**. All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

I Formally known as **FATIMAKOLO BABA MARTE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FATIMA MARTE BABA**. All my former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

MAHMOOD: I formerly known as **AUWAL ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AUWAL MAHMOOD**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

MONICA. I formerly known as **TANKO MONICA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DODO MONICA TANKO** All former document remain valid general public and any authority concern should please take note.

FATIMA I, formerly known as **MARYAM MALAH GUBA** now wish to be known and called **FATIMA LAWAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

ISYAKU: I formerly known as **ISHAKA ABUBAKAR** now wish to be known as **ISYAKU UMAR**. All former document remain valid. General public should take note

USMAN: I formerly known as **USMAN KOLO MALLAM BABA**, now wish to be known as **USMAN KOLO GONI BABA**. All former document remain valid. General public should take note.

ABDULMUMINI I formerly known and addressed as **ABDULMUMINU BUKAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULMUMINI BUKAR** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

HASSAN I, formerly known as **USAINI MODU MACHINA** now wish to be known and called **HUSSAINI MOHAMMED MACHINA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

UMAR I formerly known as **UMAR MUSA PAMA** now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR MUSA D.OB 20/11/1999** All former Document remain valid General public should please take note

MUHAMMEDI: I formerly known as **MOHAMMED MUHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMED MOHAMMED**. All former document remain valid. General public should please take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: I formally known as **ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM**, now wish to be known and Addressed as **AUDU IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known as **NUHU ZACHARIAH** now wish to be known and addressed as **NUHU ZAKARIYA** All former document remain valid General public and any authority concern should please take note

I formerly known as **WADATAU AHMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULNASIR DANJEKA**. All former documents remain valid authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Bank Details</p> <p>Pay into any of our Accounts: Account Name: MEDIA TRUST LTD,</p> <p>Send your payment mandate to our email addresses</p> | <p>Requirement for Change of Name Women: Marriage Certificate or Court Affidavit; Men: Court Affidavit</p> | | |
| | <p>Bank: Stanbic IBTC Plc Account No: 0000913253 Sort Code: 221081552</p> | <p>Bank: First Bank Plc Account No: 2002911690 Sort Code: 011084060</p> | <p>Bank: UBA Plc Account No: 1007117397 Sort Code: 033080013</p> |
| | <p>Bank: GTBank Plc Account No: 0024570856 Sort Code: 058083231</p> | | |

Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 3

IDRISA I formerly known as **IDRIS SPATA ALI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IDRISA ALI**. All former documents remain valid authorities concerned and general public should take note.

I, Formerly known and addressed as **MISS UKAONU CHIAKA MERCY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS KALU CHIAKA MERCY**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

That during account opening my name was written as **WONOV TERKIMBI** instead of **WONOV FRIDAY TERKIMBI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **WONOV FRIDAY TERKIMBI**. All documents remains valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **NWAEKE FRANKLIN IKEDICHI**, Now wish to be known and addressed as **NWAEKE IKEDI AUGUSTIN**. All documents bearing my former name still remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as **HAJARU MUHAMMAD BINJI** now wish to be known and addressed as **HASSAN HAJARU BINJI**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **ALHAJI YARO HASSAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **HASSAN ALHAJI YA'U**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I & we formally known as **OFARA** of Egwebe, Asarama now wish to be known and called **OFARAIUBONG**. The general public should please note **OFARAIUBONG** of Egwebe, Asarama, Andoni of Rivers State.

I, Formerly known and addressed as **OGBONNA VICTORY IFESINACHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OGBONNA VICTORY CHIEMENA**, All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **EKE CLIFFORD NNAMDI**, Now wish to be known and addressed as **EKEMEZIE CLIFFORD NNAMDI**. All documents bearing my former name still remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR MANDE** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MONDE**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **ISMAILA UKASHATU MOHAMMED** with D.O.B 23-10-1982 now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMILA MUH'D UKASHATU** with D.O.B 10-08-1981. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

Requirement for
Change of Name
Women: Marriage Certificate
or Court Affidavit;
Men: Court Affidavit

I, Formerly known and addressed as **ONAJI FELICIA OKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PATRICK FELICIA OKA**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, Formerly known and addressed as **SAMUEL OSIKIHENA** Now wish to be known as **OSIKIHENA SAMUEL JOHN**. All documents bearing my former name still remain valid. General public please take note.

