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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You are judged by how you treat others. So work on it

- Mufti Ismail Menk



AFRICAN SAYINGS

“When a strong man sends a message, he sends it with a weak man”

(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 20, 1444 AH

PRAYERS	ABUJA	ENUGU	KADUNA	KANO	KATSINA	LAGOS	MAIDUGURI	P/HARCOURT	SOKOTO
FAJR	5:34	5:34	5:37	5:36	5:41	5:51	5:19	5:34	5:50
DHUHR	12:43	12:44	12:44	12:39	12:43	1:01	12:22	12:47	12:51
ASR	3:57	3:58	3:58	3:53	3:57	4:15	3:36	4:01	4:05
MAGHRIB	6:28	6:29	6:26	6:19	6:22	6:47	6:02	6:33	6:33
ISHA	7:33	7:34	7:31	7:24	7:27	7:52	7:07	7:38	7:38

SOURCE: Society for the propagation of Islam, Kaduna



PHOTO OF THE DAY

The English National Ballet performs Swan Lake at the Coliseum, London, England

Photo: Tristram Kenton/The Guardian

STOCK INDEX

GAINERS	ELLAHLAKES	LASACO	INTBREW	DANGSUGAR	SUNUASSUR	LOSERS	ABBEYBDS	CHELLARAM	FTNCOCOA	NAHCO	ROYALEX
OPEN	N3.96	N1.10	N5.05	N17.15	N0.31	OPEN	N1.53	N1.48	N0.27	N6.80	N0.98
CLOSE	0.36	0.10	0.40	1.15	0.02	CLOSE	-0.17	-0.16	-0.01	-0.25	-0.02
CHANGE	10.00%	10.00%	8.60%	7.19%	6.90%	CHANGE	-10.00%	-9.76%	-3.57%	-3.55%	-2.00%

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INEC extends PVCs collection deadline by 1 week

By Abbas Jimoh

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has extended the deadline for the collection of permanent voter cards (PVCs) nationwide by one week.

Daily Trust reports that INEC had fixed January 22 as the deadline after the cards were moved to the wards and registration areas for ease of collection.

National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee of INEC, Festus Okoye, said this Thursday night at the end of the commission's regular meeting where the ongoing collection of the PVCs and other issues were deliberated upon.

He said the commission was

encouraged by the turnout of registered voters and the surge in the number of collected PVCs across the country.

"In some of the states, as many as 100,000 PVCs were collected in the last five days since the devolution to Ward level started on Saturday 6th January 2023. The commission is determined to ensure that registered voters have ample opportunity to collect their PVCs ahead of the forthcoming election.

"For this reason, the timeframe for the collection of PVCs is extended by eight days. Instead of ending on Sunday 22nd January 2023, the collection of PVCs will continue until Sunday 29th January 2023. At the moment, the period of collection is 9am-3pm daily (including Saturdays and Sundays).

"As a result of this extension, there is a consequential adjustment of the collection by location as follows: Collection at Registration Area (Ward) level is extended by one a week from Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd January 2023.

"Collection at Local Government level will resume on Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th January 2023," Okoye said.

Meanwhile, the commission said it had started investigating allegations of extortion by officials at some of the collection centres and inducement by some unscrupulous voters to circumvent processes in order to obtain their PVCs.

Those found culpable, Okoye said, would face disciplinary action and prosecution as may be necessary.



■ President Muhammadu Buhari (right) received Universal Peace Federation international Delegation UPF, at the State House, Abuja yesterday

N1.8bn generated from sale of forfeited assets — Malami

By Abdullateef Salau

The Ministry of Justice yesterday said it had generated N1.82 billion from the sale of forfeited property under its local asset recovery and management effort between 2015 and 2022.

The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), disclosed this in Abuja at the 18th edition of the President Muhammadu Buhari (PMB) administration's scorecard series.

Malami also said in compliance with presidential mandates and foreign judicial processes, his ministry had recovered total sums of £6.32 million; €5.49 million and \$390 million from various jurisdictions.

He said some of the recovered funds were being utilised in the financing of critical infrastructures including the Abuja-Kano Expressway, Second Niger Bridge, and Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

He said the administration's

anti-corruption effort had led to the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act; Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2017; Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit Act, 2018; Mutual Legal Assistance Act, 2018; Company and Allied Matters Act incorporating Beneficial Ownership, 2020; Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and Witness Protection and Management Act, 2022.

On criminal prosecutions, the minister said a total of 3,000 terrorism cases have been profiled to date out of which over 1500 cases were prosecuted, with 397 convictions realized.

He added that 7000 cases involving various offences including maritime, armed robbery, vandalization of electrical equipment and pipelines, financial matters, cybercrime, kidnapping and anti-corruption have been successfully prosecuted.

Malami said a total of 648 cases instituted against the

president, federal government and its agencies, before states, federal and ECOWAS courts were served on the ministry.

He said diligent defences of these cases in the year 2022 alone saved the government from huge judgment debt liabilities to the tune of N142.4bn and US\$507.4m.

He said these cases were handled by in-house State Counsel in the ministry; thus saving the country from further liabilities that would have accrued from payment of external solicitors' fees.

