

STILL IN CAPTIVITY

11 SCHOOLGIRLS OF FGC, BIRNIN YAURI

568
DAYS

1 STUDENT OF BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA

540
DAYS

How ICT will shape Nigeria's 2023 elections, startups, others

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- Constituents lament, tackle INEC
- Vacancies treated as APC's internal affairs – Lawyers
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Ritualists invade Ogun community, exhume 40 skulls

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■ From left: Presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi; his wife, Margaret Obi; and the National Women Leader, Dudu Manuga, during the Labour Party Women Town Hall Meeting for a new Nigeria, in Abuja yesterday

Photo: NAN

RACE TO NASS



Kawu Sumaila's quest to end Gaya's 16-year reign in Senate

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To the wrongs that need resistance,
to the right that needs assistance,
to the future in the distance, give
yourselves

- Carrie Chapman Catt



AFRICAN SAYINGS

“However much it rains on you, no wild banana tree will
grow on your head”

(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
MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTIALLY CLOUD	MOSTLY SUNNY	MOSTLY SUNNY	PARTIALLY CLOUD	PARTIALLY CLOUD	RAIN	RAIN SHOWER
35 22	33 18	34 19	36 19	29 17	36 21	33 23	34 23	25 18	31 24
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

JUMADA AL AKHIR 11, 1444 AH

PRAYERS	ABUJA	ENUGU	KADUNA	KANO	KATSINA	LAGOS	MAIDUGURI	P/HARCOURT	SOKOTO
FAJR	5:31	5:31	5:34	5:33	5:38	5:48	5:16	5:31	5:47
DHUHR	12:39	12:40	12:40	12:35	12:39	12:57	12:18	12:43	12:47
ASR	3:53	3:54	3:54	3:49	3:53	4:11	3:32	3:57	4:01
MAGHRIB	6:23	6:24	6:21	6:14	6:17	6:42	5:57	6:28	6:28
ISHA	7:28	7:29	7:26	7:19	7:22	7:47	7:02	7:33	7:33

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna



PHOTO OF THE DAY

■ An Amputee hawking handkerchief takes advantage of traffic hold-up along Ikeja road in Lagos yesterday

Photo: Benedict Uwalaka

STOCK INDEX

GAINERS	BUAFOODS	JOHNHOLT	PRESTIGE	NAHCO	UBA	LOSERS	CHELLARAM	CWG	FCMB	HONYFLOUR	JAPAUFGOLD
OPEN	N71.50	N0.80	N0.46	N7.00	N8.30	OPEN	N2.02	N0.92	N3.51	N2.20	N0.27
CLOSE	6.50	0.07	0.04	0.60	0.70	CLOSE	-0.22	-0.09	-0.34	-0.14	-0.01
CHANGE	10.00%	9.59%	9.52%	9.37%	9.21%	CHANGE	-9.82%	-8.91%	-8.83%	-5.98%	-3.57%

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IN-DEPTH

Benue teachers groan over 13 months' unpaid salaries



■ Governor Samuel Ortom

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Teachers in Benue State say they are facing a lot of hardship due to the over 13 months of salaries owed them by the government.

Our correspondent reports that some of the public primary school teachers have taken to petty trading and farming after school hours to meet some of their household needs.

But, there are others who do nothing outside of their teaching job, other than wait, hopefully, for the state government's many promises to offset the salary backlog to materialise.

One of the teachers, who declined to mention her name, said she was owed a backlog of 15 months' salaries.

"Teachers are owed a lot of money by the state government. I'm owed 10 months for 2017, then I haven't been paid my salary for December last year, which was paid to a select few.

"Also, I have not been paid for February and March this year, which were also paid to a select few, and then October, and November with the entire arrears for this year.

"Our union is still negotiating with the government over it and then the full implementation of promotion since we are not being paid according to our supposed grade levels.

"I can honestly say that coping with the situation has been tough. Personally, I have supportive siblings who reach out to me for food and cash, which keeps me going.

"I have suspended all forms of petty business that I was doing before due to the epileptic payment because when it's finally paid, prospective customers give reasons why they can't pay their debts, which is always very obvious.

"This is to avoid any tension and tied up resources. So I have stopped trading

for now, till the economy improves," she said.

Another teacher in the state who also for fear of victimization preferred anonymity, said he has found solace in farming to meet the feeding demands of his family.

The teacher claimed that the state government owed him over 13 months of unpaid salaries between 2017 and 2021.

"The government keeps alternating the payment of our salaries such that some would be paid while others would not. The hardship that accompanies unpaid salaries can only be better imagined," he said.

Similarly, most of the affected teachers corroborated the tales of hardship that have driven many of them into petty trading and farming for survival.

Apart from teachers, some other workers in the state's employment claimed that they were owed two to three months' salaries.

Another teacher who gave her name as Agnes said: "Besides being owed over 15 months, the question of promotion is completely thrown out of the window."

She said the government is not sincere about the plight of teachers in the state noting that they work under the most debilitating condition anywhere in the country.

Also speaking on the issue, the state chairman of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, Levi Terna Akuma, said they are currently negotiating with the state government to avert any impending strike action, which may be their last resort.

He said because of the hardship suffered by most teachers due of their unpaid salaries, the union recently asked them to stay at home for a short period but that they have since returned to work, stressing, however, that the move wasn't a strike.

"What happened recently wasn't a

strike, but our teachers stayed at home because they didn't have money to transport themselves to work.

"We, primary school teachers, were waiting for our August salaries; we were waiting at a time when every one of our counterparts under the same government was paid but we were not paid.

"So, teachers were saying that they don't have money to go to work. We were in October at that time. Then, we asked the government to give us that money.

Apart from teachers, some other workers in the state's employment claimed that they were owed two to three months' salaries. Another teacher who gave her name as Agnes said: "Besides being owed over 15 months, the question of promotion is completely thrown out of the window." She said the government is not sincere about the plight of teachers in the state, noting that they work under the most debilitating condition anywhere in the country.

The government paid up to 20 LGAs but we were waiting for three.

"In the end, the government paid the three LGAs so we came back to work.

"The backlog is 10 months in 2017, that's between March and December of that year. And then December 2021; February and March 2022; and currently, September has been paid but not everybody has been paid.

"I don't know precisely the amount being owed. But all together in 2017, the money was over N1.7 billion - that's the 10 months. This time around, I didn't do the summation, but it's a huge amount of money," he said.

Speaking on whether the union knew about any plans by the government to pay the backlog, Akuma said, "We gave a 14-day ultimatum, it passed; we gave seven-day, it passed too; and we are supposed to give a three days ultimatum of which if the government fails we can go on indefinite strike but the government called for negotiation on Wednesday.

So, until after the meeting, then I will know the intention of the government and what we want to do."

Governor Samuel Ortom, while presenting the 2023 budget of N179 billion recently to the House of Assembly said, "The recurrent expenditure estimates focus on our obligation to faithfully pay the salaries of our workers and meet our obligations under our new Pension Laws and to our retired workers."

Meanwhile, the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) chairman, Comrade Joseph Utse, has blamed the situation on the effect of COVID-19 and the dwindling allocation from the federal accrual.

He said, "The federal government could not give us enough funds for the payment of teachers, and since COVID-19 came and went, our allocation has been going down even from the federation account.

"The actual wage bill of the teachers in the state, as we have now given promotions to teachers, is N1.5 billion. As of now, we are up-to-date on the payment of salaries to teachers.

"It's only the arrears that the present government inherited from the previous administration, and the governor is trying to settle that."

Utse, however, faulted some of the teacher's claims, stressing that at a political period such as this, some of them who belonged to other political parties may want to destroy the government by exaggerating what they were owed.

"Even if we owed them, plans are underway to make things right. Definitely, we are trying to pay all we owe before the administration winds up.

"The governor is so concerned with basic education; that is why he is doing everything possible to make sure these things are cleared.

"We have promoted teachers; we have paid them monies of the promotion after 17 years of not being promoted; and we are negotiating with the NUT and they have not even given us a headlight.

"The other one (strike) which they went was just for one week for only three local governments that we could not settle because of the low income from the federation account.

"I believe that if NUT is on the table with us, the teachers who go out on personal interest are unfair.

"On our part, we will try our best to see that no teachers go on strike," the SUBEB chairman said.

Adamu, Kyari, Nasiha's seats still vacant in Senate

By Ismail Mudashir,
Abbas Jimoh, John C. Azu,
Abdullateef Salau (Abuja),
Hamisu K. Matazu
(Maiduguri) &
Shehu Umar (Gusau)

Nine months after they resigned, the seats of the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Abdullahi Adamu, Deputy National Chairman (North) of the party, Senator Abubakar Kyari and the Zamfara State Deputy Governor, Senator Muhammad Hassan Nasiha are still vacant at the Senate, *Daily Trust* reports.

The trio, *Daily Trust* reports, represented Nasarawa West, Borno North and Zamfara Central Senatorial districts, respectively before they resigned to take their new positions.

Reports from our correspondents in the affected senatorial districts showed that there was apprehension among the constituents who feel they are being side-lined in the parliament.

On March 26, Senator Adamu and Senator Kyari emerged as the national chairman and deputy national chairman (North) of the APC, respectively. They tendered their resignation on April 12.

On his part, Senator Nasiha on March 1, last year resigned from the parliament after he was named as the deputy governor of Zamfara State sequel to the impeachment of Mahdi Aliyu-Gusau.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has not fixed a date for the conduct of by-elections to fill the vacuums in the upper chamber.

However, ahead of the February 25, 2023, Presidential and National Assembly elections, political parties have fielded candidates for parliamentary seats including for the vacant senatorial districts.

What constitution says about vacant seats

Section 68 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution spelt out the processes for the filling of vacant parliamentary seats. Section 68 (1) said a member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives shall vacate his seat in the House of which he is a member if:



■ Adamu



■ Kyari



■ Nasiha

(e) Save as otherwise prescribed by this Constitution, he becomes a member of a commission or other body established by this constitution or by any other law.

Sub-section (h) provides that "The President of the Senate or, as the case may be, the Speaker of the House of Representatives receives a certificate under the hand of the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission stating that the provisions of section 69 of this Constitution have been complied with in respect of the recall of that member."

Constituents lament, tackle INEC

Constituents in the affected senatorial districts have lamented the delay, urging the electoral body to immediately conduct by-elections to fill the vacuum.

In Borno North, one of the constituents, Gwamna Mshelia, said the delay in filling the vacant seat is affecting the stake of Borno State in representation at the National Assembly.

"Because, where votes are to take place on any matter before the Senate, Borno will be one-third represented since Kashim Shettima (Borno Central), the APC vice presidential candidate too is not attending the sitting," he said.

Also, the Chairman of the Network of Civil Society in Borno State, Bulama Abiso, urged INEC to be conscious of time and organise the by-election.

"If the time within which the by-election should be held is passed, it will affect the constituents and the entire Borno State. It's now that our

people need representation more than ever before.

"So, let the vacant positions be filled to have the right people at the right place to articulate their problems," he said.

In Zamfara Central, the constituents have also expressed displeasure over the delay in conducting the by-election in the zone.

Sani Abubakar, in Gusau LGA, said that months after Senator Hassan Nasiha was appointed and sworn in as the state deputy governor of the state, the zone has no representation.

"The reason why I said so is that those constituencies with representations are still benefiting a lot, especially in terms of constituency projects but we are missing out.

"Everything has stopped, we are not being represented. If you want anything from the senate, those of us that are from Zamfara Central, who do you go to?" he asked.

Another resident, Kabir Aliyu, said he cannot understand why INEC was delaying the conduct of the by-election.

However, the chairman of the Coalition of Civil Society Organisations, Alhaji Ibrahim Tudu, blamed INEC, saying it is the institution with the sole responsibility of conducting the election but has failed to do so.

"We have been calling INEC to conduct the election but we were ignored. The insecurity they gave as reason does not hold water here because a by-election was conducted in Bakura Local Government despite the security challenges there," he said.

APC, PDP differ

However, the spokesperson for the APC in Zamfara State,

Yusuf Idris Gusau said they have no problem with INEC not conducting the by-election in the zone.

"Whenever they are ready, I believe political parties will be notified and they will participate in the exercise. Now that the general elections are drawing closer, what is the logic behind conducting an election and then carrying out another one months after? I think the development is good for political parties given the meagre resources they have," he said.

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Zamfara State could not be reached for comment at the time of filing this report.

But the Borno State Chairman of PDP, Zannah Gaddama, alleged that the by-election was being delayed by INEC.

"There is nothing like a by-election for now because we have only a few days to go for the general elections, so it seems that INEC and the presidency are deliberately delaying it because of the general elections," he said.

He alleged that it's the Senate president that was supposed to inform INEC of the three vacant seats and was yet to do so.

"We have been expecting this since April when they resigned. However, I raised this issue three weeks ago but a source told me that the Senate president is yet to communicate to INEC on the vacant seats. And, by law, INEC can't go ahead to conduct the by-election unless they were informed officially by the Senate president," he said.

Vacancies being treated as APC's internal affair - Lawyers

Dayo Akinlaja (SAN) said the APC could be treating the issue as

an internal affair of the political party to activate the process for a bye-election, especially in the area of interfacing with INEC and sponsorship of a candidate for the position.

"But once there is nothing with an external body, and if they are not made for the constitution, it is the constitution that is made for the people," he said.

For his part, Hameed Ajibola Jimoh blamed "negligence" on the part of the constituents and political parties for the failure to fill the vacant senate seats.

He said the delay may also be attributable to APC being the dominant party in the Senate, and as such, they were not expected to move the motion for the vacancy to be declared and for INEC to set in motion the conduct of a bye-election.

"Since the three vacancies do not affect the quorum of the Senate, they are not going to feel concerned, but it is for the constituency that is lacking representation to speak up and mount pressure on INEC to conduct fresh elections; or in the alternative, to resort to the court because it is undemocratic not to be represented," he said.

Also, Abduhamid Mohammed (SAN), said the Constitution of the country has provided adequate remedies in such circumstances.

He said the voters in the constituency who elected the legislators concerned could take legal action in court if they were not docile

Senate, INEC mum

Contacted, the spokesperson for the Senate President, Ola Awoniyi, referred one of our correspondents to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Media and Publicity, Senator Ajibola Basiru (APC, Osun). When the lawmaker was contacted he said, "Please contact the INEC spokesperson."

The Chairman, Information and Voter Education Committee of INEC, Barrister Festus Okoye, told *Daily Trust* that he cannot comment on the matter until after the management meeting of the commission.

But three officials of the commission, who do not want to be named, said that the Senate president has not formally declared the affected seats vacant.

Insecurity: Buhari okays deployment of technology in S/East

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the deployment of advanced technology to combat insecurity in the South East geo-political zone.

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State stated this on Tuesday while answering questions from State House reporters after a meeting with the president at the

Presidential Villa, Abuja.

He said he had come to see Buhari to appeal to him to approve the tech deployment to enable the area to deal effectively with the menace.

He said with the president's approval, advanced surveillance equipment would soon be delivered to the region and would enhance the fight against insecurity without collateral

damage.

Uzodimma said he visited the president to thank him on behalf of his people for what he had done for the region including the recent conversion of the Federal Medical Center Owerri to a university teaching hospital for the Federal University of Technology, and the approval that converted Alvan Ikoku College of Education to a federal college of education.

15 houses, shops razed in Adamawa communal clash

Amina Abdullahi, Yola

Several houses, shops, and property worth millions of naira were razed down in a renewed communal clash between Waja and Lunguda communities in the Lafiya-Lamurde Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Reports made available to *Daily*

Trust revealed that the fresh clash erupted on Monday between 6 and 7pm.

However, no life was lost in the crisis but four houses and 11 shops were burnt during the clash.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Adamawa, SP Suleiman Yahaya Nguroje, who confirmed the attack, said 11 shops and four houses were affected.

Gunmen burn Imo police station

From Jude A. Owuamanam, Owerri

Gunmen on Tuesday went on the rampage, burning the Afor Atta divisional police headquarters in the Njaba Local Government Area of the state.