MRS. NWAGU = I, formerly known as **MISS. ANAELE GIFT ONYINYECHI**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. NWAGU GIFT ONYINYECHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **SADIYA NASIRU TUKUR FARU** now wish to be known and addressed as **HALIMATU SADIYA NASIR**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, Alhaji Lawal Mohammed Dabai of No. LD 11 Nassarawa Road, Kawo, Kaduna wish to inform the general public of the loss of **Original Certificate of Statutory Right of Occupancy with KDL/37570** that was issued to me in respect of the landed property located at No. LD 11 Nassarawa Road, Kawo, Kaduna State. The said document got lost sometimes in year 2020 in my custody and all effort made to trace same proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station or the above mentioned addressed. The Nigeria Police Force and KADGIS to please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that my allocation for **House 7, Street A, Gwagwalada site 11** is reported missing. Belonging to **YUSUFU HARUNA**. All efforts made to trace the said missing document proved abortive. If found, please contact **YUSUFU HARUNA**, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, State Investigation and Intelligence Bureau, the Nigeria Police Headquarters, Kaduna.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, Engr. Joseph Ndanusa of No.9 Jackson close Sabon Tasha, Kaduna wish to inform the general public of the loss of **Original Certificate of Statutory Right of Occupancy with file Ref No. KDL/285940** that was issued to me in respect of the above property. The said document got lost sometimes in year July, 2022 in my custody and all efforts made to trace same proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station or the above mentioned addressed. The Nigeria Police Force and KADGIS to please take note.

THE ALMAJIRI AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND ADVOCACY INITIATIVE (ACEAI)

The General public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

NAME OF TRUSTEES

1. DR. AMINA MOHAMMED-JAJI
2. BARR KATUMI MOHAMMED OBOIRIEN

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. To empower Almajiri children and Adolescents with basic education (math & English language).
2. To provide Almajiri children and Adolescents with primary health care (including oral health care).
3. To empower Almajiri children and Adolescents with knowledge and life skills to aid them live better lives.
4. To empower Almajiri children and Adolescents with marketable skills.
5. To empower stakeholders susceptible to engage in harmful practices of the Almajiri system with knowledge and skills that will enable them to engage in a beneficial Almajiri practice.
6. To advocate for an official reform and Government regulation of the Almajiri system by advocating for the adoption and enforcement of sustainable laws and regulations.

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420 Tigris Crescent Off Aguiyi Street, Maitama P.M.B. 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

HOUSEHOLD OF PRAISE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'C' OF THE COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. KADIRI BENJAMIN AFEKHADE
2. RHEMA ROSE KIKE BENJAMIN-KADIRI
3. ADODO OMOLAJA

AIM AND OBJECTIVE:

TAKING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST TO THE PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS AND RAISING PEOPLE OF EXCELLENCE TO THE GLORY OF GOD. AND TO RAISE LEADERS IN EVERY STRATUM OF LIFE IN EVERY NATION THROUGH FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: PASTOR KADIRI BENJAMIN AFEKHADE

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public about the loss of **Right of Occupancy in respect of plot number 6, located at JABI District (Cadastral Zone Bo4), Abuja**, belonging to **WALI ALI**, with File Number: BO 11282. All effort to trace the said document, which was lost in transit have proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest Police Station or the Department of Land Administration, Federal Capital Territory Administration, (FCTA), Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of **Original Land Documents and payment receipts in respect of Plot No: FL 710C Situated at GAUBE FARMLAND EXT. LAYOUT, Kuje Area Council FCT-Abuja bearing ARDO BELLO FARM LTD**. All effort to trace the said missing documents proved abortive. If found please return to the Nearest Police Station.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column.

AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "letter of Administration" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE: ADAMU HASHIMU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION KATSINA. DIED ON 09-04-2020.

APPLICANT
MUJIBURRAHMAN ADAMU OF TUDUN WADA KATSINA LGA. SON THE SAID DECEASED

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE: MUHAMMAD SHAHIR RABIU OF SUBEB KATSINA LGA. DIED ON 02-11-2021 AT KATSINA.