He said the federal government had made progress in the actions being taken to challenge the arbitral award in the case of Process & Industrial Development (P&ID).

Malami disclosed that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) between 2015 and 2021 made a total of 68,540 arrests and seizures of various hard drugs amounting to 3,136,166.59kg.

"A total of 5,546.81 hectares of cannabis farm were also destroyed," he added.

EFCC releases Okupe after DSS arrest over outdated watch list

By Idowu Isamotu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) says it has not issued a fresh request to the Department of State Services (DSS) to arrest Doyin Okupe, a former media adviser to former President Goodluck Jonathan.

Okupe, also a former Director-General of the Labour Party's Presidential Campaign Council, was arrested by the operatives of DSS on his way to London at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos.

The spokesman of the secret police, Peter Afunanya, who confirmed Okupe's arrest, explained that the politician had been handed over to the EFCC that requested the action.

"He has long been handed over to the commission which requested for the action. Okupe was billed to fly to London via Virgin Atlantic," Afunanya said.

But reacting, the spokesman of the EFCC, Wilson Uwujaren, in a terse statement said the DSS acted on a watch-list request issued on July 18, 2016 before his recent conviction on money laundering charges by the Federal High Court, Abuja.

The statement read, "The Department of State Services, DSS, today, January 12, informed the Commission of the interception of Doyin Okupe, former presidential adviser, at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos.

"The service acted on a

Watch-list request issued on July 18, 2016, over six years before his recent conviction on money laundering charges by the Federal High Court, Abuja.

"The commission was in the process of formally lifting the watch list before his interception and will expedite action in this regard," he said.

However, Okupe via a tweet stated that he had been released from the custody of the EFCC and that the personnel of the agency apologised for the 'error'.

In a tweet on his official handle, Okupe wrote, "I was arrested and detained at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos this morning, January 12, on my way to the UK for medicals, years after my passport was withheld by the FHC, Abuja.

"I just left the EFCC office where the senior and younger officers in Lagos and Abuja apologised to me for the error."

Okupe's lawyer, Tolu Babaleye, had earlier said the arrest was meant to embarrass his client.

Daily Trust reports that a few weeks ago, a Federal High Court in Abuja convicted Okupe, who served as a former Senior Special Adviser on Public Affairs to President Goodluck Jonathan, over the diversion of arms funds from the Office of the National Security Adviser.

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu held that the prosecution made out a case of money laundering against Okupe and awarded the total sum of N13m in fines against him.

26 bidders grab Diezani's, other forfeited Abuja property

By Idowu Isamotu

No fewer than 26 bidders have been declared winners of the different property comprised of apartments and plots of land forfeited to the federal government by the court.

Among the property located in the nation's capital were those reportedly owned by a former Minister of Petroleum, Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke.

The anti-graft agency had last year commenced the bidding exercise before it began the physical aspect on Monday for property located in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano and other areas in the country.

Daily Trust had reported that there was no winner for Lot 1, 2 and 3 on Monday while 6 out of 90 bidders emerged winners for Lot 4 on Tuesday.

On the third day of the ongoing sale of forfeited

houses and landed property being conducted by the EFCC, 39 property located in different parts of the nation's capital were put in Lot 5.

Announcing the 26 winners on Thursday, the spokesman of the EFCC, Wilson Uwujaren, explained that a total of 26 bids were successful, while 13 property were not taken either for non-compliance with the guidelines or the highest bid falling short of the reserve price.

He added that the property listed as number 33 in the Lot were re-opened to fresh bids until Monday when the bids will be opened.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, who observed the whole physical exercise, said the commission and the real estate valuers were working hand-in-hand in order to ensure that no property was sold below the reserved price.

Tinubu, Atiku, Kwankwaso, Obi scramble for Kano's 5.9m votes

From Clement A. Oloyede,
Kano

The leading presidential candidates have intensified efforts to capture the over 5.9 million votes in Kano State, *Daily Trust* reports.

The state's votes in the past five election cycles have been majorly dedicated to President Muhammadu Buhari, who enjoyed unrivalled acceptability among the voters, but with his absence on the ballot paper for the first time since 2003, the leading presidential candidates of the opposition parties are now scrambling and tapping all potential avenues to get the majority, or a fair share of the now available 'Buhari bloc votes'.

But while there are 5.9 million registered voters in the state, voter turnout in the previous elections was below 50 per cent, except for the 2011 presidential election, based on available records.

Thus, beyond just hoping to win the state, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) and Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP), among others, would be hoping the voter turnout improves considerably and favour them.

Tinubu upbeat

Tinubu, observers say, believes Kano voters are considering his closeness to the powers that be, among them Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje while also hoping that Buhari would deploy his winning charm to his favour.

Despite these, Tinubu has not taken the state lightly as he has been frequenting it even before he emerged the presidential candidate which saw him hold his annual colloquium in 2021 in the commercial state, a departure from the usual venue of Lagos or Abuja.

Most recently, his presidential rally in the state was the talk of the town for days due to the massive turnout of supporters; a turnout his campaigners said was unprecedented in the state.