The attack came less than 24 hours after the convoy of a former governor of Imo State, Ikedi Ohakim, was bombed and four police orderlies killed.

Our correspondent gathered that the attackers threw explosives at the police station. However, no policeman was said to be on duty during the attack.

The incident was said to have caused apprehension in the community as residents remained indoors throughout the day.

Our correspondent recalls that the same police station was in June 2021 vandalized after two courts beside it were burnt.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, CSP Mike Abattam, could not be reached for his reaction via his phone as it was switched off when our correspondent called.

He had also yet to issue a statement on the incident.

Zulum, Sirika obtain 12,000 copies of Pantami's skills' book

By Zakariyya Adaramola

Borno State governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, and the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, have obtained 12,000 copies of a new book by the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, titled, "Skills Rather than Just Degrees."

A statement yesterday by the Senior Technical Assistant (Research and Development) to the minister, Femi Adeluji, said the President of Microsoft Corporation wrote the Foreword to the book.

"In a bid to boost skilling in Nigeria, Professor Babagana Zulum obtained 10,000 copies of the book for distribution in schools and other institutions in Borno State.

"Senator Hadi Sirika also obtained 2,000 copies for distribution in institutions across the country."

The statement added that the book focused on the importance of skills and their potential impact in addressing the problems of employability, unemployment and underemployment.

My attackers well trained, Ohakim narrates ordeal

From Jude A. Owuamanam, Owerri

A former governor of Imo State, Ikedi Ohakim, on Tuesday said he survived the Monday attack by divine intervention and the dexterity of his driver.

Four policemen were killed when gunmen bombed his convoy on Monday in Ehime Mbano

Local Government Area of the state.

Ohakim, who spoke to newsmen, said his bulletproof vehicle and his driver saved him because his attackers were professional marksmen and not ordinary killers.

He said, "This goes beyond the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), I must say. These are professionals, well-

trained... they are not ordinary people. They were driving a blue colour BMW 5-series car, brand new. They came to kill me.

"They attacked us from behind and were firing at our vehicles consistently. I thought I was a dead man and I was with two of my children - my son and daughter.

"What saved me was

the bulletproof vehicle. That I am alive today is by the special grace of God and the bulletproof vehicle.

But unfortunately for me, they killed four of our boys, including the driver. Yes, we lost four of the boys and I am devastated. How can that be? What crime did they commit?"

"They pursued us and

continued firing at our tyres. Luckily, the vehicle has what is called run-flat tyres on which you can continue driving even after a puncture. So, even when they shot at the tyres hoping to immobilise us, the vehicle continued moving. If they were ordinary tyres and the vehicle had stopped, they would have cornered and finished us."

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Buhari signs 2023 budget, queries N1.32trn inserted by N/Assembly

- Tells finance minister to seek amendment
- To submit borrowing plan soon
- We carried out our mandate not 'jacking up' budget – Gbajabiamila



■ From left; Minister of finance, Zainab Ahmed; President Muhammadu Buhari; Chairman House Committee on Finance, James Falake; President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan and Speaker, Femi Gbajabiamila during the Signing of 2023 budget into Law at the State House

Photo: State House

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday in Abuja signed the 2023 Appropriation Bill along with the 2022 Supplementary Appropriation Bill into law.

The president signed the documents in the Presidential Villa in the presence of Senate President Ahmed Lawan; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, and other members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

Speaking at the event, Buhari said the 2023 budget provided for aggregate expenditures of N21.83 trillion—an increase of N1.32 trillion over the N20.51 trillion proposal submitted to the National Assembly.

The president expressed his reservations over the changes made by the lawmakers, saying they appropriated N770.72 billion for new projects they introduced and jacked up the provisions made by ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) by N58.55 billion.

He said, “We have examined the changes made by the National Assembly to the 2023 Executive Budget proposal. The amended fiscal framework for 2023, as approved by the National Assembly, shows additional revenues of N765.79 billion, and an unfunded deficit of N553.46 billion.

“It is clear that the National Assembly and the executive need to capture some of the proposed additional revenue sources in the fiscal framework. This must be rectified.”

Buhari explained that his decision to sign the 2023 Appropriation Bill into law

as passed by the National Assembly was to enable its implementation to commence without delay, considering the imminent transition process to another democratically elected government.

He, however, directed the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, to engage the legislature to revisit some of the changes made to the budget proposal, expressing the hope that the National Assembly would cooperate with the executive in that regard.

Buhari thanked the National Assembly for approving his request for an extension of the 2022 budget implementation date to March 31 to ensure more effective implementation of the capital component.

The president directed the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to work towards the early release of the 2023 capital votes to enable MDAs to begin the implementation of their capital projects in good time to support efforts to deliver key projects and public services as well as improve the living conditions of Nigerians.

He said adequate provisions had been made in the budget for the successful conduct of the forthcoming general elections and the transition programme.

On achieving revenue targets for the budget, the president directed MDAs and Government Owned Enterprises (GOEs) to intensify their revenue mobilisation efforts, including ensuring that all taxable organisations and individuals pay taxes due.

The president said relevant agencies must sustain current efforts towards the realisation of crude oil production and

export targets to achieve the laudable objectives of the 2023 budget.

“To augment available fiscal resources, MDAs are to accelerate the implementation of public-private partnership initiatives, especially those designed to fast-track the pace of our infrastructural development.

“This, being a deficit budget, the associated borrowing plan will be forwarded to the National Assembly shortly.

“I count on the cooperation of the National Assembly for speedy consideration and approval of the plan,” he said.

On the Finance Bill 2022, the president expressed regret that its review, as passed by the National Assembly had yet to be finalised.

“This is because some of the changes made by the National Assembly need to be reviewed by the relevant agencies of government. I urge that this should be done speedily to enable me to assent to it,” he said.

The president expressed the belief that the next administration would sustain the early presentation of the annual appropriation bill to the National Assembly to ensure passage before the beginning of the next fiscal year.

While speaking after the brief ceremony, Lawan assured that the National Assembly would work to ensure increased funds for the government and reduce the rate of the deficit in the budget.

“But that is not to say that, we should raise taxes that will be out of the roof to cause problems for our citizens. But I believe that as a National Assembly, in the next five months, we must be looking at increasing the funds available to the government and also ensuring that the deficit budget is minimised in the next assembly by the grace of God,” he said.

In his remarks, Gbajabiamila said the lawmakers did not jack up the budget but carried out their constitutional responsibility, adding that they would not want to be seen as a “rubber stamp to the executive.”

“If you understand constitutional democracy,

there are different layers of government and it is called separation of powers. Ours is for us to receive proposals, and that’s why they’re called proposals anywhere in the world.”

The speaker added, “It now behoves the National Assembly, where it deems fit to adjust figures, either downwards or upwards and that’s exactly what we have done.

“If you return the budget the exact way it is, you (National Assembly) are called a rubber stamp. If you do what you’re supposed to do and adjust figures for the good of the country, they call it jacking up or inflation or padding.”

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The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; through its "Risk Management Office of the GIZ Country office Nigeria", financed by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, invites qualified Service providers to express their interest, find details below:

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Accordingly, GIZ invites interested and qualified Service provider to **express their interest** by furnishing GIZ Nigeria Country Office with the following:

- An official letter expressing interest on the Company Letterhead
- Company Profile with details of relevant experience or other presentation material
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- Evidence of experience in similar contracts, with values that add up to minimum of NGN 30,000,000. Only verifiable third-party evidences are acceptable.
- Evidence of Tax payment for 2019, 2020 and 2021 with a minimum average annual turnover of NGN 30,000,000.

For consideration, all interested & qualified Private Security Service Companies should submit the aforementioned documents only as hard copy in a sealed envelope to GIZ Nigeria Office reception at No. 12 Charles de Gaulle Street, Asokoro, Abuja and kindly label as follows:

Project Title: Panic Button/Emergency Response System
Project No.: 91.9060.4-002.00
Cosoft No.: 83429292
Location: Nigeria.

Interested companies should kindly send requested documents (hard copy only) not later than **5pm Friday 13th January 2023**. **Please do not send technical or price offer, or not requested documents. Kindly note that complete tender documents would be sent to qualified Service providers that express their interest.**

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...assures Burundi of support on fuel shortage

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari has assured that Nigeria will support the Republic of Burundi in diverse ways as necessary in the spirit of African solidarity and brotherliness.

The president gave the assurance Tuesday at the State House, Abuja, while receiving the Special Envoy of President Evariste Ndayishimiye, who came with a message.

On a request for assistance in the area of energy provision, particularly fuel, by the Burundi leader, Buhari said he knew what it felt like for a country to suffer from energy

shortage, and promised that he would get the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to look into the request.

The president, in a statement issued by his spokesman, Femi Adesina, also said he was looking forward to the polls, and retirement, since he had satisfied the constitutionally required two terms in office.

Nigerians have been faced with fuel scarcity since early last year while fuel black marketers sprang up everywhere and many dealers ignoring the official price while government has adjusted the pump price at different occasions.

The government also tinkered with the idea of removing fuel subsidy but it was resisted by the masses who felt the price would be out of reach.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning of Burundi, Audace Niyonzima, said his president sent goodwill for the New Year to Nigeria's President Buhari, and also wished the country well in the general elections scheduled for February and March.

“We pray that the polls will be peaceful and successful so that Nigeria can maintain her reputation as a bastion of peace and stability,” the special envoy said.

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2023 budget: Yobe to prioritize economic empowerment, infrastructural devt, others

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni has said his administration will work towards creating employment opportunities and other developmental projects in the 2023 budget fiscal year for more progress and self-reliance.

Buni who stated this in Damaturu while signing the 2023 Appropriation Bill, said the government would also work towards completing all ongoing projects in the state.

The governor also said his administration would sustain its revitalization drive on education, agriculture among others for more progress.

He said, "In the 2023 budget, we intend to sustain our policy on completion of all ongoing projects, creating opportunities for employment and self-reliance for the people with particular emphasis on commerce and agriculture.

"The provision of roads and other basic infrastructures for multi-faceted development would continue to be accorded priority attention.

"We, would therefore, sustain our drive on revitalization of education and agriculture, exploration of solid

minerals, commission the Damaturu International Cargo Airport, Modern markets and the Potiskum Trailer Park to boost our internally generated revenue.

"The 2023 Appropriation and Finance Bills we submitted had a total sum of One Hundred and Sixty-three Billion, One Hundred and Fifty-five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-six Thousand Naira (N163, 155, 366, 000).

"In line with its oversight function, the Honourable House made some adjustments thereby decreasing the total budget size to One Hundred and Sixty-three Billion, five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-six Thousand Naira (N163, 005, 366, 000).

"The net allocation to finance the recurrent expenditure is now Eighty-Seven Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixty-one Million, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Thousand Naira (N87, 861, 717, 000). The sum of Seventy-five Billion, One Hundred and forty-three Million Six Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand Naira (N75, 143, 649, 000) is set aside for funding of capital expenditure."

The governor commended the



■ Governor Mai Mala Buni while signing the 2023 budget at the government house Damaturu

Buni attends Niger Republic's annual traditional wrestling competition in Diffa

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni (Chiroman Gujba) was among prominent personalities who attended the 43rd edition of the famous Niger Republic's annual traditional wrestling competition which took place in Diffa.

A statement issued by the Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor, Hussaini Mai Sule, said Buni visited the country on the invitation of Niger Republic's officials and was received by the Prefer of Diffa, Ismail Yunus, at the border town.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy Hon. Idi Barde Gubana (Wazirin Fune), described the invitation for the event as an honor not only to Yobe, but Nigeria as a whole.

"The annual traditional event will further promote the mutual relationship, cultural ties, understanding, security and economic relationship that was existing between our countries for centuries. Nigeria and Niger Republic are like twin brothers," he reiterated.

During the 10-day competition, which attracted contestants from the 8 states of Niger Republic, Ishaka Ishaka of Dosso emerged victorious and was turbaned as the champion of the 43rd edition of traditional wrestling competition of the year.

The closing ceremony of the event was presided over by the Prime Minister of Niger, Ouhoumoudou Mahammadou.

The representative of Governor Buni presented letters of appreciation to the government and organizers of the event for the smooth, successful and hitch-free event.

The deputy governor was accompanied by the speaker of the Yobe State House of Assembly, Hon Ahmed Lawan Mirwa, the Head of Service, Alhaji Garba Bilal, among others.

The Emir of Maine, Soroa, Ghaso Kachallah, decorated the deputy governor with the traditional medal as a mark of honour, respect and appreciation for the visit.

Governor Buni approves 40% payment for LGAs' work plan projects

Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni has approved over N513 million for the payment of 40 percent work plan base projects for the 17 local government areas of the state.

This is contained in a statement from the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Ali Mustapha and signed by the information officer of the ministry, Alhassan Sule Mamudo.

"The Executive Governor of Yobe State Hon. Mai Mala Buni approved the release of the sum of N513, 768, 061.56 for the payment of work plans based Projects across the 17 Local Government Areas.

"This was done after the completion of the work of the committee on Local Government budget discussion for the year 2023 which scrutinized and prioritized various developmental projects across the 17 LGAs.

While thanking His Excellency the Governor for graciously approving the fund, Mustapha assured that the Ministry will continue to monitor and supervise all the projects to ensure quality as well as value for the money on the projects under reference.

The permanent secretary commended the governor for the approval geared towards improving the living condition of the people at the grassroots.

speaker and members of the State House of Assembly for the early passage of the budget, saying "Such unique cooperation between the

legislative and executive arms of government underscores our collective commitment as worthy representatives of our people."

We'll continue to support security agencies, families of ex-servicemen -Buni

Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State has restated the readiness of his administration to support the security agencies for consolidation on the relative peace being enjoyed in the state.

Buni stated this during the 2023 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration and Launching of the Emblem Appeal Week at the Government House, Damaturu.

The governor said the support to the security agencies, especially the army and the families of the fallen heroes, became necessary taking into cognizance their sacrifices on the restoration of peace in Yobe, the northeast and the country as a whole.

He said, "Our gallant soldiers have also proved their organizational capabilities, discipline and professionalism in major internal security operations combating the Maitatsine riots, Niger Delta

Militants, the Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and other related crimes in the Country.

"On our part, we have sustained support to the security operatives in the fight against security challenges and provided assistance to the families of officers who lost their lives at the battlefields."

The governor, while launching the emblem, announced a donation of N15 million on behalf of the state government and a personal donation of one million naira to the Nigerian Legion, Yobe State chapter.

Chairman, Nigerian Legion, Yobe State chapter, Captain Garba Ladi Gadine (Rtd), commended Governor Buni for his support to ex-servicemen in the state.

He said due to the government assistance, they were able to sponsor the education of the children of some of the fallen heroes.

Zabi Sonka group applauds Buni for fulfilling promise on utility vehicle

The Yobe State chairman of the Zabi Sonka Association, Alhaji Ado Yaro Gashua, has commended Governor Mai Mala Buni for fulfilling his promise on the allocation of a utility bus to the union.

A member of the association had, during the live phone-in programme on Yobe Radio with the governor, pleaded for a bus that would enable them to pursue their communal activities diligently.

Yaro, who led members of the association on a thank-you visit to the General Manager of the Yobe Broadcasting Corporation (YBC), said the station deserved every commendation for hosting the governor which led to the donation of the bus.

He said Governor Buni had proven that he is a man of his words and a leader that can be trusted with public mandate at all times.

"The presentation of the bus by His Excellency Hon. Mai Mala Buni to us has clearly demonstrated how

dependable the governor is.

"His Excellency assured us during the programme that the government will assist us with the vehicle to facilitate their activities and he has fulfilled it and therefore, the Zabi Sonka Da Taimakon Juna will forever remain grateful over this donation," Yaro stated.

The General Manager, Alhaji Musa Galadima, congratulated the union for the bus, saying the donation was not only for them but for the entire YBC community, especially since members of the association are always at the forefront in offering constructive suggestions to the radio station.