APPLICANT
MAINU RABIU OF TUDUN WADA KATSINA LGA. BROTHER OF THE SAID DECEASED

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE: SHAWWAL AUWALI OF NIG POLICE FORCE KATSINA STATE COMMAND. DIED ON 10TH-12-2022 DAURA.

APPLICANT
1- HAJARA NAFIU 2- SHAWWAL USMAN BOTH OF ISHAYAWA TOWN ZANZO LGA WIDOW AND FATHER OF THE SAID DECEASED.

DATED THIS 26-JANUARY-2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY,
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
KATSINA.

(Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column.

AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within TWENTY-ONE DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE ABDULLAHI SAAD OF ASIYA PLASTIC INDUSTRY NIGERIA LIMITED DIED ON 9/10/2022 AT KANO

APPLICANT
YUNUSA SAAD OF 17 BRIGADE NIGERIA ARMY KATSINA BROTHER OF THE SAID DECEASED

DATED THIS 26-JANUARY-2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY,
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
KATSINA.

(Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column.

AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within TWENTY-ONE DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE PROF. SALISU ISHAQ JAAFAR OF AL-QALAM UNIVERSITY KATSINA DIED ON 21/12/2022 AT KATSINA.

APPLICANT
KAMALADDEEN SALISU ISHAQ OF SABUWA UNG, KATSINA SON THE SAID DECEASED

DATED THIS 26-JANUARY-2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY,
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
KATSINA.

(Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column.

AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within TWENTY-ONE DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE LAWAL GARBA OF NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE DIED ON 18/10/2022 AT KANO

APPLICANTS
ALIWU LAWAL AND FARIDA LAWAL ALL OF YAN HOHO, KAITA LGA SON AND DAUGHTER OF THE SAID DECEASED

DATED THIS 26 -JANUARY-2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY,
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
KATSINA.

(Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KATSINA STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE DIVISION

WHEREAS the person/persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died interstate on the date and at the place stated in the said column.

AND WHERE AS the person/person (s) whose addresses claimed relationship to the said deceased is/are set out in the second column hereunder have applied to the High Court of Justice Katsina for a grant of "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" of the personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the "LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION" will be granted to such person/persons unless "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT" is filed in the Probate Registry, High Court of Justice Katsina within TWENTY-ONE DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE AYUBA FARA'U OF KAFUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIED ON 24/5/2022 AT MALUMFASHI

APPLICANT
IBRAHIM AYUBA OF KURMI VILLAGE, KAFUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SON OF THE SAID DECEASED

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON
LATE GARBA BAWA OF SABUWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIED ON 26/6/2021 AT FUNTUA.

APPLICANT
NASIRU GARBA OF KASUWAR MATA FUNTUA LGA SON OF THE SAID DECEASED

DATED THIS 26-01-2023

AT THE PROBATE REGISTRY,
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE,
KATSINA.

(Nuraddeen El- Ladan Ahmed)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

ENTISAR SOCIETAL AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Association has applied to the corporate affairs commission (CAC), Abuja for Change of its trustees Under Part 'C' of Companies and Allied matters ACT, (CAMA) 2020

TRUSTEES ARE :-

1. Mammam Sabi'u -Chairman
2. Muhammad Abubakar
3. Abubakar Sagir - Secretary

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide economic empowerment opportunities for people at community level throughout Nigeria.
2. To contribute towards the development of education at grassroots level throughout Nigeria.
3. To carryout advocacy and sensitization in the area of education and sustainable development throughout Nigeria.
4. To promote sustainable economic development at grassroots level.
5. To collaborate with government and sister organisations for the attainment of its objectives.

Any objection to this Application should be forwarded to the Registrar- General, Corporate affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

SPORT



■ Reigning African Women Footballer of the Year, Asisat Oshoala.

NBA committed to discovering basketball talents in Nigeria – Abudu

By Jide Olusola and Ojoma Akor

The NBA Africa VP and Country Head of Nigeria, Gbemisola Abudu has said the association is determined to influence the basketball ecosystem in Nigeria.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 9th edition of the Power Forward programme at the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, Abudu said NBA is creating a pathway to develop more basketballers from Nigeria.