During his recent visit to the state and the previous ones, Tinubu met with different stakeholders, but most especially religious leaders, who he hoped would mobilise the residents to support his resolve to go for same-faith ticket.

In the same vein, Tinubu's vice presidential candidate, Kashim Shettima, has also visited Kano to meet with various stakeholders, including visiting the four emirs outside Kano metropolis after Tinubu had paid a courtesy call on the Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero.

Governor Ganduje, who currently enjoys the



■ Vice President Yemi Osinbajo (third right), receives in audience the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom Of Spain, H.E. Jose Manuel Albares, (third left), when the latter led some delegates to the Statehouse, Abuja yesterday

Photos: VP Office

unchallenged leadership of the party in the state, following the exit of the G-7 faction, has not held back in deploying every asset at his disposal to the Tinubu presidential ambition.

The governor is supported by two serving ministers, two APC senators, over 15 House of Representatives members, and 44 local government chairmen, among others.

Tinubu is therefore hoping for a repeat of the goodwill the party has enjoyed in the state since 2015, when Kano gave a total of 1.9 million votes to the then APC presidential candidate, Buhari, which represented about 12.5 per cent of the total 15.4 million votes the APC got in the election.

Although the figures decreased in 2019, the party still won the state with a substantial margin against the then-major opposition party, PDP.

However, since the defection of former governor Kwankwaso from PDP to NNPP, and his emergence as the party's presidential candidate, the permutations as to which party will have a good outing in Kano have become more complex.

Speaking on Wednesday, Ganduje told party supporters in the state that Kano will repeat what happened in the 1993 presidential election when it supported a southern candidate (late MKO Abiola) and rejected a citizen of the state (late Bashir Tofa), in a reference to voting massively for Tinubu against Kwankwaso.

Atiku banking on Shekarau, others

Atiku recognised the complexity of Kano politics early enough when he cashed in on the dissatisfaction of another former governor of the state, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, to woo him back to the PDP, which had hitherto lacked a strong leader since the exit of Kwankwaso and his Kwankwasiyya Movement.

This move decimated the chances of NNPP and the ruling APC, but both have since moved on and deployed new strategies.

The former vice president, who also enjoys personal goodwill in Kano, is therefore hoping that his party's recent recruit (Shekarau) will help him improve on his 391,593 votes in 2019.

But he is not leaving any stone unturned, as evidenced by his three-day visit to Kano in late August, when he received Shekarau back to the party and also held several strategic stakeholder consultation meetings. These, analysts believe, have injected life into his hope to capture Kano's votes in the election.

Kwankwaso cashing on grassroots support

For Kwankwaso, despite being regarded by his loyalists as the most influential politician in Kano, nothing points to the need to take the state more seriously than the results of the 2011 presidential election, which saw Shekarau, who was then the sitting governor, garner only 526,310 votes, against 1,624,543 Buhari (then of the CPC), and President Goodluck Jonathan's 440,666 in the results that emerged from the state.

While he is also yet to hold his campaign rally in the state, his recent visits have all had the undertone of campaigning. From his commissioning of the party's secretariat to several consultative meetings and a tour of several local governments, the leader of the Kwankwasiyya Movement is putting his foot on the ground.

Similarly, his loyalists and candidates of his party have been holding rallies across the state, and the massive turnout of youths and women donning their red caps and hijab insignia.

Interestingly, the breakdown of the new voter register by INEC indicated that Kano has 44.4% female voters and a huge number

of youths, a group that forms the core of his support base.

Political analysts believe the NNPP stands a stronger chance of winning Kano because the party and its leader appeal to the youth.

A member of the party, who asked not to be named, said all members of the party, who are working, have taxed themselves to provide the finances and logistics the party would need throughout the campaign period.

The party has also been buoyed recently by the defection of major leaders of the APC into its fold, including a former legislative aide to President Buhari, Honourable Kawu Sumaila, former Speaker of the state Assembly, Alhassan Rurum, and former federal lawmaker, Abdulmumin Jibrin Kofa, all of them from Kano South Senatorial Zone, where the party was hitherto believed to be light in support.

Anybody who works against me will regret -Kwankwaso

Apparently not taking things lightly, Kwankwaso had said, "I had a rally not long ago, which was one of the best rallies. I had one in Wudil, the southern senatorial district. I had one in Bichi, northern senatorial district. I opened my office in Kano Central and one of the best rallies because, you can't compare it with the ones by some of the candidates who had crowds that came to Kano from neighbouring states and so on.

"Now, you see, I don't want to talk about that man. I don't know whether he said it or not. But the reality is that, anybody who worked against NNPP or Kwankwaso in 2023, one day, he will regret it, that he made a mistake.

"Anybody who knows me, who knows my antecedents believes that, if I win this presidential election, Kano will

have maximum benefit, of course northern Nigeria will benefit and of course the country.

"So, I am surprised if you go and say I should hold a rally. Rally, I have done many rallies in Kano. In just recent months, January and December in Kano, in all the three senatorial districts. So, what is the problem about holding rally in Kano?"