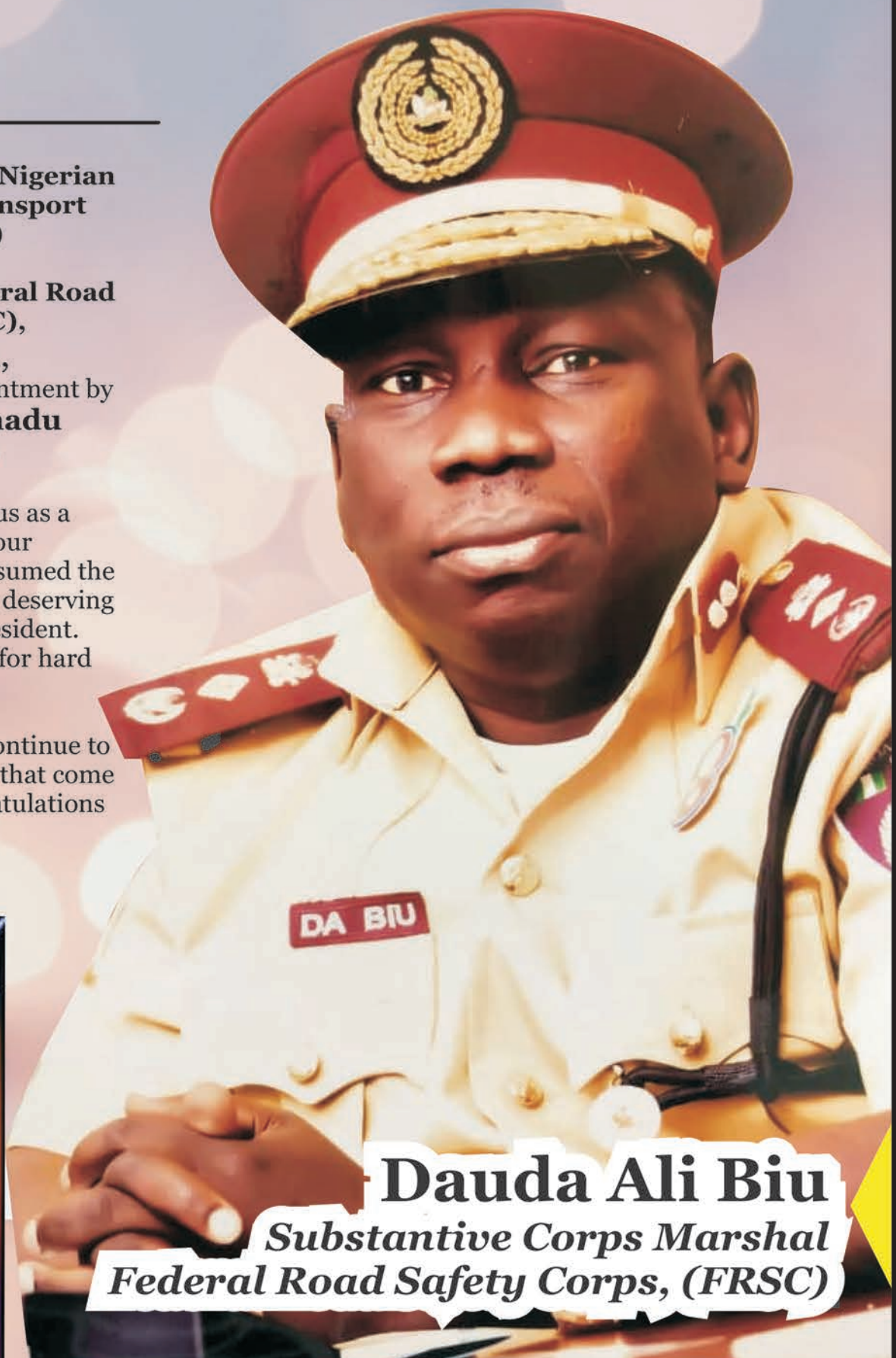
Galadima equally commended Governor Buni for the donation, noting that the presentation of the bus to the association did not come as a surprise to him, given the efforts of the governor in fulfilling all the promises made to the people of the state.

A fitting New Year Gift FROM MR. PRESIDENT!

The National Executive of Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners, (NARTO) rejoice with Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC), **Dauda Ali Biu**, on confirmation of your appointment by **President Muhammadu Buhari, (GCFR)**

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It is our prayer that you will continue to excel, thrive on the challenges that come with the new position. Congratulations sir.



Dauda Ali Biu
Substantive Corps Marshal
Federal Road Safety Corps, (FRSC)



SIGNED
Alhaji Yusuf Lawal Othman
NARTO President



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INSIDE POLITICS

“Once you have occupied that position of president and you have served your term, please, go home and be like Gen. Yakubu Gowon; just be quiet — Former Minister of External Affairs, Prof Bola Akinyemi

Ortom, Clark back Obasanjo, endorse Obi

By Saawua Terzungwe, Baba Martins (Abuja) & Hope Abah Emmanuel (Makurdi)

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State and a former minister of Information, Chief Edwin Clark, yesterday toed the path of former President Olusegun Obasanjo by endorsing the presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi.

Ortom, in a statement by his special adviser, media and publicity, Terver Akase, yesterday hailed Obasanjo for endorsing Obi on Sunday.

Ortom said Obi would provide the leadership that Nigerians desire, adding that if he were not a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), he would have personally led Obi's campaign across the country.

The governor said Obi is the man who can effectively tackle the economic, security and other challenges facing the country.

He said Obi possesses leadership qualities and guarantees justice,

equity and fairness for all Nigerians.

Ortom stressed that for some years, the country had been tottering on the verge of collapse owing to leadership failure and its attendant consequences of poverty, heightened insecurity with banditry, kidnappings and other acts of terrorism threatening the foundations of the nation.

Similarly, an elder statesman, Edwin Clark, told newsmen yesterday in Abuja, that Obi has better plans for the South-South and Nigeria at large and should be voted for on February 24.

Clark, who is a leader of the PAN Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), said Peter Obi's commitment to environmental justice to the clean-up of the Niger Delta polluted communities if elected, is most welcomed, stressing that the ongoing Ogoni clean-up has been rather slow.

“Peter Obi's unwavering commitment to reactivation of our ports, development of blue economy and maritime sector, and investment in gas sector developing

of modular refineries are worthy of note.

“I formally hereby announce that I will, therefore, personally, vote for HE Peter Obi and his vice presidential candidate on election day, 25th February 2023, as president and vice president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“His commitment to inclusion of qualified persons from the Niger Delta in the national governance process in the future government if elected into power is very reassuring.”

However, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said Ortom has not endorsed Obi.

The National Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Debo Ologunagba, told Daily Trust yesterday that Ortom only said he would have campaigned for Obi if he were not a member of the PDP.

The PDP said, “What Governor Ortom said was that if he were not in PDP, he would come out and campaign for him (Obi). But the Benue State governor is in PDP so he did not endorse him.”



■ Clark

Ibeto, Niger ex-dep gov, dumps APC

By Abubakar Akote, Minna

A former deputy governor of Niger State, Ahmed Musa Ibeto, has resigned as a member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the presidential campaign council.

Ibeto announced his decision in a letter he addressed to the APC chairman, Ibeto Ward in Magama LGA of the state yesterday.

He said his resignation from the APC was due to an internal crisis and unending litigation, which, he believed,

were threats to the success of the party in this year's elections in the state.

He also announced his resignation as the Assistant Secretary of the North Central Directorate of Mobilisation and others.

Part of the letter reads: “Mr Chairman, with my many years of active participation in politics and as a former party administrator, an elected official into many political offices, I have come to this conclusion for many reasons, chiefly among which are the absence of unity of purpose among party members and

stakeholders occasioned by internal conflicts, unending litigations, internal threats and counter-threats of anti-party activities, lack of genuine reconciliation coupled with lack of commitments and dedications to the success of the party by many stakeholders.”

Though Ibeto did not state his next move, the director of communication, PDP Campaign Council in the state, Mohammed Baba Usman, said the former ambassador was joining the PDP alongside many of his allies.

Oyo PDP leaders assure Atiku of victory, Fulani group backs ex-VP

By Ayobami Balogun (Lagos) & Ado Abubakar Musa (Jos)

The leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Oyo State have assured the presidential candidate of the party, Atiku Abubakar, of victory in the state despite opposition by members of the G-5 governors, which included the state governor, Seyi Makinde.

The leaders, who met in Ibadan to announce some of the activities lined up for the presidential campaign of Atiku in the state, maintained that the decision of Makinde and the G-5 not

to work for Atiku over the party's national chairman, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, would not in any way affect its chances at the polls.

Makinde, Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, Samuel Ortom (Benue), Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia) and Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu), have hinted that they would work for another presidential candidate ahead of the poll.

However, the leaders of the PDP in Oyo, who included a former minister for Mines and Steel, Wole Oyelese; a former minister of state for the Federal Capital Territory, Jumoke Akinjide; and a former

deputy governor of the state, Hazeem Gbolarami, argued that Atiku is the most prepared to rescue Nigeria from its present state and deliver dividends of democracy to the masses.

Similarly, Jonde Jam Fulani Youth Association (JJAFUYAN), yesterday also endorsed Atiku ahead of the February 25 general poll.

The group, led by its national president, Alhaji Sa'idu Mai-Kano, at a press briefing in Jos, said they took the decision following the realisation that Atiku was the only candidate that knew the problems of the Fulani in the country.

Don't sell your PVCs, Tambuwal cautions voters

From Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State has cautioned eligible voters in the state against selling their Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs).

Speaking during their campaign tours of Binji and Tangaza LGAs yesterday, the governor alleged that some people were buying PVCs in their attempt to rig the forthcoming elections in the state.

“Don't give them your card. Your

card is the only weapon you can use to elect the candidate of your choice,” the governor said.

He urged the people to vote massively for PDP candidates in all elections, saying doing so would ensure the continuity of the “laudable projects” initiated by his government.

In his remarks, the governorship candidate of the party, Sa'idu Umar, promised to build on the programmes and policies of the present administration if given the mandate.

INEC warns on fake ad hoc staff recruitment portal

By Abbas Jimoh

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has cautioned Nigerians against a purported portal for the recruitment of ad hoc staff for the 2023 general elections.

This was contained in a statement issued yesterday in Abuja, by Mr Rotimi Oyekanmi, chief press secretary to INEC chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu.

INEC had on September 7, 2022, announced that its official recruitment portal for the 2023 general elections (www.pres.inecnigeria.org) would be opened to the public on Wednesday,

September 14, 2022, by 8 am and would be closed on Wednesday, 14 December 2022, by 8 pm.

Oyekanmi, however, said the portal currently in circulation was fake as the commission was no longer recruiting for the elections since its official website for recruitment had been shut down.

He said, “The website/blog below is advertising ad hoc staff positions for the 2023 general elections. However, the commission is no longer recruiting ad hoc staff for the 2023 general elections.

“The INEC ad hoc staff recruitment portal was officially shut down on December 14, 2022.”

I'll concede if Binani wins me in her LGA — SDP gov'ship candidate

By Amina Abdullahi, Yola

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) governorship candidate in Adamawa State, Dr Umar Ardo, has vowed to concede defeat to Senator Aishatu Dahiru Binani, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), if she defeats him in Yola South, her LG of origin, in the forthcoming election.

In a statement, yesterday, Ardo said the people of Adamawa can no longer be deceived into voting based on enticement with “proceeds of corruption.”

He said, “I said it before on national TV, and I am repeating it. If Sen. Binani wins her local government, Yola South, against me, I will concede defeat and let her be sworn in as governor.”

RACE TO NASS



From Clement A. Oloyede,
Kano

Kawu Sumaila's race to end Gaya's 16-year reign in Senate

The over 1.5 million registered voters in Kano South Senatorial District are faced with the daunting challenge of choosing who their representative in the red chamber will be in 2023. The options, however, are narrowed to whether they return the veteran Senator Kabiru Gaya or test new waters with the grassroots mobiliser and former House of Representatives member Kawu Sumaila.

Made up of 15 local governments - Ajingi, Albasu, Bebeji, Bunkure, Doguwa, Garko, Gaya, Kibiya, Kiru, Rano, Rogo, Sumaila, Takai, Tudunwada and Wudil - Kano South is only second to Kano Central by the number of registered voters but has been finding it difficult to exert its strength in presenting a governorship candidate for the top parties in the state since 1992 when it last had the governor from the axis.

Thus, the local politics surrounding the senatorial and House of Representatives elections have always been contested with fervour.

However, Gaya, who is coincidentally the last Kano southerner to serve as Kano State governor in 1992, has also been able to exert his dominance in the senatorial district and has been in the Senate representing the district since 2007. But analysts say that may change in 2023 with Kawu Sumaila, a former legislative aide to President Muhammadu Buhari, not leaving any stone unturned in his quest to represent the district in the red chamber.

In the 2019 election, Gaya won with 319,004 votes to beat his close opponent, Sani Rogo of PDP, who scored 217,520 votes, while Yahaya Karaye of the PRP came third with 30,013 votes.

The 70-year-old senator is leveraging his push for another term on the strength of his contributions to his district and also on the contributions his return as a ranking member of the red chamber can bring to not only the district but also Kano State.

In terms of education, he received a bachelor's degree in architecture from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria in 1977 and a master's degree in architecture in 1980 from the same university.

Gaya, in a recent interview with newsmen in Kano, said he is not worried about the 'huge' turnout at a rally organised by Sumaila in the district, noting that the mammoth crowd might have been enhanced with technology.

"In politics, we have experience, and we've gone through all these. Yes, my colleague who is running for the senatorial seat in Kano South is doing his best, he is gathering a crowd, but I believe I



■ Sen. Gaya



■ Kawu

will have more crowd than him, and I believe that by God's grace, I will win that election.

"We do not want to do that in our rallies. We will be active and go around to all our constituencies, expose the projects we did in those constituencies, and people will appreciate us and vote for us again.

"By God's grace, APC will win this election and we expect the NNPP to come second and the PDP third," he said.

Gaya said those asking why he was always seeking a return to the red chamber need to know that aside from "doing a lot" for his constituency, "the more ranking you become, the more effective you become in the National Assembly. I couldn't have been chairman of INEC (committee) if I wasn't a ranking officer. I couldn't have been chairman, works if I wasn't a ranking officer. So, if we win the election, I know what I may become tomorrow, maybe a better position."

This 'better' position, analysts said may be that of the Senate president or Senate Leader if the APC wins the presidency, and this, they believe is an additional motivation for the veteran senator to do whatever it takes to win the election in 2023.

Kawu Sumaila, 54, is not a stranger to national politics having represented the Sumaila/Takai Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms, from 2003-2015.

Although he did not succeed in his ambition to become the governor of Kano State in 2015, President Buhari, recognising his role in the formation of the APC and subsequent role in the victory of the party in 2015, appointed him as SSA on the National

Assembly Matters (House of Representatives).

But in 2022, following the endorsement of the current deputy governor of Kano State, Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna, for the governorship ticket of the APC, and a former Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Murtala Sule-Garo, as his deputy (both from Kano central and Kano north), Sumaila dumped the APC, where he was hitherto hoping to get the party's senatorial ticket ahead of Gaya.

Several politicians from Kano South see the endorsement of Gawuna and Sule-Garo for governor and deputy governor by the APC as betrayal because they felt their zone should produce the next governor, having been sidelined since 1992.

He would later join the NNPP and secure the party's senatorial ticket. But Sumaila was not the only top politician from Kano South to dump the ruling party and team up with former governor

Several politicians from Kano South see the endorsement of Gawuna and Sule-Garo for governor and deputy governor by the APC as betrayal because they felt their zone should produce the next governor, having been sidelined since 1992

Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso and his Kwankwasiyya Movement in the NNPP. Other top politicians from the district like Alhassan Rurum, a former speaker in the state assembly and current federal lawmaker for Rano/Bunkure; Haruna Isah Dederi (lawmaker representing Karaye/Rogo federal constituency); and the spokesman for the Kwankwaso presidential campaign organisation and former federal lawmaker for Kiru/Bebeji, Abdulmumin Jibrin Kofa, are all now flying the flag of the NNPP and they are part of the forces Sumaila will be hoping will lead his charge against Gaya.