“We have the Basketball Africa League. We have started and it’s creating a pathway for Nigerians to play if that is the path they decide to choose,” she said.

Speaking further, she said the Power Forward, a youth development initiative of ExxonMobil, NBA Africa and the international NGO PanAfricare has trained 40 FCT schools with basketball, life skills

“We know that not everyone is going to become a basketball player, but the life skills that are instilled in kids that play basketball, whether it is communication skills or team coordination, aligns with the economic future of work skills.

“In the past years, the programme has been focused in Abuja and the 200,000 youths are within FCT but the plan is to expand this to other geo-political zones in Nigeria,” she said.

Meanwhile, Karu Lakers defeated GSS Garki 21-13 to emerge winners in the male category while GSS Karu defeated Raberto Secondary School 33-9 to emerge winners in the female category.

Waldrum lists 23 Super Falcons for ‘Revelation Cup’ in Mexico

By Jide Olusola

As part of preparations for the forthcoming 9th FIFA Women’s World Cup finals in Australia and New Zealand this summer, the Super Falcons will be participating in a four-nation tournament tagged ‘Revelation Cup’ in Mexico.

Head Coach, Randy Waldrum, has called up reigning African Footballer of the Year, Asisat Oshoala and 22 other Super Falcons for the warm-up tournament which will feature hosts Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia, with matches to be played from February 15-21 in the

State of Guanajuato.

Nine-time African champions Nigeria will play their first match of the tournament against hosts Mexico starting at 4pm Mexico time (10pm Nigeria time) on Wednesday, 15th February, three hours after the opening match between Costa Rica and Colombia.

Nigeria’s delegation to the tournament will depart the country’s shores on Saturday, 11th February.

The Super Falcons will tackle co-hosts Australia, Olympic champions Canada and debutants Republic of Ireland at what will be the biggest FIFA Women’s World Cup finals ever, this summer in

Australia and New Zealand.

All the invited players:

Goalkeepers: Chiamaka Nnadozie (Paris FC, France); Yewande Balogun (AS Saint-Etienne, France)

Defenders: Onome Ebi (Levante Las Planas (Spain); Osinachi Ohale (Deportivo Alaves, Spain); Ashleigh Plumtre (Leicester City, England); Glory Ogbonna (ALG Spor, Turkey); Rofiat Imuran (Stade de Reims, France); Michelle Alozie (Houston Dash, USA); Oluwatosin Demehin (Stade de Reims, France); Akudo Ogbonna (Rivers Angels)

Midfielders: Halimatu Ayinde (FC Rosengard, Sweden); Christy

Ucheibe (SL Benfica, Portugal); Ngozi Okobi-Okeoghene (Eskilstuna United, Sweden); Rasheedat Ajibade (Atletico Madrid, Spain); Toni Payne (Sevilla FC, Spain); Jennifer Echegini (Florida State University, USA); Regina Otu (AS Saint-Etienne, France).

Forwards: Asisat Oshoala (Barcelona Femenin, Spain); Esther Okoronkwo (AS Saint-Etienne, France); Ifeoma Onumonu (NY/NJ Gotham FC, USA); Chinwendu Ihezuo (Rayadas Monterrey, Mexico); Francisca Ordega (CSKA Moscow, Russia); Uchenna Kanu (Tigres Femenil, Mexico)

BUA sponsors 2023 Lagos international polo tourney

By Jide Olusola

The BUA Group, one of Africa’s largest conglomerates in the food, mining, and infrastructure sectors, has been named the major sponsor of the 2023 Lagos International Polo Tournament, which will take place in Lagos from January 28 to February 19, 2023.

Furthermore, BUA will be sponsoring the most famous high-goal subsidiary Cup - the Independence Cup, which is regarded as Nigeria’s oldest polo trophy and has been contested for by high-goal teams since the early 1900s.

The cup was renamed Independence Cup when Nigeria secured her Independence in 1960 and it is one of two cups given to the winner of the Majekodunmi finals.