Obi twice in Kano

For the Labour Party, its presidential candidate, Peter Obi, has visited Kano twice and on both occasions met with traditional rulers, a move political analysts said may be to widen his acceptability in the state.

However, at the moment, the strength of the candidate, according to observers, solely lies within the Sabongari area of the state, where non-indigenes of the state reside.

Why they're interested in Kano - Prof. Fage

Commenting recently on the attention Kano seems to be getting from the leading presidential candidates, Professor Kamilu Sani Fage of Bayero University Kano (BUK), said Kano had always been a strategic state for anyone contesting for the presidency because of its population and voter turnout in the past elections.

"One thing that will work against the APC is that it is in power and people are not generally happy with its performance. And for the Buhari votes, many people are disenchanted with him and the party in general, so it may not be a bloc vote as it used to be.

"So, it will be a major political gamble to think that because Kwankwaso will chip into the PDP's votes in the North, they (APC) will have a smooth sail. They have to work for it," Fage added.



Theme:
Interrogating the 2023 Presidential Agenda

Live broadcast on



John Cardinal Onaiyekan
Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja.
CHAIRMAN OF THE EVENT

..... Panelists



Mrs. Ibukun Awosika
Former Chairman,
First Bank of Nigeria (FBN).



Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim
Professor of Political Science and
member of the Board of the Centre
for Democracy and Development (CDD).



Dr. Yetunde Anibaba
Lecturer, Analysis of Business Problems,
Lagos Business School



Dr. Eugene Enahoro
Human Capacity Development Specialist
and CEO, Heltoni Services Limited.

Date: Thursday, January, 26, 2023 | **Venue:** NAF Conference Centre and Suites,
Time: 10:00 am | Gwarinpa Express Way, near NEXT
Shopping Mall, Kado, Abuja

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Ohinoyi accuses Yahaya Bello of impersonation, sidelining him

From Tijani Labaran, Lokoja & Itodo D. Sule, Abuja

The Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Dr Ado Ibrahim, has said the allegations made against him during the recent state visit of President Muhammadu Buhari by the Kogi State government are “unfortunate and unfounded.”

The monarch said this in his response dated January 6 to a query given to him by the Kogi State government through the state Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

The traditional ruler was queried for being absent on the occasion of President Muhammadu Buhari’s recent visit to the state. The royal father stated that there was no iota of truth in the allegations levelled against him, stressing that there was no official letter informing him about the visit of President Buhari on December 29 to commission the legacy projects executed by Governor Yahaya Bello.

He said the commissioner, Barrister Salami Ozigi Deedat, had visited him on December 28, 2022 at about 9.30pm, informing him that the president would visit Okene the following day to commission some projects.

He added that Dr Deedat instructed him to stay back in his “palace while

the president will be coming to pay a courtesy visit upon his arrival.”

“On 29th of December at about 8.15am, I received an unofficial copy of the visit programme of Mr President and I noted that Mr President was meant to commission the Ohinoyi’s palace at 10.10am.

“This observation implied that Mr President was to commission another palace other than my current palace that I have been occupying since I was crowned in 1997. It is worthy of note that as the paramount ruler of Ebiraland, I have not been officially informed of the existence of any palace,” he said.

“I have been kept in the dark about the reception arrangements and necessary entertainment to welcome Mr President on his 2nd visit to Okene, extolling the pleasure of my people to receive him.

“I cannot and have no intention to exhibit deliberate attitude and actions regarded as bringing Kogi State and Ebiraland in particular to grave disrepute, and regarded therefore as quite unbecoming of a revered royal father of my status,” he said in the statement.

However, the traditional ruler added that all allegations mentioned in the query were “very unfortunate” and

“unfair to my ripe experience and age, coupled with my royal dignity” in the country and international community.

He said, “It is worth mentioning to express gratitude to Governor Yahaya Bello whom I have not seen for sometime now to have informed Mr President I was unavoidably absent due to ill-health at his grand reception.

“While on the other hand, a person unknown to me represented me and read out a welcome speech to Mr President on my behalf which was not sanctioned by me.”

Meanwhile, Uk’Omu Igala Organisation, an umbrella body for all socio-cultural organisations in Kogi East, has called on Governor Bello to rethink his query to Ohinoyi of Epira for not properly welcoming President Buhari during the president’s visit to Okene in December, 2022.

In a statement signed by the group’s national leader, Mr David Abutu, and national secretary, Dr Sabestine Abu, yesterday, Uk’Omu Igala said the Epira traditional institution, represented by the Ohinoyi, should not be subjected to humiliation in the form of a query which had been given wide publicity in the media.

There was no additional comment from the state government after the response from the Ohinoyi.

Travellers stranded as drivers refuse to open Zaria- Kano Highway over killing of colleague

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Kaduna

Almost 24 hours after a soldier allegedly shot a tanker driver along Zaria-Kano Highway, a multitude of travellers have remained stranded on the road.

The protesting tanker drivers blocked the road on Wednesday around 3:30 pm shortly after a soldier attacked a construction company and shot the victim following an altercation. The incident happened near Tashar Yari in Makarfi town along the highway.