However, Sumaila, regarded as one of the major grassroots mobilisers in Kano, is also hoping that his major project - Al-Istiqama University - sited in his hometown and has provided educational opportunities and employment opportunities for many people, will also play a huge role in convincing the people of the senatorial district of his good plan for them.

In a recent interview with journalists in Kano, Sumaila said despite the APC's power of incumbency in Kano and at the federal level, the election between him and Gaya would produce a shocker for the ruling party, adding that the people of Kano South are clamouring for a better representation which was evidenced by the crowd that graced his campaign at Sumaila recently.

"In Kano, the power of incumbency is inconsequential. As far as Kawu Sumaila is concerned, as far as our (NNPP) gubernatorial candidate, Abba Yusuf is concerned, as far as our grand commander and presidential candidate, Dr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso is concerned;

Kabiru Gaya and other APC candidates are inconsequential.

"In Kano South, people are tired of them. Can't you see what happened when I launched my campaign, can't you see the crowd," he said.

While also hoping to ride on the popularity of the Kwankwasiyya Movement and its red cap insignia, especially among the youths, which represented a substantial voting strength of Kano, Sumaila said his political philosophy is pegged on the principles of social justice and that people in Kano South already identify with the philosophy.

"My take on the legislative agenda is to have social justice. I will ensure social justice in three areas: education, health and water resources.

"I will make sure there is social justice in the distribution of wealth. Here in Kano, I will make sure there is a powerful consultative forum headed by me that will protect our interest and ensure we get our fair share of democratic dividends from the federal level," he added.

In terms of education, Sumaila is also well read with his first degree in Islamic Studies from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), three master's degrees in Leadership Studies, Developmental Studies and Political Science from Nigerian Defence Academy, Bayero University Kano (BUK) and Maryam Abacha University, Niger Republic, respectively.

Both parties target Kano south with campaign flag-off

Analysts have observed that the decision of the ruling APC to flag off its state election campaign in Gaya LGA of Kano South was part of the calculation to checkmate the growing strength of the Sumaila-led NNPP in the district and remind the people of the district of the importance of returning their veteran senator to the red chamber, just as they give all other APC candidates premium votes during the election.

But the NNPP also had a similar thought by flagging off its campaign in Kiru LGA, one of the LGs with the highest voting population in the Kano South Senatorial District.

Kawu Sumaila will be hoping that the huge crowd that turned out for the campaign flag-off will turn up for him on election day across the 161 wards that make up the senatorial district, while Gaya will be hoping the good luck that has seen his people return him to the red chamber four times in the past will make the way for him again in 2023.



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3	ADAJI MKTING SERV.	5,000	85	NNAM PET	5,000	195	BEST ABINO	6,350
4	ADAM TONY	5,000	86	SUNNA OIL	5,000	196	DADDO PETROLEUM	6,350
5	APEH ENE NIG. LTD.	5,000	87	RAHMA NIG. LTD.	5,000	197	MIYA PET	6,350
6	ALIMAS NIG. LTD.	5,000	88	ZAKI OIL	5,000	198	MALEL VENTURES NIG LTD	6,350
7	MAC TONY NIG. LTD.	5,000	89	EDACHE OIL	5,000	199	BABA ZANGO NIG LTD	6,350
8	FAZNIG. LTD.	5,000	90	ALLA NA NAN	5,000		SULEJA DEPOT	
9	AMSA NIG. LTD.	5,000	91	EGBUE IGWUDU	5,000	200	AUSTOMA NIG LTD	10,000
10	JOEKING LTD.	5,000	92	JULIS NIG. LTD.	5,000	201	AITON NIG LTD	5,000
11	BONA BOSCO NIG. LTD.	5,000	93	JAMAL NIG. LTD.	5,000	202	A.Y & SONS LTD	5,000
12	NNANOSIKE NIG. LTD.	5,000	94	NATSON NIG. LTD	5,000	203	KALASMA NIG. LTD	5,000
13	ENERGY NIG. LTD.	5,000	95	YAMOYUS NIG. LTD.	5,000	204	FELANDE PETROLEUM LTD	40,000
14	MBALAMEN NIG. LTD.	5,000	96	A.I. ABOKI OIL	5,000	205	SUPEL CONCEPTS LTD	10,000
15	JONNIPET NIG. LTD.	5,000	97	EFFICIENT NIG. LTD.	5,000	206	OGBENDU NIG. LTD	5,000
16	ATEKO NIG. LTD.	5,000	98	SANUSI BALA	5,000	207	GAMCO NIG. LTD	5,000
17	ANNIG & NOWAS LTD.	5,000	99	UNITED BABA LTD.	5,000	208	BULASAWA PETROLEUM	5,000
18	ZOZO OIL NIG. LTD.	5,000	100	MAI & SONS LTD.	5,000	209	MASAMA PETROLEUM	5,000
19	IA MAIDOLE	5,000	101	ORGANIZER NIG. LTD.	5,000	210	ABDU ANDARAI PETROLEUM	5,000
20	DAUDA MUHAMMADU	5,000	102	ALI ZAGA NIG. LTD.	5,000		KANO DEPOT	
21	FEMAS NIG. LTD.	5,000	103	INNO ABBA NIG. LTD.	5,000	211	S.M.Y NIGERIA LIMITED	10,000
22	FIMCO NIG. LTD.	5,000	104	DIP DAT NIG. LTD.	5,000		GUSAU DEPOT	
23	FASOR NIG. LTD.	5,000	105	C.C.NJOKU	5,000	212	A.S.S & SONS NIG LTD	8,700
24	ZEMBA NIG. LTD	5,000	106	AVIS (ADONAI)	5,000	213	USMAN MEM. ENT LTD	8,700
25	MELDENZ NIG. LTD.	5,000	107	UZUDE ENT. LTD.	5,000	214	HAIDO PETROLEUM	8,700
26	JULWI NIG. LTD.	5,000	108	A.M. ADAMS	5,000	215	ADIYATU PETROLEUM	8,700
27	G. I. AYIM	5,000	109	IYABU NIG. LTD.	5,000	216	A.S MAI TAYA & SONS NIG LTD	2,500
28	LOSO NIG. LTD.	5,000	110	MICCO NIG. LTD.	5,000	217	KURUSU PETROLEUM	2,500
29	PAKI (WA) LTD.	5,000	111	CHVIVIG NIG. LTD	5,000		IBADAN DEPOT	
30	YAMAN NIG. LTD.	5,000	112	DEBENS NIG. LTD	5,000	218	ISOLA MOTORS PET	3,500
31	A. MUSA NIG. LTD.	5,000	113	FAHAD NIG. LTD.	5,000	219	AJIBOLAYAN PET	3,500
32	MUSA ABDUL	5,000	114	A.A. HAMID	5,000	220	K.S ADE PET	3,500
33	OKEB NIG. LTD.	5,000	115	F.M.C NIG. LTD	5,000	221	BIZIMILAH NIG LTD	3,500
34	ZAUDUEWO NIG. LTD.	5,000	116	BONNAC NIG. LTD.	5,000	222	BELLAZ OIL	3,500
35	BEZ GEORGE	5,000	117	PILLAR POLE LTD	5,000	223	FOWOBI OIL	3,500
36	OASIS GEN. INV. COY.	5,000	118	FAKAZ NIG. LTD.	5,000	224	RASJUB OIL LTD	3,500
37	UBAGIDI NIG. LTD.	5,000	119	DOMA ENT.LTD.	5,000	225	EMPEROR BARE OIL	3,500
38	DAN-ALI NIG. LTD.	5,000	120	JAYU NIG. LTD.	5,000	226	GLOBE OIL LTD	3,500
39	ZIKA OIL NIG. LTD.	5,000	121	TEAN NIG. LTD.	5,000	227	XTRAL OIL LTD	3,500
40	FAIWIN NIG. LTD.	5,000	122	MAC-ROYAL LTD.	5,000	228	CITEE OIL LTDD	3,500
41	P. U. IKENWA	5,000	123	ADEHI NIG.LTD.	5,000	229	SUM YUD OIL LTD	3,500
42	EMMANT NIG. LTD.	5,000	124	BITONA NIG. LTD.	5,000	230	NUFATS OIL LTD	3,500
43	PEG NIG. LTD.	5,000	125	NIELKOP NIG. LTD.	5,000	231	BADAMOS OIL LTD	3,500
44	OLU FIRST LTD.	5,000	126	GOLDEN OIL	5,000	232	LAWGAS OIL VENTURES	3,500
45	FREEDOM & STABLE	5,000	127	MUKTAR OIL	5,000	233	LADEGBUWA OIL LTD	3,500
46	ADOTED NIG. LTD.	5,000	128	KIMBO NIF. LRS	5,000	234	REMISCO OIL AND GAS INTL	3,500
47	DUVERT NIG. LTD.	5,000	129	ILOMBA NIG. LTD	5,000	235	SAMALIS VENTURES	3,500
48	GOD'S GIFT	5,000	130	PRINCE PET	5,000	236	YUSADE PET LTD	3,500
49	APPRO NIG. LTD.	5,000	131	KYEN NIG. LTD	5,000	237	OLA CENTRAL PET LTD	3,500
50	ORPET NIG. LTD.	5,000	132	DONASHIA NIG. LTD	5,000	238	AZEEZ AVINLA	3,500
51	JIBACO NIG. LTD.	5,000	133	NARIA & KOBO	5,000	239	SHUKURAH PET LTD	3,500
52	YIRA NIG. LTD.	5,000	134	ALYAHAD NIG. LTD.	5,000	240	TIBSKO OIL LTD	3,500
53	ASTA NIG. LTD.	5,000	135	F & F NIG. LTD.	5,000	241	ADEYEMO PET	3,500
54	TONIMAS NIG. LTD.	5,000	136	ANIBROS LTD.	5,000	242	ROSEFLASH PET	3,500
55	D. U. MUKTAR	5,000	137	ALH. DANTSOHO LTD.	5,000	243	SALAWU AJADI PET	3,500
56	ROMPET NIG. LTD.	5,000	138	MECKS NIG. LTD.	5,000	244	NAYOG PET LTD	3,500
57	PEJANO NIG. LTD.	5,000	139	EMMA CHRIS	5,000	245	BUNVIC INVESTMENT LTD	3,500
58	GABBEY NIG. LTD.	5,000	140	ATABS NIG. LTD	5,000	246	WASKHA ENTERPRISES	3,500
59	JIBECO NIG. LTD.	5,000	141	CHANVEL OIL	5,000	247	HIMUS PET	3,500
60	JEZCO NIG. LTD.	5,000	142	SYLKAN	5,000	248	AYBAM OIL & GAS	3,500
61	DEWEB NIG. LTD.	5,000	143	GLOBAL SPIRIT	5,000	249	M. OYETUNJI PET	3,500
62	EAGER NIG. LTD.	5,000	144	OGWOLA NIG.	5,000	250	RAJI KOLADE PET	3,500
63	OGBASCO NIG. LTD.	5,000	145	ANEGBE IND.LTD.	5,000	251	TENTACLE OIL	3,500
64	ABSALA NIG. LTD.	5,000	146	P. U. ANONYE	5,000	252	RUFUK PET	3,500
65	AROME ALEWO NIG.	5,000	147	NWONYO	5,000	253	HONORS PET	3,500
66	SKYFAME NIG. LTD.	5,000	148	FAWE NIG. LTD.	5,000	254	SEYOLA PET	3,500
67	APO NIG. LTD.	5,000	149	AL. INT. NIG. LTD.	5,000	255	BEST OPTION OIL	3,500
68	GOLDEN EMMAN	5,000	150	TSOKWA NIG.	5,000	256	ROBAY OIL	3,500
69	GECOVEL NIG. LTD.	5,000	151	VIEWPOINT	5,000	257	LASOBEK OIL	3,500
70	MATINO NIG. LTD.	5,000	152	KASEVENTO	5,000	258	LASPALMAS OIL	3,500
71	ANNAMCO NIG. LTD.	5,000		YOLA DEPOT		259	ADEKABELLO OIL	3,500
72	DOL PET. NIG. LTD.	5,000	153	MAPECO NIG LTD	6,350	260	TUNWUMI OIL	3,500
73	AGBJI & SOS LTD.	5,000	154	A.M. YOLA PET & COY NIG LTD	6,350	261	AJAO MARKETING COY	3,500
74	JONYSON NIG. LTD.	5,000	155	BEZGORE NIG LTD	6,350	262	EARTH PET	3,500
75	JIMAPET NIG. LTD.	5,000	156	MECKS OIL NIG LTD	6,350	263	S.A ADEESO PET	3,500
76	AGOH NIG. LTD.	5,000	157	EMMA CHRIS OIL NIG LTD	6,350	264	TIME OIL LTD	3,500
77	FELIMON NIG. LTD.	5,000	158	A.A BUTU NIG LTD	6,350	265	LISTER OIL LTD	3,500
78	ISA MARK NIG. LTD.	5,000	159	ESSENCE PET COY NIG LTD	6,350	266	J. F PET	3,500
79	ALFA ALLIED	5,000	160	GAYA OIL NIG LTD	6,350	267	ALLUVIAL OIL LTD	3,500
80	UBABIKE OIL	5,000	161	ZUBONGO MERCHANTS	6,350	268	STARFORD OIL INT NIG LTD	3,500
81	SAMJOE NIG. LTD.	5,000	162	SO MAI-SON KA NIG LTD	6,350	269	LAMECO PET	3,500
			163	AWAMI INTL NIG LTD	6,350	270	ADELEKE OIL LTD	3,500
			164	KANURI VENT	6,350	271	MOORE COMMERCIAL ENT	3,500
			165	KWALI -KWALI & CO NIG LTD	6,350	272	OLA OLUWA AINA PET	3,500
			166	MUSA MAI-TEBUR NIG LTD	6,350	273	BOARDMAS PET LTD	3,500
			167	A.A DUHU & SONS NIG LTD	6,350	274	AKINJU OIL LTD	3,500
			168	LUVUWA OIL	6,350	275	OASIS PET LTD	3,500
			169	ALI & ZAINAB	6,350	276	ADABOL PET LTD	3,500
			170	SULKAN OIL	6,350	277	ARO BROTHERS PET. LTD	3,500
			171	BID OIL NIG LTD	6,350	278	COASTAL OIL LTD	3,500
			172	BIU OIL NIG LTD	6,350	279	GMATH NIG LTD	3,500
			173	MADAGALI OIL LTD	6,350	280	JOHN DAVID NIG LTD	3,500
			174	A.B. KUMAR & SONS	6,350	281	FOGATEEF NIG LTD	3,500
			175	NGUNGURMA BITA	6,350	282	MUSTAPHA AKEEM OLAWALE	3,500
			176	KADRAH NIG LTD	6,350	283	PROGRESS HAMMED TAIWO NIG LTD	3,500
			177	IBRAHIM WAKILI	6,350	284	MICOFAP NIG LTD	3,500
			178	A. I MEDUGU	6,350	285	FEMMESH GAS & CO LTD	3,500
			179	AGRIBAV NIG LTD	6,350	286	FEMAK OIL LTD	3,500
			180	MATING NIG LTD	6,350			
			181	TUR OIL	6,350			
			182	AYTOIL	6,350			
			183	A.A GARBA & SONS NIG LTD	6,350			
			184	PONYEP	6,350			
			185	A.A DADA	6,350			
			186	JEZCO OIL NIG LTD	6,350			
			187	NGOZI PET	6,350			
			188	A.A SALISU & SONS	6,350			
			189	A.A ALHAGARI NIG LTD	6,350			
			190	VEMGO	6,350			
			191	MAIDAMISA	6,350			
						287	AMOAF NIG LTD	3,500
						288	MAIKABO ENTERPRISES	3,500
						289	BUTOAL VENTURES LTD	3,500
						290	RINSAYO OIL LTD	3,500
						291	MABAK NIG LTD	3,500
						292	JEJELAIYE NIG LTD	3,500
						293	HASS ORGANIZATION LTD	3,500
						294	ADLAK INVESTMENT LTD	3,500
						295	TYBATO OIL LTD	3,500
						296	AMIMIKE OIL LTD	3,500
						297	JOSSY ADEOLU PET	3,500
						298	DELE YESIR PET	3,500
						299	PEACE AYILAB NIG LTD	3,500
						300	ALLELUYAH PET LTD	3,500
						301	BOVAS COY LTD	3,500
						302		