Speaking on the partnership,



O’tega Ogra, Director of Corporate Communications at BUA Group said, “Polo, which is popularly called ‘The Game of Kings and the King of Games’ is a game that is marked by a beautiful display of strength, character, professionalism, mastery, and teamwork - values we share at BUA.

“We believe the Lagos International Polo Tournament embodies the full experience of the game, and as a proudly African

organization with roots in Nigeria, BUA Group is proud to once again partner with the Lagos International Polo Tournament, which is the most prestigious Polo Tournament in West Africa.”

“Our key brands including two of Africa’s top 10 largest companies, BUA Cement and BUA Foods will be on the ground to host various activities during the tournament,” he added.

Rotimi Makanjuola, Polo Captain, Lagos Polo Club said the tournament will have both Nigerian and foreign teams compete in four main cups, namely; Open Cup, from January 28 to February 5; Majekodunmi Cup, from February 7 to 12; Low Cup, from February 7 to 19 and the Silver Cup, from February 14 to 19.

According to Makanjuola “For this year, we have 30 teams playing in the 4 different cups, we have 13 in the silver cup, 14 in the Low Cup, 8 in the Open Cup, and 3 in the Majekodunmi Cup.

FIFA beats Siasia’s U.S. appeal over match-fixing ban

Soccer’s world governing body FIFA prevailed in a U.S. appeals court over a former Nigeria national team coach seeking to overturn his lifetime ban, later reduced to five years, for fixing matches.

In a 3-0 decision on Thursday, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said Samson Siasia did not show why a trial court in New York had jurisdiction over his case.

FIFA had in 2019 imposed the lifetime ban, saying Siasia violated its code of ethics over a bribery scheme for Australian matches. The ban prevented Siasia from using his U.S. Soccer Federation coaching license.

Siasia, an Atlanta resident and former Nigeria striker, sued FIFA in August 2021, saying the evidence was “grossly

insufficient” and that the ban violated his due process rights under the U.S. Constitution.

But the appeals court said Siasia did not show that FIFA was “essentially at home” in New York, or agreed to be sued there because it banned his use of what Siasia called his “New York” coaching license.

The unsigned decision upheld a Manhattan trial judge’s Oct. 2021 dismissal of Siasia’s lawsuit.

A lawyer for Siasia did not immediately respond to requests for comment. FIFA has said Siasia’s claims were meritless.

The soccer body is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, and had banned Siasia under Swiss law.

In June 2021, the Court of Arbitration for Sport shortened the ban, calling it too severe for a first offense.



SPORT REPORT

Nadal confirms six to eight week injury absence



■ Rafa Nadal

Rafa Nadal has confirmed he will miss the next six to eight weeks with the hip flexor injury he sustained at the Australian Open.

“Today I was at the Teknon Tennis Clinic in Barcelona where they tested me,” wrote Nadal Thursday on Twitter.

“They confirmed the results from Melbourne and the recovery stages are still the same.” Initial scans showed the 22-time Grand Slam champion had a moderate muscle tear which did not require surgery.

“The treatments needed have been established and in three weeks they will carry out new tests to see how it is evolving,” added the 36-year-old Spaniard.

Arteta’s ability never in doubt, says City boss Guardiola



■ Mikel Arteta

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola on Thursday said he was well aware of Mikel Arteta’s quality long before he led Arsenal to the top of the Premier League, lauding the north London team for keeping faith in his former assistant.

Arteta, who captained Arsenal during his playing career, served as assistant to Guardiola at City from 2016 to 2019 before Arsenal appointed him as manager.

Arteta’s Arsenal currently sit top of the league standings with 50 points after 19 games, five points above second-placed City who have played a game more.

The teams will face off at the Etihad Stadium in Friday’s fourth-round FA Cup clash.

DEEPENING DEMOCRACY

with
Jibrin Ibrahim
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Trust Dialogue on the 2023 Presidential Agenda

Yesterday, I participated in the Annual Trust Dialogue on the theme of interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda. In his opening remarks, the chair of the occasion, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, expressed the strong view that we must be optimistic that positive change was possible and that indeed the time has come to do things differently with millions of young Nigerians ready to perform their civic duty. INEC and the state must ensure they do the needful to ensure that riggers are kept out of the ring and the choices of citizens are respected.