Efforts made to open the road on Wednesday by the representatives of police and National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) failed as the angry tanker drivers remained adamant on ensuring the victim got justice.

Daily Trust reported that Kaduna State Commissioner of Police Yekini Ayoku had ordered an investigation into the matter. The Sector Commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission Lawal Garba lamented over the continued blockage of the busy road on Thursday. “This is very disturbing because the road remained blocked by the protesting tanker drivers since yesterday (Wednesday). People are in difficulties as we speak. I have already contacted all those that I needed to be informed and yet the road remained blocked,” he said.

Troops eliminate over 50 terrorists, 377 others surrender

By Idowu Isamotu

The Defence Headquarters says troops eliminated more than 50 terrorists in various operations in North East and North West theatres of operation in three weeks.

The Director, Defence Media Operations, Maj.-Gen. Musa Danmadami, made this known while briefing newsmen on the operations of the military across the country on Thursday in Abuja.

Danmadami said the troop of

Operation Hadin Kai had between December 30 and January 12, eliminated no fewer than 25 Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province terrorists in the North East.

He said that the troops also apprehended 18 terrorists and 21 logistics suppliers, two foreign informants and five kidnappers across the theatre during the period.

Danmadami said the troops also rescued 47 abducted civilians while a total of 377 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists and members of their

families, comprising 52 adult males, 126 adult females and 199 children surrendered to troops.

He said all recovered items, apprehended criminals and rescued civilians were handed over to the appropriate authority for further action.

Speaking on the ongoing oil theft in the Niger Delta, Danmadami told journalists that troops attached to Operation Delta Safe recovered large quantities of stolen crude oil products and over N1 million.

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program
Procurement and Supply Management

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND MEDICAL CONSUMABLES FROM QUALIFIED NIGERIAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS/DISTRIBUTORS AND MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF MEDICAL CONSUMABLES AND REAGENTS.

CORRIGENDUM

Reference is hereby made to the advertisement of Request For Expression of Interest for the Supply of Essential Medicines and Medical Consumables from Qualified Nigerian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers/distributors and Manufacturers and Distributors of Medical Consumables and Reagents in Nasarawa, Bauchi, Sokoto, Zamfara and FCT-Abuja respectively; published in Daily Trust and Leadership Newspapers of Thursday 12th January, 2023.

The date for the online (virtual) pre-EOI conference was erroneously stated as 17th January 2023 at 10.00am.

The correct date for the online (virtual) pre-EOI conference is 24th January, 2023 at 10.00am. Interested companies are invited to attend an online (virtual) pre-EOI conference as scheduled.

All other information in the earlier advertisement remain same.

All inconveniences caused is highly regretted.

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Victim of NAF airstrike on Zamfara community dies

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

One of the victims of airstrikes by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) at Mutunji community in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State has died after weeks of surgical operations.

Last December, an aerial bombardment conducted by NAF on Mutunji community in the troubled Dansadau Emirate killed dozens of residents including armed criminals.

The collateral damage was recorded after the armed

criminals ran into Mutunji community to shield themselves from air raids on the sight of the military fighter jets.

Twelve of the victims were brought to Yariman Bakura Specialists Hospital in Gusau, the state capital.

The chairman, Medical Advisory Committee of the hospital, Dr Isah Bashir, who confirmed the death, however, said all other victims of the attacks were recuperating after successful operations.

He said the state government had been footing their medical

ills.

“The other victims cannot be discharged any time soon because of various degrees of injury they sustained, while some of them were referred to Federal Medical Centre, Gusau and Usman Danfodio University Teaching Hospital,” the management of the hospital said.

Meanwhile, some of the victims currently responding to treatments appealed to public spirited individuals to come to their aid to help them recover from the injuries they sustained.

Police officer killed during Edo magistrate rescue

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

A police officer was killed yesterday during a rescue operation that led to the release of the kidnapped Magistrate of Igueben Customary Area Court of Appeal, Mrs Precious Aigbonoga.

The magistrate was kidnapped on January 9 by gunmen around Ugoneki axis, Uhumwonde Local Government Area on her way to Igueben Local Government Area of Edo State.

It was gathered that the rescued magistrate who was shot during the operation was receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

Daily Trust learnt that the woman was rescued by the Special

Anti-Kidnapping Squad of the Edo State Command and the military in a joint operation.

Sources said she was rescued at a place called Scorpion Hill inside the forest where she was held captive after a gun battle that led to the death of the police officer.

A family source who preferred anonymity confirmed that the woman was rescued by the police and Nigeria Army.

He said the woman was shot by the kidnapers but was receiving treatment in the hospital.

The Edo State Police Command's spokesperson, Chidi Nwanbuzor, confirmed the incident.

Count me out of any collusion on 2023 polls — Obasanjo

From Peter Moses, Abeokuta

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo says he is not part of any alleged collusion over the 2023 general elections in Nigeria.

Obasanjo spoke through his media aide, Kehinde Akinyemi, in Abeokuta, Ogun State, on Thursday.

Akinyemi said the former president was not responsible for the viral stories on some discredited platforms on the forthcoming general elections in Nigeria.