NIPCO PUBLIC NOTICE

394	OMOBOLANLE PET LTD	2,916
395	OWONIBOYS OIL LTD	2,916
396	VICTOR OYELEKE PET	2,916
397	RAK UNITY OIL	2,916
398	LAVIE OIL LTD	2,916
399	MOP EXPRESS LTD	2,916
400	Y.A OLANREWAJU OIL	2,916
401	AJOKE OIL LTD	2,916
402	BISMONCO PET LTD	2,916
403	ROLA OIL LTD	2,916
404	G. OLUBORI & SONS LTD	2,916
405	TUNDSON NIG LTD	2,916
406	GOFIX OIL LTD	2,916
407	JOHNDECK NIG LTD	2,916
408	BAY OIL LTD	2,916
409	SOG OIL LTD	2,916
410	JOKANOLA LTD	2,916
411	ASOK INT	2,916
412	TOHIMSAL PET LTD	2,916
413	WAHMOB OIL LTD	2,916
414	YEMOS OIL LTD	2,916
415	S. ADUA OIL LTD	2,916
416	PRIME OIL LTD	2,916
417	NASCOTECH PET LTD	2,916
418	BIOFA OIL LTD	2,916
419	AJBAT PET NIG LTD	2,916
420	ABUNJU OIL	2,916
421	JJ KUTEYI	2,916
422	ADUKMO NIG LTD	2,916
423	SAGMOS INVESTMENT	2,916
424	JAYEOLA & SONS	2,916
425	TOP CROWN NIG LTD	2,916
426	UNIQUE ROCK PET	2,916
427	LAT DONNORU PET NIG LTD	2,916
428	TIDEM INVESTMENT	2,916
429	ROLAND OIL LTD	2,916
430	MOCO RESOURCES LTD	2,916
431	DIAMOND OIL LTD	2,916
432	GANJIM PET NIG LTD	2,916
433	RANDUK NIG LTD	2,916
434	MAO PET	2,916
435	OLAIDE PET	2,916
436	YANJU OIL LTD	2,916
437	ABISKOL PET	2,916
438	BOLADALE PET	2,916
439	LAIYA PET	2,916
440	BAYO OYEDIJI PET	2,916
441	ADEKANBI AMOO OIL	2,916
442	R.S.K OIL	2,916
443	ISAACOY NIG LTD	2,916
444	NASARA PET	2,916
445	INDEX OIL LTD	2,916
446	ACORN PET NIG LTD	2,916
447	S. ADENLE PET LTD	2,916
448	THERFEN OIL LTD	2,916
449	RESCUE PET	2,916
450	SHALOM OIL NIG LTD	2,916
451	RASHAL PET LTD	2,916
452	ADETS OIL LTD	2,916
453	JEMO OIL LTD	2,916
454	SAKA ADURA PET	2,916
455	BAOYET NIG LTD	2,916
456	TOPSTAY PET	2,916
457	MOVIC OIL NIG LTD	2,916
458	GLAMOUR PET LTD	2,916
459	MORAF OIL LTD	2,916
460	MUYAD OIL LTD	2,916
461	NOAH AWE PET LTD	2,916
462	J.K OIL PET	2,916
463	R.A ADENIJI PET	2,916
464	OLUDEGUN OLAIYA PET	2,916
465	ALIYU AWONIYI INT LTD	2,916
466	RAIN OIL LTD	2,916
467	OLUWASEUN INVESTMENT	2,916
468	AMOLEK OIL	2,916
469	F.O DAUDU & SONS LTD	2,916
470	DEMILAC OIL NIG	2,916
471	CHRIST THE KING INVESTMENT	2,916
472	IBRAHIM GBADEBO OIL	2,916
473	TINAZONZI PET	2,916
474	IFE OLUWA LTD	2,916
475	LORDSGLORY PET	2,916
476	VICTORY OIL LTD	2,916
477	LAILAD NIG LTD	2,916
478	SEARON INVESTMENT	2,916
479	AMAZING INVESTMENT	2,916
480	REMOLA OIL	2,916
481	BISILEKO OIL	2,916
482	SABARA OIL	2,916
483	ROKLAD OIL	2,916
484	KESBASH OIL	2,916
485	DASH OIL	2,916
486	NICHOFEM PET	2,916
487	AYOKUNNU PET	2,916
488	MUOLAM OIL	2,916
489	AMFAL COMPANY NIG LTD	2,916
490	A.TETTEH PET	2,916
491	PREMIER GLOBAL MULTI SYSTEM	31,250
DEPOT ORE		
492	KOLAK INVESTMENTS	2,000
493	JOHN OLATUNDE	2,000
494	JUTAK PETROLEUM	2,000
495	ALH GANIYU ADEPOJU	2,000
496	I. BABATUNDE	2,000
497	J.J KUTEYI	2,000
498	BISIJAY	2,000
499	DUTUM	2,000
500	AGS AJOBO	2,000
501	NEFECO OIL	2,000
502	OKOR & SONS	2,000
503	AKINDOLANI PET	2,000
504	AKINJAGUNLA	2,000
505	TUNJI & TUNJI	2,000
506	OLAMOYIN & SONS	2,000
507	GOFIX OIL	2,000
508	GLOBE OIL	2,000
509	ADEPETU PET	2,000
510	WURAOLA & SONS	2,000
511	MEL INVESTMENTS	2,000
512	SERIAL INVESTMENTS	2,000
513	SOKA & SONS	2,000
514	ADEHUN OLUWA	2,000
515	J.O ANODUMILA	2,000
516	MOP EXPRESS	2,000
517	BUNA PET LTD	2,000
518	SADIWU NIG LTD	2,000
519	FAMAK NIG LTD	2,000
520	JOLACO PET LTD	2,000
521	G.O OLOYEDE	2,000
522	ADE KABELO NIG LTD	2,000
523	KORIS NIG LTD	2,000
524	GEN ENOR	2,000
525	OLIMS NIG LTD	2,000
526	IFE OLUWA PET	2,000
527	ALLELUYA	2,000
528	ADABOL	2,000
529	HEZETORIA	2,000
530	LAO OIL	2,000
531	JAIYE INVESTMENTS	2,000
532	BASELINE PET	2,000
533	ADEESO & SONS	2,000
534	NISSI VENTURE	2,000
535	MERITAN OIL	2,000
536	ADEMAYOR PET	2,000
537	A & B AIYEMOJUBA	2,000
538	BEST OPTIION	2,000
539	COASTAL OIL	2,000
540	FRANCIS PET	2,000
541	SECOM PET	2,000
542	CASH HOLD	2,000
543	AKINSANMI	3,000
544	AIYETUNJI	2,000
545	SANBROS	2,000
546	RAK UNITY	2,000
547	KAYODE OGUNDAYO	2,000
548	S. O.T	2,000
549	MULESUKO	2,000
550	CELLAM PET	2,000
551	ASOK PET LTD	2,000
552	AZKOK PET LTD	2,000
553	REMISCO INT AGENCY	2,000
554	IBISCO NIG LTD	2,000
555	ROVA	2,000
556	SOLACO NIG LTD	2,000
557	ASGOLITE	2,000
558	LOTO OIL NIG LTD	2,000
559	ADEGBAMIGBE	2,000
560	GAFO BROTHERS	2,000
561	S.O.B MAIKABO	2,000
562	SHINDU OIL	2,000
563	JONAS PET	2,000
564	VICTOR OYELEKE	2,000
565	LONACO PET	2,000
566	KALA	2,000
567	BOVAS PET	2,000
568	TOP CROWN PET	2,000
569	OMOTADOWA PET	2,000
570	RAHSAL VENTURES	2,000
571	PRIME OIL	2,000
572	SAMALIS	3,000
573	OKADARA	2,000
574	HOPE PET LTD	2,500
575	AKINNONONU	2,000
576	JAMES AINA	2,000
577	CITIZEN	2,000
578	ADPOBEAM	2,000
579	ROYAL PET	3,000
580	ROYAL OIL	2,000
581	HILL CITY	2,000
ILORIN DEPOT		
582	LATRAU INTERBIZ NIG LTD	5,000
583	AJISAFE INTERNATIONAL LTD	5,000
584	SANRAB VENTURES LTD	5,000
585	MATOIL PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
586	RASKIN AJIKOBI & SONS LTD	5,000
587	BAY-STAR NIG LTD	5,000
588	ALHAJI SAKA ADURA NIG LTD	5,000
589	BILISARAT NIG LTD	5,000
590	IMMAM AND COMPANY NIG	5,000
591	TATISA PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
592	OLADUNPUPO OLADIPO & SONS	5,000
593	ADISA BAKARE NIG LTD	5,000
594	M.O.A.D DAODU & SONS NIG LTD	5,000
595	ROCKFIELD PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	5,000
596	AL-NUR VENTURES LTD	5,000
597	DHUZAM NIG LTD	5,000
598	AL-HIJRA PETROLEUM	5,000
599	ALFLAMAN NIG LTD	5,000
600	MUSKOW PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
601	TOHIMSAL LIMITED	5,000
602	FEMTROL VENTURES NIG LTD	5,000
603	IBROSALAM PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
604	ALIMAN (NIG) LTD	5,000
605	A.A OGUNRINDE & SONS LTD	5,000
606	PROGRESS HAMMED TAIWO NIG	5,000
607	OKIN OLOJA VENTURES LTD	5,000
608	LAVIE INTERNATIONAL OIL CO	5,000
609	SUPERMOON NIG LTD	5,000
610	TADE BIMBOLA NIG LTD	5,000
611	SALAMI AND AKORED NIG LTD	5,000
612	M.A.S INTERNATIONAL COMPANY	5,000
613	S.A ADEESO & SONS LIMITED	5,000
614	REAL GOLD INTERNATIONAL LTD	5,000
615	SHAREX VENTURES NIG LTD	5,000
616	MOP NIGERIA LTD	5,000
617	OKUNMOMI PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
618	PEACE AYILAB OSENI NIG LTD	5,000
619	STEADFAST PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
620	DAPSEY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	5,000
621	ADEBAYO & AYANNIYI TRADING CO.	5,000
622	MUSAD PETROLEUM NIG LTD	5,000
623	ABDULLAHI TELLA & SONS	5,000
624	EREOLA NIG LTD	5,000
625	JOAB INTERBIZ LIMITED	5,000
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629	AMOLEK NIG LTD	5,000
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634	IWALEWA PETROLEUM LIMITED	5,000
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637	JASCITY OIL & PETROLEUM	5,000
638	MARK PETROLEUM LTD	5,000
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641	AKANNI PETROLEUM	5,000
642	ARAOJE OIL NIG LTD	5,000
643	FRANCO	5,000
644	SATELLITE	5,000
645	MABAK	5,000
646	IFEOLUWA	5,000
SATELLITE DEPOT		
647	ACORN	8,333
648	ADEWOYIN	8,333
649	ADONAI	8,333
650	ALINCO	8,333
651	ALSIKSON	8,333
652	AMO OIL	8,333
653	ASCON OIL	8,333
654	AYOKUNNU OIL	8,333
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656	BECO	8,333
657	BFB	8,333
658	BODE OIL NIG LTD	8,333
659	BOVAG	8,333
660	BOVAS	8,333
661	CAXTONJOE OIL	8,333
662	CHARITY PETROLEUM	8,333
663	CRYPTON	8,333
664	DAPKIK	8,333
665	DESLAT	8,333
666	DOL	8,333
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671	GASOIL	8,333
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674	HAA OIL	8,333
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700	OLAIDA OIL LIMITED	8,333
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OPINION

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[POLITICS AND ECONOMY]

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NASIR AMINU

2023: Sierra Leone and the democratic imperative in West Africa

By Lindsay Barrett

The new year will undoubtedly produce many points of interest and issues that will attract global attention in Africa, especially in the West African sub-region where the democratic impulse will face some of the most severe tests of its resilience in the continent so far.

It is most likely that Nigeria's General Election and presidential contest that will take place in February will provide an intriguing subject of interest for observers of the African polity as well as for serious analysts of African politics. However, when that event is over, one of the most interesting and important issues arising in that area of concern will evolve from the advent of the elections that are due to take place in Sierra Leone in June.

The circumstances that will make the Sierra Leone event attract global interest are particularly unique as the advent of the incumbent government arose from historical factors that are peculiar to that country. Sierra Leone's civil war is widely regarded to have been one of the most brutal and horrific conflicts ever waged in the continent and the resultant breakdown of public trust that characterises communal relationships in that country is considered to be an important element of consideration about public acceptability of the electoral culture of the nation. The fact that members of Sierra Leone's populace were provoked to display elements of disenchantment during the tenure of the incumbent government is one of the reasons why the elections taking place in the new year will attract special interest.

The President of Sierra Leone, Dr Julius Maada Bio, might well be considered to be himself a symbol of the ideals of democratic choice since when he was a young military officer, he led a coup that turned out to have as its eventual purpose the restoration of representative government in the nation. However, when he won the election into office in 2018, it was after a hard fought contest that has been described as one of the continent's most competitive such races. The fact that he led the country's oldest political party, the Sierra Leone's Peoples Party (SLPP), to oust the then incumbent All Peoples Congress (APC) gave him the cachet of historic achievement as representing a new generation of citizens who can place the country on the path to a new direction of leadership and development. He presented one of the longest inaugural addresses ever heard in the parliament in 2018 in which he espoused a number of initiatives especially in education that were unprecedented. Being the youngest person ever to be elected to lead the nation having been born after Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961, his concern for making governance serve the welfare of the vast majority of the populace who are even younger than him is understandable.

When a major breakdown of law and order occurred recently in parts of the country, the security forces quickly determined that the main motivation of the events was political provocation rather than genuine public

disenchantment. When the dissent spilt onto the streets, President Bio was away in the United Kingdom, but he was very proactive and swift in responding to queries from international media over the issues that appeared to be disturbing the public. In an interview aired on the BBC, President Bio was remarkably empathetic in his sentiments when he agreed that the ordinary citizens were indeed facing very hard times. In the same conversation, he also agreed with his security operatives who insisted that the rival party had taken advantage of economic circumstances which could hardly be blamed on the incumbent administration to provoke political miscreants into creating public disturbances. Shortly after that crisis, an environmental disaster occurred when a major mudslide in a part of the capital Freetown destroyed scores of homes and left several hundred people displaced. Once again President Bio's response was rapid and personalised as he visited the scene of the disaster within a few hours and announced emergency relief measures organised by the government in record time. As a result of these events, it might very well seem as if the SLPP's New Direction Administration has been under pressure to improve the public welfare to a great extent even more than its predecessor. However, the challenge being mounted by rival political forces while difficult for the incumbent government to confront is susceptible to President Bio's pledge to change the trajectory of governance from a system of privileged reward to one of public service.

An important factor in domestic political organisation that has emerged since the SLPP victory at the polls in 2018 is the fact that some senior members of the government, notably the Speaker of the parliament, Right Honourable Dr Abbas Bundu, emerged from a region that used to be considered the stronghold of the opposition APC. Dr Bundu's service as one of the most innovative executive secretaries of ECOWAS and one time Foreign Minister of the country makes him definitely an icon of the battle for representative government in the entire sub-region. He is an important figure in any study of West Africa's democratic impulses and so in the run-up to the approaching electoral contest, the record of collaboration between the executive and legislature in Sierra Leone since 2018 will play a large part in determining the outcome and the nature of the results both for the country's electorate and for interested global observers. It is imperative that the election processes in any country should be seen to be credible and relevant to the populace whether the country is regarded as being complex in its diversity like Nigeria or less complex but no less challenged by its history like Sierra Leone. For this reason, Sierra Leone's exercise in testing the resilience of the system and the public comprehension and assessment of the government's performance since the last election will be of vital importance in any attempt to judge the validity of West Africa's democratic imperative in the new year.