One issue of concern that was debated was the introduction of the new Naira at a critical time of election related tension. The worst part of the policy move is that the Central Bank simply does not have enough of the new currency to swap so markets and indeed the economy is likely to collapse at a time when the elections are to be organised. Many wondered what the intention of government is in trying to instigate a national crisis at election time. Are there other plans we are not aware of?

I made the point that the presidential election agenda for Nigeria has been set since the Jonathan Administration. That Nigeria was facing an existential crisis because the three core maladies of insecurity, corruption and economic crisis have been allowed to deepen and fester to the level where the corporate existence of the country was at risk.

Jonathan promised a breath of fresh air for the country and he was elected but failed to deliver. The disappointment with the performance of the Jonathan regime created an opening for serial contender for the presidency, Muhammadu Buhari, to promise he could deliver. He got the mandate but woefully failed to deliver after eight years on the job. His failure was a massive disappointment for the country because there was very high expectation that he had the character, integrity and grit to deliver. It turned out that Nigerians knew him less than they thought.

This is what sets the stage for the 2023 presidential agenda. The candidates are telling us they know the problems and promise to deliver solutions. This is simply not good enough. The real issue is that Nigeria desperately needs a president with sound vision on the way forward and the capacity and integrity to perform to our expectations. Going through the manifestoes of the presidential candidates, what we see is a long list of the problems and an affirmation that they will all be solved. There is very little on the modalities that would be used to solve

The second thing we know is the majority of party barons are in politics to create openings for themselves to access public resources for their personal aggrandisement. I have not heard most of the candidates express their vision of how they can combat corruption while surrounded by an entourage that is in politics precisely for the purpose of engaging in corruption.

them, the resources required, milestones and processes.

All the candidates for example promise to successfully combat corruption, good. The question is how. Let’s first note that corruption is illicit activity not just in statute but expressly addressed even in the constitution. We know two things about corruption that have provided structural constraints for those who have tried to fight it. First, that the entire public service is configured to engage in massive corruption and hide their tracks. I have not heard the candidates explain how they will reconfigure the public service to serve the public rather than themselves. The second thing we know is the majority of party barons are in politics to create openings for themselves to access public resources for their personal aggrandisement. I have not heard most of the candidates express their vision of how they can combat corruption while surrounded by an entourage that is in politics precisely for the purpose of engaging in corruption.

I have looked at how some of the presidential candidates have explained they will combat insecurity in their manifestoes. The APC, PDP, LP, NNPP, PRP and YPP have all promised to:

1. Better equip the armed forces and police
2. Massively increase the number of service personnel
3. Improve professionalism of security forces
4. Implement community and state policing
5. Build capacity of Nigerian police
6. Provide improved training and training facilities
7. Construct adequate housing for security staff etc.

These are obvious wish list for addressing

the problems. For these promises to make sense, there is need to address how all these would be financed in a context in which the Nigerian State is almost bankrupt. As these are only a small part of a very long list of “to do” promises, what are the priorities in terms of things that could be addressed immediately and which other ones would need to be set aside for future programming. How would the National Assembly be persuaded to pass the necessary legislation? These are the issues that the people need to know to make an assessment about which candidate is the most convincing in translating their wish list into concrete action?

Some participants at the event raised serious concerns about the establishment of state police. They argued that state governors have virtually all become dictators in their states with no respect for separation of powers between executive, legislature and judiciary. Given them state police could therefore be a license for them to detain and jail all their political opponents thereby increasing insecurity and ultimately destroying the democratic system itself.

The other issue that virtually all candidates have made promises on is diversifying the economy, industrialising the economy, embarking on the pathway of the digital economy and transforming agriculture to feed the nation and export processed agricultural products. I love all these ideas but I know that in previous electoral cycles, the same promises have been made with nothing to show at the end of the day.

The chair of Media Trust, in his opening remarks wondered whether all the words we are hearing from the candidates were not words of desperados for power rather than democrats seeking to deepen our democracy. There are certainly many desperados but our task as citizens is to sift through the candidates and identify those with the democratic ethos who also have the competence, strength and integrity to take the country forward.

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