In a statement titled “Rigging

claim, letter to Britain: Obasanjo not responsible - Aide,” Akinyemi maintained that the “viral trending story on the alleged plan by the former president to collude with the electoral body in the presidential election of February 25 is completely false.”

He said apart from the open letter dated January 1, 2023 and the one addressed to the renowned historian, Prof. Toyin Falola, on his 70th birthday, there had been no other public or private letter written to anybody by the former president.

Senate asks FG to review tax waivers, concessions granted firms

By Abdullateef Salau

The Senate yesterday urged the federal government to review waivers and concessions already granted to corporate entities.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan stated this while delivering an address to mark the celebration of his 64th birthday in Abuja.

He said the review would provide more revenue to the government and cause a boost to the nation's economy.

He also said the Ninth Senate, within the remaining period of its lifespan, would engage revenue generating agencies with a view to shoring up the country's earnings.

Lawan said, “Most of what we do in terms of national development

is to borrow funds for us to execute those projects.

“I think we have to work hard to improve our revenue generation and collection because it is not looking too sustainable that we tolerate people and some agencies of government, to misapply or not even declare the revenues they collect. We can't continue with that.”

I'm back as leader of Yoruba nation agitators — Akintoye

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Lagos

The back and forth over Yoruba nation leadership has continued as the leader of the self-determination group,

Ilana Omo Oodua, Prof. Banji Akintoye, returned yesterday following the interventions of some Yoruba leaders.

Akintoye had resigned in December 2022 and handed

over to his deputy, Prof. Wale Adeniran, who also stepped down last week and said he was quitting the struggle for the actualisation of Yoruba nation.



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On behalf of the Government and people of Borno State, I Professor Baba Gana Umara Zulum, FNSE, mni, CON, the Executive Governor of Borno State, hereby join family, friends, associates and well wishers from across Nigeria and beyond, to felicitate with our indefatigable and amiable President of the Senate, His Excellency, Senator Ahmed Lawan on his 64th birthday.

2. Your undeniable leadership qualities and phenomenal achievements at the National Assembly and the entire political landscape of the country have come to symbolise a virtual reference point for excellence in political leadership.

2. Your intellectual versatility, inspiring political resourcefulness and patriotic dynamism have impacted positively on socio-economic and political landscape of the

country and have undoubtedly elevated and dignified the office of the Senate President.

3. Your Excellency, as you mark yet another significant milestone in your already fulfilled life, I pray Almighty Allah to continue to protect and guide you in all your undertakings and particularly, in the onerous task of making the National Assembly a bastion of democratic excellence and a beacon of hope for the common man.

Signed
His Excellency,
Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, CON, mni, FNSE
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INSIDE POLITICS

“With the loyalty of Benue people to APC, capped with the landmark achievements recorded by President Muhammadu Buhari’s administration, APC mandate, which was stolen in 2015, must return to APC in 2023 — APC National Chairman, Abdullahi Adamu

Ortom: Vote PDP, other parties have nothing to offer

From Hope Abah Emmanuel (Makurdi) & Bassey Willie (Yenagoa)

Atiku will right wrongs – Gov. Diri

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State has urged rural residents to collect their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) to enable them to vote for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in next month’s general elections.

Ortom made the appeal yesterday during the PDP rally in Ugba, the headquarters of Logo LGA of the state.

Ortom is one of the aggrieved governors of the PDP called the G-5 that have resolved not to support the party’s presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, until the national chairman, Dr Iyorchia Ayu, resigns.

The governor said, “If you fail to collect your PVCs, you will disenfranchise yourselves thereby not voting for our dear party, which is also your party.

“I encourage you to vote en masse for all the PDP candidates, and you should not allow yourselves to be deceived by candidates of other political parties because they do not have anything to offer.”

Also speaking, the PDP



■ Gov. Ortom

governorship candidate in Benue, Titus Uba, appreciated the people for praying for his quick recovery, stressing that God healed him because



■ Gov. Diri

of their prayers.

A former governor of the state, Senator Gabriel Suswam, on his part, urged the people of the area to rally

round Uba and other PDP candidates to ensure their victory.

Similarly, the Bayelsa State governor, Senator Douye Diri, has urged the people of the state to rally support for the presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar, ahead of the February 25 poll.

Speaking during the kickoff of the party’s campaigns in Bayelsa West Senatorial District, yesterday at Sagbama town, Diri appealed to the people of the state to vote massively for the PDP presidential candidate to right the wrongs in the country.

Governor Diri, who also presented the flag to the PDP candidates, including Senator Seriake Dickson for Bayelsa West Senatorial District, Fred Agbedi for Sagbama-Ekeremor Federal Constituency, among others, described Bayelsa West as the bedrock of PDP in the state.

He said PDP has the best candidates in the elections given their track record of achievements, and urged the people of Bayelsa West to vote for the party to continue enjoying effective representation.

Kwara gov’ship: Court dismisses PDP suit seeking AbdulRazaq’s disqualification

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has dismissed a suit filed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) seeking an order disqualifying Kwara State governor, AbdulRazaq, from participating in the March governorship election in the state.

Justice Inyang Ekwo dismissed the suit for

being incompetent and an abuse of court process.