Baratte wrote from Abuja

The political endorsement phenomenon – so far

Endorsements can improve voter education on national and local candidates, leading to better-informed voting decisions. Many voters choose rational ignorance when voting for candidates because the cost of getting informed about politicians and politics can be very high.

One explanation for choosing rational ignorance is the polarisation of voters. Partly for this reason, political candidates deliberately seek endorsements from well-known individuals and groups and carefully reveal them at critical points throughout their campaigns.

Nigeria's politics is divided across religious, ethnic, regional, and political party lines, making it more expensive for voters to be informed. That is why voters identify endorsers who share their interests and those they follow.

Endorsers are held in high respect across the country. They are expected to endorse politicians, policies, and causes because they are seen to be credible, trustworthy, likeable, and persuasive. Rational citizens are also paying attention to the credibility of endorsers, and they will discredit any group or individual who is inconsistent or acting against their interests.

From the South, one key endorsement was the declaration for Atiku by Chief Arthur Eze at the Ofala festival with Governor Charles Soludo and other traditional rulers. Arthur Eze thought that the appropriate candidate from an Igbo ethnicity who should be president of Nigeria is Soludo. Rightly so, anyone following the country's economic policies would crave a person like Soludo. Arthur Eze's choice is a long-term plan for someone who could benefit Nigeria. For him and his group, endorsing anyone would scupper the chance for Soludo, which could happen in the next cycle. The Igbo elder and his group are inclined to maintain their position to support the PDP.

Prince Eze's endorsement has divided opinions and diluted the endorsement made by Ohanaeze Ndigbo under the banner of Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum back in November. The forum comprises Afenifere, PANDEF, and Middle Belt Leaders. Another endorsement that divided voter opinions came from a faction of the Afenifere group as they declared for their son, Bola Tinubu.

At the time of writing, President Obasanjo's endorsement remains the latest and is critical for Peter Obi's voters. His support was documented in a six-page letter targeting young Nigerians. I found the letter's content is beyond the scope of young voters. The method of communication is not designed to reach them, and only a few have the patience to read more than 280 characters.

On his credibility, Obasanjo's antecedents with the younger generation are not usually pleasant. His hateful relationship with his own children, like Gbenga and Iyabo, comes to mind. Iyabo's letter to her egoistic and selfish father was not pleasant. Anyway, Obasanjo is a controversial figure, and his endorsement came without the support of other military elites.

On the northern front, the endorsement of Yakubu Dogara and the APC northern christian group has been heard and is already changing the course of PDP in the region. The exception

of the group is the enigmatic Babachir Lawal, who was sacked from the Buhari government for grass-cutting contract controversy. He decided to endorse Peter Obi when Tinubu declined his request for a ministerial post. His interview on VOA Hausa and Channels exposed his lack of credibility and consistency.

The Izala group, JIBWIS, is expected to make an endorsement. However, the group's chairman, Abdullahi Bala Lau, is already causing controversy by hinting that they have an endorsement in mind. Likewise, Kabiru Gombe. Both are thought to have an opinion similar to Babachir Lawal, only that they are inclined towards Tinubu. The Deputy Chairman of JIBWIS, Sheikh Yusuf Sambo Rigachikun, hints that a northern candidate should be the preferred candidate. Unlike Lau and Gombe, Sheikh Sambo seemed to speak on issues and interests that the average uninformed voters wanted to know.

The above endorsements are just the beginning. As the election date approaches, more endorsements are expected. The Christian Association of Nigeria and other large church organisations are yet to use one united voice to endorse any candidate. The James Ibori group is yet to make an endorsement, which will potentially enlighten the South South voters.

The prominent northern groups are expected to endorse one candidate as they did when they invited six presidential candidates in October 2022 under the aegis of Arewa Joint Committee. The endorsement of this group will definitely shape the picture of voting in the three northern geopolitical zones. The groups will include nods from former heads of state and other retired military elites.

One key endorsement that the rational voters are no more looking forward to is the one by the disgruntled G-5 governors – Wike, Ortom, Ikpeazu, Ugwuanyi and Makinde. Even though Wike said he would reveal who they will be supporting in January, the excitement and the influence they once had is waning. The media reports that they were in London to close a deal with Tinubu were debunked by the APC presidential campaign team.

The belief that the G-5 are governors without focus and direction is gaining traction. Their decision-making, or lack thereof, shows that they cannot specify what they don't want. Likewise, their flirtation with all four presidential candidates has demonstrated that they don't know what they want. Of course, it is a democracy, and they are not wrong to act that way.

The average rational voter, who follows their press conferences and dance-drama, is convinced they are not acting in people's common interests. Similarly, any principled politician with a decent following will try to avoid a public strategic alliance with them. With hindsight, one can understand why Atiku decided to move forward without them to pursue relevant alliances.

Therefore, endorsers need to be aware that voters want to hear their endorsements but rely on consistent information from them. They may fool some voters, but the average voter will pay less attention to those who have lost credibility.

N.A.

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way, Utako District, Abuja

Avoidable tragedy in Calabar

The tragedy that sullied the just concluded 2022 session of the annual Calabar Carnival has made a review of the modalities for organising the festival mandatory. At the end of the festival, which lasted from December 1 to 31, 2022, the 'Passion 4 Carnival Band' was declared the winning team. However, the outcome of the fiesta was sullied by a development that qualifies not only as a national embarrassment, but also as an anticlimax to expectations from the exercise.

An automobile accident that occurred on the 27th day of the fiesta involved 29 victims, seven of whom died on the spot while various degrees of injuries were sustained by others comprising 21 men, three women, two young males and three young females. According to the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Maikano Hassan, whose team rushed the victims to the Naval Hospital Calabar and the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, one of the young ladies that survived the accident eventually died in the hospital raising the death toll to eight.

According to a witness account, the incident occurred during one of the highlights of the fiesta – when the bikers' parade had reached the front of the Jumat Mosque, and a driver who was intent on watching the proceedings from his moving truck, lost control and rammed into the unsuspecting, cheering crowd. News reported indicated that several of the victims who lost their lives in the incidence were among the worshippers at the mosque.

In a swift reaction through a press statement signed by his media adviser and Chief Press Secretary, Barrister Christian Ita, the governor of Cross River State Ben Ayade, ordered immediate stoppage of the bikers parade and investigation into the incident. In the statement, Ayade sympathised with the victims of the accident and their families, while he queried how 'the motorist was able to get through security barricades to have access to the routes which were closed to the public.' Expectedly, the incident attracted scenes of street rage as members of the public rose up in anger - a development that forced Ayade to call for calm.

Beyond Ayade, not a few observers were disappointed by the incident of the accident on the grounds that it was essentially avoidable, if the organisers had placed premium on the legal, and moral obligations they owe each and every spectator that attended the fiesta. This consideration enjoys bold relief when seen against the elaborate build up to the fiesta, especially the direct involvement of the Cross River State Government. The least that was expected of the organisation was premium on the safety and welfare of the spectators as no one came there to die but to partake of culture and tradition. It is on this ground that the query by the governor on how the motorist breached the security cordon around the carnival route enjoys credence, and calls for a comprehensive review of the fiesta in terms of organisation.

Started in 2004 by the administration of Donald Duke, the former governor of Cross River State, the Calabar Carnival which is also often referred to as the 'Pride of Nigeria', is an annual carnival held in Calabar. The carnival holds every December as an activity to mark Christmas celebration. From inception it provided scope for participation for other states in Nigeria as well as interested parties from other countries.

Against the backdrop of the foregoing the future it is clear that future hosting of the carnival needs to be guided by lessons from the tragedy of the 2022 version. The starting point of such a dispensation should be preceded by a commission of inquiry to unravel the remote and proximate factors that led to the ugly incident. We also advise that all further hosting of the carnival should be put on hold until the issue of safety of every participant and spectator, and especially of the communities within the vicinities of the event, is guaranteed and efforts made to address whatever infrastructural drawbacks around the exercise.

Daily Trust expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the departed as we pray that the Almighty God will grant them the fortitude to bear the loss of their beloved ones. We particularly commend the leaders of the Hausa community, whose members were most affected in the tragedy, for working to forestall any escalation arising from the incident. The government should consider compensating all those affected by this tragedy. Nigeria must learn to uphold the sanctity of human life in all circumstances and avoid needless deaths of citizens.

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MAKING SENSE OF THE ECONOMY
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(Text only)

Debts: Where do presidential candidates stand?

For the next president of Nigeria, one of the key decisions he must be certain about is what to do with Nigeria's massive debt and debt service, both local and foreign.

This is one decision that Nigerians should extract from the presidential candidates as the election draws nearer and debates – or campaigns – are getting hotter. What we do with debts in the coming dispensation will define a lot of things about the economy. We must handle debts the right way before they derail the economy.

Each of the men seeking to occupy the coveted seat of power should, ahead of the crucial election slated on February 25, tell Nigerians in clear, unambiguous terms, what they will do with the country's current debts and, going forward, what his administration will do about borrowing.

Debts are good because of the leverage they give to the borrower. With a debt, a borrower is enabled to undertake projects on a scale far above his ability. That is leverage. But the downside of debts is that they take resources away from the borrower when repayment time arrives. So what happens between the time of borrowing and the time of repayment is crucial.

The Debt Management Office put Nigeria's public debt by the end of June last year at N44.6 trillion, which was further broken down to N17.5 trillion as external debt, and N26.92 trillion as domestic debt. But we do know that this figure has changed significantly since then, with the government's indebtedness to the CBN alone standing at over N22 trillion.

With a forecast of economic recession and slow growth looming this year, it will be a double jeopardy to combine that with the weight of debt that will be taking away critical resources from the treasury. While the IMF has forecast a GDP growth rate of 2.7 per cent for Nigeria this year, there is so much uncertainty hanging over the world economy that the local economy could actually experience a decline. The possibility of this becoming a reality should trigger proactive measures now in preparation for that. That means in effect that the debt burden can no longer be treated with levity.

If this economy should experience a downturn, there may be an inclination by the government to default by delaying payments of either interest or principal, or even both. We must, therefore, get the templates right now for dealing with these possibilities as they emerge this year.

Because these debts are fixed contractual obligations, there may not be any easy way out for Nigeria should the above scenarios play out.

Restructuring has its costs, as we are beginning to understand in light of the ongoing crisis in Ghana. In fact, since last month Ghana suspended interest payments on most of its foreign debts, and the question that's on the lips of many people now is: who in Africa will be next to default? Obviously, nobody wants to be the next bad example out

of Africa, but the best way to avoid that is to do the right things early enough. And there is a wide range of possible actions that a country can possibly take to address its indebtedness.

Atiku Abubakar has disclosed what he will do with our debts if elected president.

The presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), says he would engage creditors to seek "cancellation or forgiveness" to address the country's foreign debt profile.

"If you are talking about foreign debt, we have done it before, I will engage our creditors and ask for debt forgiveness or cancellation like we did before. Coming to local debt, if we stabilise the economy, we will borrow less, and propose a flexible payment plan," he was said to have declared publicly.

Atiku is obviously basking in the glory of the \$12 billion debt cancellation achieved by the Obasanjo administration in which he served as vice president.

Nigerians also would want to know the stand of the other candidates. After all, although one person will be president, the others will be in opposition, offering their views as the opposition. So, they must have a voice on this.

Where do the other contestants stand on the debt crisis? This is no longer an issue that can be ignored. It should form an integral part of the economic policy of the next government, as it will feature prominently in the trajectory of the economy subsequently.

What is the position of the presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu? What is Labour Party's Peter Obi's plan, and how does Kwakwanso of the NNPP plan to tackle the debt albatross hanging over our dear nation? BAT is offering Nigerians a new lease of life, a promise of renewed hope. So, how will the debt policy of his administration differ from what the current administration has done with the nation's debt level?

The point is, whoever forms the next government must know from the word go that Nigerians will hold him responsible for its fiscal activities. A situation where debt volume balloons out of sync with the realities of the economy will no longer be acceptable. This is what the present administration has done with the nation's debt. Tied to that also, should be the borrowing programme of the government. Nigeria now needs a policy on borrowing, whether from commercial lenders or multilateral sources.

Some people have likened Atiku's option to being equivalent to going the way of Ghana. While this is not quite the same, in the sense that Ghana defaulted by saying it cannot pay interest, it is not quite clear now how the debt forgiveness option he is pushing will perform.

Between now and February 25, this debt question must be answered. Where do the candidates stand on our debts?

Congratulations!

On your **10th Year Anniversary**

I wish to, on behalf of myself, family, and entire people of Gombe North Senatorial District, felicitate with Your Royal Highness, Alhaji Haruna Abdulkadir Rashid CON, Emir of Dukku, on the occasion of your 10th year anniversary.

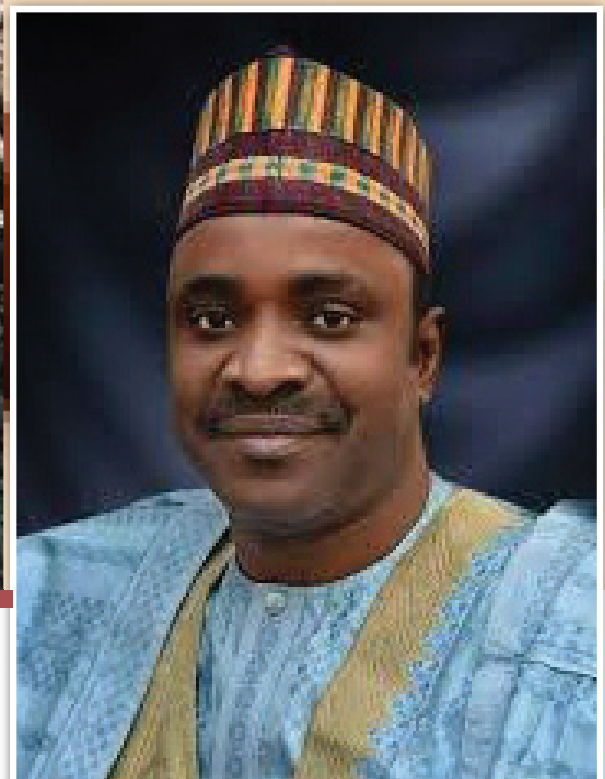
Your Highness, we are indeed proud of your tenure as a leader and father. A tenure characterised by an enduring peace, stability and progress. Your shining attributes of simplicity, tolerance and accommodation have afforded us an opportunity to work together for the overall development of your domain.

This is a testimony, and it shall remain so.

May Allah continue to guide and protect you throughout your stewardship on the exalted throne of Dukku Emirship

His Royal Highness,
Alhaji Haruna Abdulkadir Rashid, CON
Emir of Dukku

Senator Saidu Ahmed Alkali
(Sarkin Gabas Dukku)
Gombe North Senatorial District





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Controversies trails performance of customs server

Controversies have continued to trail the alleged breakdown of the server of the Nigeria Customs Service.

In December 2022, there was anxiety at Nigerian ports in Lagos as cargoes could not be captured for duty payment and exited from the ports, due to an alleged breakdown in the server of the Nigeria Customs Service.

The Nigeria Customs Service' server was designed and managed by a web solution provider, Webb Fontaine.

Webb Fontaine is a provider of solutions for trade facilitation, powered by world class technology, including artificial intelligence.

Recalled that there have been media reports of a constant breakdown in the server of the Nigeria Customs, forcing some Licensed Customs Agents to link the breakdown to the inadequacies of its service providers; Webb Fontaine Limited

While some freight forwarders have blamed the constant server breakdown on the alleged inadequacy of the service provider, on its part the Managing Director, Webb Fontaine, Ope Babalola, dismissed the claims, insisting that there was no way their server could crash.

But a licensed customs agent at the Tin Can Port, Hon Remilekun Sikiru, had in December lamented that demurrage and storage charges are accruing on trapped cargoes at the port.

He said "With the total shutdown of the customs server since last week, it is becoming alarming and definitely going to cause a lot of havoc to the importers and the clearing agents if nothing is done.

"I'm using this opportunity to



■ Tin-Can Island port, Lagos

appeal to all shipping companies and terminal owners to look into the current situation and use their good offices to grant a waiver to us so as to reduce the burden on both the importers and clearing agents' shoulders.

"And to my fellow colleagues and professional leaders, please play a professional role by informing your importers on what's happening currently, carry them along"

According to him, the licensed customs agents have always been the victim of the constant customs server breakdowns

"65% of clearing agents have stopped coming to the port, some have gone back to their villages as a result of the policies being implemented by the customs on duty collection.

"The 90% increase in customs duty has jeopardized and crippled the industry and the economy as a whole, this has rendered a lot of young professionals jobless on the street," Hon Remilekun stated.

However, speaking at a conference in Lagos, Webb Fontaine's Managing Director, Babalola, shed light on the

issues

"I think the first thing we need to be able to do with them is to have a discussion with them, because there is no way our servers could break down. I see the stories and read them in the news, and sometimes I am quite disappointed to hear these accounts because we get there and see that nothing is wrong and there is no truth to the news.

"There are several things that can go on at the ports and the offices, and not all should be termed server breakdowns. Our servers and networks are always up and running over 99% of the time, so let us do better in reporting.

"Our staff are well trained; they undergo extensive training for years, and they are very knowledgeable when it comes to what they do. Many of them will also be surprised at the turn of the reports too. As technology evolves, so do training needs, and these will continue to be met.

"Customs in Nigeria already operates a paperless and automated system, and it covers all the agencies that are involved in the country's trade cycle.

"There are a few that are not yet fully integrated, like the NPA, but we're hoping that when they get their own automation done, we can work together so that, between the Customs and Ports' automation, everything will go smoothly.

"Web Fontaine actually runs a port community system in the Benin Republic and several other countries, which integrates all the agencies involved in the trade cycle to make it all automated and functional. And those countries are really enjoying the best of everything, so I see no reason why we cannot do the same in Nigeria.

"NPA is under the Ministry of Transport, NCS is under the Ministry of Finance, and Trade is under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, which means you have three different ministries sometimes with different objectives and goals or areas of focus and opinions on what is the best way to advance Nigeria's trade and commerce.

"Their focus might be a little bit different, but I think there is a very important need to put all of them together so that there is a single focus and drive toward a one-stop shop for proper automation.

"I would say we already have 90% of that in the Customs-based single window, which you can check out online at trade.com.ng to see the agencies involved. Those that aren't should just join so that we can make everything work together.

"I think you'd have seen the House of Rep's decision to carry out auditing, which we are happy to cooperate with them on. That way, we will be able to find out what exactly the problems are, and find solutions to them," he added.

Why we are promoting movement of cargo by barges - NIWA



■ movement of cargo barge in Nation's waters

Despite the complaint of insecurity around the nation's waterways, the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) says movement of cargo across the country remains the best option.

It says that barges operate in low draught waters and that In Nigeria, barges are in use but with a lot of challenges.

Managing Director of NIWA, Dr

George Moghalu, said many Nigerian shippers for security reasons are usually not comfortable to use barges in movement of their goods for long distances.

The NIWA boss said the issue of insecurity in the country has been pointed out by the shippers, but that those who attempt engaging the services of barge operators often prepare for enough security apparatus

to battle armed robbery gangs or pirates operating in different riverine areas where these goods will be passing.

He said the federal government recently identified the importance of barges in movement of goods from Lagos ports to different parts of the country using the River Niger.

Moghalu, called on Nigerian shippers based in the South East to use barges in moving some of their goods in Lagos ports instead of using road transport.

"This was however not taken seriously in view of the risk involved. The importers did not want to take the risk because of the huge investment involved

"The Barge Operators Association of Nigeria (BOAN) had pointed out the issue of inadequate security to guarantee the movement of the goods. There were over 1000 containers that would have been moved as at last year. BOAN had pointed out the high cost involved in hiring security operatives to accompany such goods.

"However, NIWA recently made daring moves when it facilitated the transportation of tiles to Onitsha River port from Lagos. The goods were owned by the West African Ceramic Limited, a leading manufacturer of tiles in Nigeria under the brand name 'Royal' in Ajaokuta, Kogi state.

"With barges, tiles worth 22 trailers were moved with barges to Onitsha River Port, Anambra state. NIWA provided escort for the company which used its barge M.V Vega to move the goods. NIWA's tugboat, including escort from Inland Waterways Police were involved to ensure security for the goods," he added.

The Minister of Transportation, Engineer Mua'zu Jaji Sambo, had at a recent event in Lagos also identified the need to use barges in evacuating goods out of the ports.

Sambo had given express order to the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to ensure that cargo delivery out of the Lekki Deep Seaport cannot be by road because of the gridlock it will cause.

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

Why we're supporting artisan miners despite wooing coys – Minister

By Faruk Shuaibu

The Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Olamilekan Adegbite, has said the federal government is providing funding and other forms of support to artisan miners in the country to improve the sector and engender economic growth along the value chain.

This is just as the minister said the country can't rely on the activities of the miners to accelerate the generation of government revenue but the need for big companies to invest in the mining of natural resources for Nigeria to optimally benefit from the sector.

Speaking during an appearance on Arise TV Morning Show, which was monitored by our reporter, yesterday, Adegbite said over 400,000 artisans exist in the country which the government is supporting through cooperatives as it considered subsistence miners that need to be protected as they rely on the trade to feed their family.

"Artisan mining is the major activity we have in Nigeria but it will not get us to where we are going. Yes, they have fulfilled their purpose that is why the government has not made it illegal. We don't want to dislodge these people and put them out of work and put the families in a problem. Today we have over 4,000 cooperatives; it is a minimum of 10 people coming together. When they form a cooperative, we give



■ Adegbite

them access to funds. We have a fund with the bank of industry and it is the cheapest you can get in this country. You can borrow the sum of N100m at 5 per cent interest rate per annum for a tenor of about 20 years. Apart from the fund, we give them free training," Adegbite said.

He however said Nigeria will not begin to realise the potential of the sector until big players invest in it, adding that this could be realised if the sector is de-risked as the sector needs lots of money for exploration.

He added that with data on where each mineral could be found in the country, investors can easily come in and allow the sector to grow and contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product.

"There is the need to invest its own money in exploration

and acquiring data. This is what President Muhammadu Buhari did, especially in 2017. This data is what is attracting people to the sector now. Additionally, when we came in, I noticed that we were going the petroleum route again, where we will export crude oil and bring in the refined product. So we started a process to engage stakeholders and it is over two years but today, it is an official policy of the government and it was approved by the Federal Executive Council where without beneficiation, you can't export raw ore from Nigeria anymore," he said.

While stating that this would create jobs in the country, he said reforms in the sector have attracted lots of investments from the UK, US, Canada and Australia that are now mining actively.

"A Canadian company is currently mining gold in Osun State and this is because we supported them; gave them the enabling environment and all those factors that were militating against mining in the past like infrastructure and so on, people from the private sector are coming in," he added.

He stated that there is a private sector initiative on using the waterways as primary transportation for the exportation of minerals and it is working with the private owner of Burutu Port, in Delta State, to designate it as the mineral export port in Nigeria.

When asked on what would be the fate of the Ajaokuta Steel Company with the federal government now in full possession of it, he said it is working on a different path of concession with the aid of a transactional advisor to guide the federal government on the proper thing to do.

He said the federal government had received 11 bidders interested in the company but they will be the ones to come with their equity.

"We don't want a free ride anymore, which is the lesson we learnt from the past. We have learnt a lot of lessons because we have had two sessions of concessions of Ajaokuta that have failed; this time around, we are being guided by experts and because of the values inherent in Ajaokuta, which people have visited and appreciated, we have a lot of interest of people who want to come in but those who want to come in must do so on an equity basis," he said.

Vitafoam donates products to New Year Babies

From Yvonne Ugwuezuoha, Lagos

Determined to sustain its Community Social Responsibility, CSR, despite the inclement operating environment in Nigeria, a frontline manufacturer of rigid foams and basic household materials, Vitafoam Nigeria PLC, has presented corporate gifts to the babies of the year at Lagos Island Maternity Hospital in Lagos State, as well as re-affirmed its commitment towards assisting the underprivileged, especially in the health and education sectors.

The Company had on Sunday, January 1, 2023, presented gifts to the first three babies of the year. The first baby, who was delivered at exactly 1:15 am, was presented baby cot mattress, complete baby comfy, nursing pillow and breastfeeding cover; The second baby, delivered at 1:30 am, was presented baby cot and mattress and complete baby comfy while the third baby, born at 1:45 am was awarded baby cot and mattress; all females.

"We so much believe in maternal healthcare. We are always here every first day of the year to look after the children and present a token to the babies of the year and their parents. We also see this as an opportunity to say thank you to health care workers, ensuring the safety of mothers and babies.

"Vitafoam, as a brand, has its CSR policy centred on healthcare, education and Community Development. Despite the low purchasing power in the country, Vitafoam did not relent in its effort to give back to the society. In view of this, Vitafoam donated a block of 4 classrooms to a primary school in Ibaram, in Ondo State, which was recently commissioned and a block of 4 classrooms soon to be commissioned in Borno State", says Vitafoam's Commercial Director, Sola Owoade.

Apex Nurse at Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, Mrs Oluwatoyin Champion, commended Vitafoam's Board and Management for keeping faith with the annual donation of its quality products to the families of the first three babies of the year.

Director of Clinical Services and Training, Dr Ogungbemile Babalola, who represented the Medical Director, Dr Olufemi Omololu, said Vitafoam's partnership with the Hospital had always added value to the annual event.

N/Assembly gives conditions to reconsider stance on FG borrowing from CBN

By Muideen Olaniyi

The President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan, has given conditions which must be met before the National Assembly can reconsider the proposal to securitize the Federal Government's outstanding Ways and Means balance at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

He gave the conditions Tuesday in Abuja while fielding questions from State House reporters after President Muhammadu Buhari had signed into law the 2023 Appropriation Bill along with the 2022 Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

President Muhammadu Buhari had penultimate week asked the Senate to restructure the Ways and Means advances to raise the amount to N23.7trn with a tenor of 40 years, three years moratorium

on repayment, and an interest rate of 9 per cent.

The Ways and Means provision allows the government to borrow from the apex bank if it needs short-term or emergency finance to fund delayed government expected cash receipts of fiscal deficits.

However, the Senate had last Wednesday rejected the request of the President to restructure the N22.7 trillion loans the CBN extended to the federal government under its Ways and Means provision.

Since the government started experiencing a significant shortfall in revenue, it has relied heavily on the central bank to finance its expenditure programmes via Ways and Means which balance as of December 19, 2022 stood at N22.7 trillion.

President Buhari, while speaking

after signing the 2023 budget, urged the National Assembly to reconsider its position on his proposal to securitize the Federal Government's outstanding Ways and Means balance at the CBN.

"As I stated, the balance has accumulated over several years and represents funding provided by the CBN as lender of last resort to the government to enable it to meet obligations to lenders, as well as cover budgetary shortfalls in projected revenues and/or borrowings.

"I have no intention to fetter the right of the National Assembly to interrogate the composition of this balance, which can still be done even after granting the requested approval.

"Failure to grant the securitization approval will however cost the government about

N1.8 trillion in additional interest in 2023 given the differential between the applicable interest rates which is currently MPR plus 3% and the negotiated interest rate of 9% and a 40-year repayment period on the securitised debt of the Ways and Means," he said.

Reacting to a question on whether the National Assembly would reconsider the proposal of the president, Lawan said: "We are already considering that, but let me tell you where the problem is. While we are trying to consider and pass the request. We will insist on getting the right documents for our committees to ensure that whatever they advise us to do in the two chambers are based on information and knowledge and not just passing ways and means without knowing what it is."

15 dead, 5 injured in Kogi auto crash

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), on Tuesday confirmed 15 persons dead and five others seriously injured in an auto crash that occurred in Kogi.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the crash followed a collision between J-5 Boxer Bus and a Petroleum Tanker, at Koton-Karfe along Lokoja-Abuja

highway around 7.30am on Tuesday.

Corps Commander Stephen Dawulung, Kogi FRSC Sector Commander, who confirmed the incident, said that the five injured persons were rushed to Ideal Hospital at Koton-Karfe for immediate medical attention.

Dawulung said the corpses of the dead victims had been deposited at the Morgue of the Federal

Medical Centre (FMC), Lokoja.

The sector commander explained that the cause of the crash was due to sheer violation of traffic rules by the bus driver, who was driving against traffic while heading to Abuja from Lokoja.

"The bus driver left his lane and was driving in the opposite direction on high speed only to have a head on collision with an on

coming petroleum tanker.

"Thank God the tanker which was laden with Petroleum product did not go up in flames, which could have been more devastating and worrisome.

"The unfortunate thing is that the bus was conveying iron cramps with 17 passengers, 15 of which were terribly squeezed and choked to death during the collision."

Fuel tanker crushes motorcycle rider in Lagos

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

There was a pandemonium in the Mile 2 area of Lagos on Tuesday when a fuel laden tanker overturned after colliding with a motorcycle.

Daily Trust learnt that the motorcycle along the Mile2- Oshodi expressway was facing the tanker while there was a collision in the process.

Motorcycle riders popularly known as Okada are used to facing oncoming vehicles despite an existing

ban on their operations.

The accident happened around Lacasera inward Oshodi.

Emergency officials including firefighters and LASEMA Response Unit (LRU) were at the scene to dampen the petroleum product spilled by the fallen tanker.

Permanent Secretary of the LASEMA, Dr. Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu who confirmed the incident said the motorcycle rider whose identity had not been identified lost his life.



■ From left; National President of Restaurant and Food Services Proprietors Association of Nigeria (RESPAN) and the MD/CEO of Sweet Sensation Nigeria, Lady Kehinde Kamson receiving a plaque from Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, while the BOT Chairperson, RESPAN and Managing Director of Taste Fried Chicken, Mrs Pamela Adedayo, watches during a courtesy visit to the Governor at Lagos House, Marina yesterday

Photo: Lagos State House

Son kills father for 'hypnotising' him in Akwa Ibom

From Iniabasi Umo, Uyo

The Akwa Ibom State Police Command said it has arrested one Joseph Friday for killing his father on the premise that the deceased allegedly hypnotised him.

It was gathered that the suspect beat the deceased to death, and dragged the lifeless body of his father to the road. Confessing to the crime, Friday told our correspondent on Tuesday in Uyo that his father usually appeared to him in the dream and hypnotised him.

He stated that whenever he was hypnotised by the deceased, something

like a tortoise entered his body and he began to act mentally unstable.

Narrating his 'ordeal', the suspect said, "My father used a charm on me, he appeared in my dream and hypnotised me. Whenever he appears, something like a tortoise enters my body and I start to behave abnormally. I am a 25-year-old farmer, I hit my father with my hand and he died."

Speaking on the incident, Commissioner of Police, Olatoye Durosinmi said the suspect's mother reported the incident to the police, leading to the arrest of her son.

2 NAF officers 'killed', 1 injured as truck rammed into checkpoint in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Two officers of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) have been allegedly killed with one said to be critically injured after a trailer with brake failure allegedly rammed into them in Kwara State.

It was gathered that the incident, which occurred around Pasa bridge, Eyenkorin, about 200 meters to the NAF base, caused tension between the air force and residents of the community.

The Kwara State Secretary of the community policing advisory committee, Shola

Muse, said the incident occurred due to a brake failure.

"I have called the police command to go to the place to avert any breakdown of law and order because of the growing tension," he told *Daily Trust*.