He said PDP lacked the right to sue since it wasn’t a participant in the APC governorship primaries that produced the governor.

The judge said Section 29(5) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides that only an aspirant who participated in a party’s primary poll can seek to disqualify another.

The suit, which was

filed on Aug. 4, 2022, had urged the court to make an order directing the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to delist the name of AbdulRazaq as a candidate of the APC for the 2023 Kwara governorship election.

Counsel to the PDP in the case, Paul Usoro (SAN), told our correspondent via phone that they were still studying the judgement.

N/East APC youths withdraw support for Shettima over gale of defections

By Saawua Terzungwe

Some youths who are members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) under the aegis of the North East APC Stakeholders Forum yesterday announced that they had withdrawn their support for the vice presidential candidate of the party, Kashim Shettima.

The youths said their decision was sequel to the gale of defections that has hit the party in the region.

In a statement by their chairman, Hon. Shaibu Baffa Tilde, the youths said in recent times, the party has lost key officials and members in the region, adding that its supporters have continued to defect to the PDP.

Part of the statement reads, “We the youths in the North East, have lost our zonal treasurer from his home state of Borno, Hon. Yusuf Sheriff Banki, due to his failure to support youth in the region to launch massive

mobilisation.

“It is worth noting, gentlemen, that Sheriff led many youths to the PDP. As if that wasn’t enough, our zonal organising secretary, Hon. Murtala Gamji of Taraba, led several youths to the NNPP, and our zonal women leader, Hon. Amina Manga of Bauchi, led scores of women to the PDP.

“As a result, the North East APC Youth Forum wishes to withdraw its unequivocal support for Sen. Shettima.”

Katsina gov’ship: Radda, Lado, Khalil, Jino, Talba for Daily Trust town hall meeting Saturday

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

Top contenders for this year’s governorship election in Katsina State are billed to attend tomorrow’s town hall meeting to interact with voters ahead of the March election.

The event is organised by the Media Trust Group, owners of *Daily Trust*, *Aminiya*, *Trust TV* and *Trust Radio* in collaboration with the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD); *Vision FM*, *Farin Wata TV* and *Katsina City News*, an online newspaper company, to bring the contestants and electorate together for mutual interaction.

The governorship candidates are Dr Dikko Radda (APC), Senator Yakubu Lado (PDP), Engr Nura Khalil (NNPP), Imrana Jaafar Jino (PRP) and Ibrahim Zakari (Talba) of the SDP.

The chairman of the Media Trust Group (MTG) debate committee, Dr Suleiman A. Suleiman, said the meeting will allow the governorship candidates to address a mass audience in one fell swoop regarding what they have in store for the state, if elected.

He said a carefully selected audience from civil society organisations and other

stakeholders will also have the opportunity to ask the candidates questions about their plans, policies and programmes for the state.

On his part, the secretary of the local organising committee, Muhamad Danjuma, publisher of *Katsina City News*, said 350 representatives of CSOs and other trade organisations from all over the state were invited as participants.

He added that security forces were notified and have given their commitment to giving the town hall meeting maximum support.

The meeting will hold at the conference hall of the Katsina State Local Government Service Commission, opposite the state assembly complex, Kaita road, Katsina.

It will be chaired by the 5th Waziri of Katsina, Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga, while a former governor of old Kaduna State, Alhaji Abba Musa Rimi, will be the father of the occasion.

The proprietor of *Vision FM* and *Farin Wata TV*, Alhaji Kabir Matazu and Alhaji Muhammed Kabir Muhammed of *Trust Radio*, will be the moderators of the meeting.

There will be a live broadcast of the event on *Trust TV*, radio stations and online platforms.

PDP ex-spokesman joins NNPP in Gombe

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

The immediate past public relations officer (PRO) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Murtala Usman Dukku, has formally joined the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

He joined the opposition NNPP after he resigned as spokesman of the PDP in the state, shortly after he was suspended from the position by the party.

Daily Trust reports that Murtala Dukku was suspended by the PDP via a letter from its state secretary, Alhaji Adamu Abubakar, for allegedly working against the party.

He, however, resigned his membership of the

party a few hours after his suspension through a letter addressed to the party leadership.

Recall that the PDP zonal chairman in Gombe Central, Engr Musa Gwani Bimason, and assistant state treasurer of the party, Muhammad Yusuf Pindiga, have defected to the NNPP.

Also, three members of the state assembly, Rambi Ibrahim Ayala (Billiri East), Hamza Adamu (Balanga South) and Bappah Usman Jurara (Funakaye South), had also defected to the NNPP from PDP and APC, respectively.

The PDP women leaders in Gombe and Dukku LGAs, Maryam Muhammad Audi and Asabe Saleh have also dumped the PDP for the NNPP.

Why Nigerians should vote NNPP — Kwankwaso

From Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

The presidential candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, has advised Nigerians to vote the party at all levels in this year's general elections for good governance in the country.

Kwankwaso made the call during the party's North East zonal rally held yesterday in Bauchi.