When our correspondent visited the scene on Tuesday, a NAF patrol vehicle with registration number AF 496 C01 was stationed at the scene with stern looking officers.

According to an eyewitness who identified himself as Alhaji Pasa, "The officers were on duty when the truck crushed the

two of them and critically injured one after its break failed as it was approaching the air force checkpoint.

"The driver of the truck attempted to run away after the incident but was shot on the legs by the officers. The residents had called for the relocation of the checkpoint but to no avail," he added.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer and Commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission (NYSC) in Kwara State, Okasanmi Ajayi and Frederick Ade Ogidan said they were aware of the incident.

"I also heard about it

but don't have the details, maybe the casualties were evacuated before my men got there," Ogidan said.

Okasanmi on his part told *Daily Trust* that "I learnt about it that some (air force) officers were involved in an accident but they (air force) did not send the details to me".

But the NAF Civil/Military Relations Officer, Ilorin, Mathew Adeniyi, when contacted on phone said: "Who gave you that information?"

"Right now, I am on leave and I will have to go to the headquarters to find out. I am sorry about that," Adeniyi added.

Nigerians to cough out N400,000 for Starlink

By Faruk Shuaibu

Nigerians will have to pay \$600 to be able to use Elon Musk's Starlink internet service in the country.

Daily Trust reports that Starlink, a broadband from Musk with the aim to sell internet connections to every part of the world through private satellites orbiting in low-earth,

would need Nigerians to pay a black-market price of N438,000, N730 to \$1, or official rate of N269,130, N448 to \$, to acquire the setup hardware.

This is even as the subscription to service would cost \$43 per month, which is about N31,000 or N19,287.

The company said Nigerians can pre-order the \$600 hardware as it prepares to launch this year but stated that its rollout is now "pending regulatory approval."

Recall that the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami, had last year noted that some administrative issues were delaying Starlink's

scheduled launch.

He had said, "They have now commenced the deployment of their facilities in Nigeria. Nigeria is the first African country to reach that partnership and also approval for the deployment.

"As part of the partnership, Space X is to provide broadband access across the whole of Nigeria, enabling nationwide access to broadband connectivity way ahead of the December 2025 schedule, as outlined in our National

Broadband Plan. With this collaboration with SpaceX's Starlink, Nigeria is set to be the 1st African country to introduce the service," he added.

But some Nigerians have expressed concerns that the cost of acquiring Starlink's hardware is too high. They are also disturbed that Nigerians can only pay for the hardware and subscription in dollars, while most Nigerian banks have suspended dollar transactions on naira cards.

PDP will win Benue despite opposition noisemaking – Ortom

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State on Tuesday said no amount of noisemaking from the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) will stop the ruling Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) from winning the state governorship election expected to hold in March.

Ortom spoke when he received the PDP's governorship candidate,

Titus Uba, at Government House in Makurdi.

Uba had just returned home after being away for several weeks on medical vacation in Germany where he underwent treatment for an undisclosed ailment.

Ortom while thanking God for the speedy recovery of Uba, said his quick recovery was an indication that all forces of darkness against the state and PDP had failed woefully.

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CITY & CRIME

Ritualists invade Ogun community, exhumed 40 skulls

• Dead bodies are no longer safe, locals cry out

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Some hoodlums suspected to be ritualists have invaded Ipokia community in Ipokia LGA of Ogun State and exhumed 40 skulls.

It was gathered that the ritualists usually operated at night.

The locals said the hoodlums dug graves in different parts and exhumed skulls and other

human parts. Residents told our correspondent that the ritualists started the act about two months ago, and they have succeeded in making away with scores of human skulls.

Our correspondent gathered that nobody has been arrested since the exhuming of corpses began in Ipokia town.

"They sneak into people's compounds, dig the grave and remove the skull and any other

parts they need. You will just wake up in the morning and see that the grave in your compound has been dug and the skull removed. But nobody has been arrested since two months ago when this aberration started," a source said.

An elder in Ipokia, Prince Samuel Adeyemi, said two corpses were dug out in his compound on Friday, lamenting that nobody was doing anything to stop the act.

He said the 'skull harvesters' are becoming more desperate in their bid to steal as many skulls from the tombs in Ipokia, for reasons best known to them.

"Dead bodies are no longer safe in Ipokia because some people want to become billionaires overnight. Please help us," he lamented.

The police spokesman, Abimbola Oyeyemi, said he had not been briefed on the incident.

3 held over 'murder attempt' of police officer

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Operatives of the Ogun Police Command have arrested three men over the alleged attempted murder of a police sergeant, Akinpelu Sunday, while carrying out his duty at Orile Imo, in Obafemi Owode LGA of the state.

The suspects, Olayiwola Basiru, Bamimore Isiaka and Soliu were arrested when they allegedly attacked the policeman and attempted to burn a police towing vehicle.

The police spokesman, Abimbola Oyeyemi, on Monday, in Abeokuta, told newsmen that following the report of an accident at Orile Imo area, the police sergeant attached to the Traffic Section of the Owode Egba Divisional Headquarters was detailed to rescue the victims and recover the vehicles involved to the station.

"But on getting to the scene, the suspects attacked the policeman and the towing vehicle driver with a sledge hammer, stick and other dangerous weapons in order to prevent them from taking one of the vehicles involved to the station for further investigation.

"The policeman and the towing vehicle driver managed to escape from the scene and ran to the station with varying degrees of injuries.

"The Divisional Police Officer, Owode Egba Division, CSP Olasunkanmi Popoola, when hinted, led his men to the place where he met the suspects who had already poured petrol on the towing vehicle and were about to set it ablaze after removing the cash sum of N520,000 belonging to the towing vehicle driver," he said.

He said three of the hoodlums were arrested, while others escaped, but the remaining petrol was recovered from them.

Oyeyemi quoted the Commissioner of Police, Lanre Bankole, as having ordered that those who escaped must be hunted for and brought to book.

He added that the CP further directed that the arrested suspects be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department for further investigation and prosecution.

Motorists' clash truncates peace in Ogun - RTEAN

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

The Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) in Ogun State has bemoaned the recent clash among motorists in the state, describing it as unacceptable.

Our correspondent had reported a clash between rival unions at the annual Itori Day, in which many were injured in the presence of Governor Dapo Abiodun.

The Secretary of RTEAN in the state, Tiwalade Akingbade, told newsmen in Abeokuta that the peaceful atmosphere being enjoyed in the last four years by motorists had been truncated.

He particularly warned the chairman of the state parks management (OGSPAM), Akeem Bodunrin, popularly known as Iyeru and other union leaders not to set the state on fire following the resurgence of clashes.

The body also accused Iyeru of launching an attack against its chairman, Akibu Titilayo, aka Efele.

"We are informing all the security agencies, the police, DSS, NSCDC, Amotekun, So-Safe and others, the state government and the general public that we, at the Road Transport Employers' Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), would not sit idly, fold our arms and receive violent attacks from Iyeru and the hooligans," he declared.

While calling on Iyeru to support what he called the decision of the state government, Akingbade advised him "not to allow himself to be used by the opposition party to create a state of panic and violence in Ogun State," especially as the elections are here.

Reacting, Iyeru debunked all the allegations, saying the RTEAN members were only trying to be smart by being the first to address the press.

Speaking through his vice chairman, Jimoh Olatunbosun Ajagbe, Iyeru said the clash at Itori had nothing to do with him, saying he was never in possession of any gun, let alone shooting anybody.

Court dissolves 3-month-old marriage over food, orders wife to return ring

A Sharia Court in Magajin-Gari, Kaduna, on Tuesday, dissolved the marriage between Muhammad Abdulganiyu and Ma'arufat Ibrahim.

Abdulganiyu, in his petition, alleged that his wife left their matrimonial home without any altercation.

"I tried my best to provide for her, but she and her mother do not appreciate my efforts, and we've been

married barely three months.

"If she's not interested in the marriage anymore, she should pay me all I spent during the wedding and return the phone and silver rings I gave her," he said.

But the wife told the court that she left because her husband did not provide food for her.

The judge, Malam Rilwan Kyaudai, said the marriage was dissolved after all efforts to reconcile the couple by

the court and their guardians failed.

He ordered the woman to return N20,000 paid as dowry.

"She will also return the marriage suitcases she received and their contents, with the exception of the ones she has sown.

"She will not return the cell phone as requested by the complainant, but she will return the silver rings she received from him," the judge ruled. (NAN)

QUICK READ

Yuletide celebration peaceful in C/Rivers - NSCDC, Police

Security agencies in Cross River State on Tuesday lauded the conduct of residents of the state during the Yuletide celebration and the annual Calabar carnival.

The heads of the security agencies in the state, who spoke in a telephone interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Calabar, said the celebrations were generally peaceful.

Mr Samuel Fadeyi, the Commandant, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corp (NSCDC) told NAN that no serious case of insecurity was recorded during the celebrations.

Similarly, SP Irene Ugbo, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), told NAN that no case of kidnapping or robbery was recorded during the period. (NAN)

Ooni donates borehole to Ogun community

Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, through his Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), "Hope Alive Initiative", has donated a borehole to Ago-Iwoye community in Ogun.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the donation, under the theme: "Free Water For All", was part of the many projects undertaken by the NGO.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Convener of the NGO and Ooni's wife, Olori Temitope Ogunwusi, said that the gesture was borne out of her passion to serve humanity and give back to her community.

According to her, the borehole projects have been going on in Ogun, with the latest being the fourth.

Lawmaker offers free medical services to 250 people in Nasarawa

Alhaji Abdullahi Angibi, a member of the Nasarawa State House of Assembly (APC-Lafia Central Constituency) has provided free medical services to 250 people in his constituency.

Angibi made this known on Tuesday during the medical outreach in the Agyaragu community of his constituency.

The services ranged from screening of hepatitis B and C, malaria, blood pressure and other medical services.

The lawmaker, who spoke through Chairman, Agyaragu Medical Forum, Mr Namu David, said he was committed to improving their health status.

Responding, Mrs Elizabeth Sabo, Mr Zakari Musa and Mr Usman Audu, among other beneficiaries, who spoke appreciated the lawmaker for the gesture and prayed God to bless him abundantly. (NAN)

Fire razes Plateau Specialist Hospital lab

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

A fire outbreak yesterday razed the laboratory section of the Plateau State Specialist Hospital in Jos, the state capital.

The incident was said to have occurred as a result of an electrical fault in the laboratory, which affected the circuit box.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the incident, reports that the fire started around 2am but that no lives were lost.

A staff of the hospital said the fire outbreak destroyed several pieces of medical equipment and office appliances valued at millions of naira.

"The incident led to commotion among patients in the hospital, but we thank God no life was lost. The equipment destroyed by this fire are worth millions," he said.

Efforts to reach the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Philemon Golwa, proved abortive.



Some drugs seized by the NDLEA operatives in Kogi State recently

Police create another divisional station to tackle insecurity in Mangu

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

The Plateau State Police Commissioner, Bartholomew Onyeka, has created another police divisional headquarters in Gindiri District of Mangu LGA of the state.

While commissioning the Police Division on Friday, the commissioner said the creation of the new Divisional Headquarters

was to prevent further attacks on communities that have suffered incessant attacks by gunmen.

The creation of the new police division comes barely four months after the police commissioner established a divisional police headquarters in Bashar District of Wase LGA of the state following incessant attacks and killings in the area.

He said, "Today, policing is community driven. This simply

involves making use of what you have to do in your policing work. I had promised that so long as I am here, I will ensure the realisation of the division, and that has become a reality. We need the community's support to achieve our desired goals.

"For the hunters and vigilantes who are here with us, I want you to work with the police to ensure synergy and get rid of criminality in this community."

Corpse of murdered couple's son recovered from Ogun river

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

The corpse of Oreoluwa Fatinoye, the son of the couple allegedly killed on New Year's Day in Abeokuta, Ogun State, has been recovered from a river on Tuesday.

The deceased was reportedly killed and thrown into a river along the Adigbe-Obada road in Abeokuta after he was kidnapped by the assailants who killed his parents.

The couple, Kehinde and Bukola Fatinoye, reportedly died during the incident that occurred at their residence located within the Ibara Government Reservation Area

(GRA), Abeokuta.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred shortly after the couple returned from crossover service to usher in the New Year.

The wife was a staff at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), while the husband was employed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The decomposing body of Oreoluwa was discovered floating on the river by fishermen on Tuesday morning.

Oreoluwa and the housemaid were reportedly kidnapped by the assailants, and the two were later thrown into a river along

the Adigbe-Obada area of the town.

Our correspondent observed both hands of the deceased were tied with rope to his back, apparently before he was thrown into the river.

The fisherman, Idowu Taiwo, who discovered the corpse, said the lifeless body was found floating on the river while he was preparing for the day's work.

"On Monday, we heard that someone was thrown into this river, but this morning, while we were preparing for work, the police approached us and pleaded with us to inform them any time we discover the body.

"But this morning, around

7:30am, we discovered the body while we were checking on our equipment in the river. I called someone to help us get the number of the PPRO to tell him that we had discovered the body.

"Not long after, the police came, and we showed them the body after we had brought it to the river bank," Idowu said.

The Daily Trust reports that the police later took the corpse of Oreoluwa away in the presence of a family member of the Fatinoyes.

The police spokesman, Abimbola Oyeyemi, said the command had commenced an investigation into the deaths of the Fatinoyes.



Some suspects paraded at the FCT police command at the weekend

Kano man remanded for slapping police officer

From Zahraddeen Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano

A Kano Sharia Court sitting in Gama, Nasarawa LGA, has ordered the remand of one Rabiu Zakari in a correctional centre for allegedly obstructing a public servant while discharging his lawful duty.

Zakari, who lives at Gama Quarters in Kano, is standing trial on a four-

count charge bordering on criminal conspiracy, obstruction of a public servant in the discharge of his duty, assault and possession of hard drugs suspected to be hemp.

The prosecutor, Mr Aliyu Abideen, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on December 19 at Badawa Quarters, Kano.

He alleged that on

1:30 am, a team of police personnel attached to the Badawa police division in Kano arrested the defendant while on patrol.

"The defendant was found in possession of cannabis Sativa and Diazepam tablet.

"After his arrest, the suspect escaped but was later rearrested; he slapped the DCO and assaulted the DPO of Badawa Police Division."

The defendant pleaded guilty to one of the charges but denied the others.

Abideen said the offences contravened sections 120, 313, 343 and 330 of the Kano State Sharia Penal Code.

The presiding judge, Mallam Nura Yusuf Ahmad, ordered the defendant's remand in prison custody and adjourned the matter to February 1, for hearing.

Gunmen shoot 3, kill driver, abduct 6 in Nasarawa community

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Gunmen have shot dead a truck driver simply identified as Halidu, injured three others and abducted six by a bush in Rudu village in Toto LGA of Nasarawa State.

A relative of the abducted victims, Saidu Adamu, said the incident happened on Monday, when the gunmen opened fire on a truck carrying timber at a forest in Rudu village.

He said the gunmen emerged from the bush, opened fire on the moving truck and the bullet hit the driver.

"When their bullets hit the driver, he was forced to stop while three

other labourers sitting on the timber escaped with bullet wounds," he said.

He said when the driver jumped from the truck, he tried to escape, but the gunmen opened fire and killed him on the spot.

According to him, the gunmen whisked away six people at gunpoint, saying the three injured were receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Toto town.

City & Crime learnt that the six people abducted were from Shishin Geneshi village, while the three shot were from neighbouring Shafa-Koto village and the deceased truck driver was from Enyezi community, all in Toto LGA.

Adamu disclosed that contact has been established with the abductors of the victims, who are demanding N20 million ransom.

The chairman of Toto LGA, Alhaji Abdullahi Tashas, confirmed the kidnapping, saying a joint security forces team comprised of police, soldiers and vigilantes had been mobilised into the forest to rescue the victims unhurt.

The spokesman of the Nasarawa State Police Command, while replying to a text message sent to him on the incident, said, "The command has not received any report of such an occurrence; I just found out from the DPO. Good morning."