He said there was the need for Nigerians to vote out the APC and PDP because "They have failed the country in terms of security, in terms

of economy, in terms of infrastructure and of course, in terms of unity among Nigerians."

Kwankwaso boasted that NNPP was the only answer to the avalanche of challenges bedeviling the country.

He said, "Let me use this opportunity to tell the people of North East and Nigeria as a whole, that our party, the NNPP, has come of age now; we are in all the wards of this country."

He urged party supporters to work for its successful outing ahead of the February and March general elections.



■ Kwankwaso

Credible polls will guarantee national peace — LP chair

By Abbas Jimoh

The Labour Party (LP) has said free and fair elections would guarantee a united and peaceful Nigeria after this year's general polls.

The national chairman of the LP, Julius Abure, said this yesterday in Abuja when he hosted the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Catriona Liang, who visited the national headquarters of the party.

He said tempers are already inflamed, especially among the Nigerian youths, who

are only seeking the opportunity of a better Nigeria, and that the 2023 election offers them this opportunity to make the right decision by voting for the Labour Party's presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

Abure said the youth population, which recorded the highest in the last round of registration to update the voter register, is determined to ensure that a free and fair election that would reflect the will of the people forms the outcome of the

election.

"We are very desirous of having a credible, people-oriented Nigerian president. We believe very strongly that if the process leading to the election is free, fair and credible, then, of course, there will obviously be peace in the country.

"We believe that if the process is compromised and not fair, of course, there won't be peace," Abure said.

The British High Commissioner, Catriona Liang, said the British

government has requested a list of persons whom it suspects would use violence to undermine the 2023 electoral process, so the UK government would take appropriate action against them.

According to her, the government of the United Kingdom would be interested in the names of persons it suspected would cause trouble before, during and after the election, thereby undermining the country's democracy.

We're not in alliance talks with APC, others - SDP

By Abbas Jimoh

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) has said it is not in alliance talks with the ruling All Progressives Congress

(APC) or any of the registered political parties.

The party's National Publicity Secretary, Ambassador Rufus Aiyenigba, made the

clarification at a press conference yesterday in Abuja.

He also disowned a former deputy spokesman of the party, Alfa Mohammed, who

claimed that the SDP is in alliance talks with the APC presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, ahead of this year's general elections.

Collect your PVCs now, INEC tells C/River residents

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has appealed to those who registered in Cross River State to visit their various wards and collect their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) ahead of this year's general elections.

The Head of Department, Voter Education and Publicity, at the commission's office in Calabar, Anthonia Nwobi, made the appeal yesterday in Calabar, lamenting that there has been a very poor turnout of collectors.

In an interview with newsmen, she disclosed that as of Sunday, January 8, 2023, less than ten thousand

PVCs had been collected from the batch of 2019.

She said, "People should please, go to their ward distribution centres for collection of their PVCs. If they comply with the procedures, they would be attended to within 15 minutes or less and they would be able to go back to whatever they were doing. Besides, we are doing all of

this to avoid stampede.

"The total number of 2019 PVCs, collected was just 8,045 of the 97,381 the commission received. This is as at few days ago when we checked.

"Also, from the 2021/2022 fresh registration of PVCs we did in Cross River State, totaling 233,481 cards, only 68,073 have been picked up."

CUPP spokesman flays Imo lawmakers for rejecting LG autonomy, others

From Jude Aguguo Owuamanam, Owerri

The spokesman for the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP), Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere, has flayed members of the Imo State House of Assembly for voting

against autonomy for the local government, judiciary, and legislative arms of government.

Ugochinyere, who spoke to newsmen in his country home in Akokwa, in Ideato North LGA of Imo State, said by voting against their own

independence, the lawmakers have sold their conscience.

Ugochinyere, who is the PDP candidate for the National Assembly election, urged the people of the state to vote out the state lawmakers for making Imo State an object of national

ridicule.

He said, "I want to urge Imo people to vote out these pathetic set of lawmakers at the Imo State House of Assembly. How could these set of lawmakers vote against their own freedom and independence?"

Tinubu has tact to address Nigeria's challenges - Dambazau

By Balarabe Alkassim

The member representing Takai/Sumaila Federal Constituency of Kano State, Shamsuddeen Dambazau (APC, Kano) has said the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has what it takes to address the challenges facing Nigeria.

He stated this in an interactive session with newsmen at the House of Representatives yesterday.

He said, "I am here today to tell you without mincing words that Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the man who has the gravitas; he is the man that has the experience to take care of all these issues that are disturbing Nigerians.

"Be them trivial, be them controversial, be them sensitive, to be able to put people together, to be

able to douse all tensions in different sectors, in different regions of Nigeria.

"I promise you that come 2023, with the circumstances here, if you know about the spoiler effect, then you already know that clearly APC has already won this election by God's grace come February."

He dispelled claims that Tinubu, the APC presidential candidate, is not healthy to handle the affairs of a complex nation like Nigeria, saying, "Tinubu is healthy. There is nothing wrong with him."

He said candidates of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Dr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, and the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi and others were not a threat to Tinubu's chances of winning the February 25 poll.

Omo-Agege promises to stop 'Okowa dynasty'

From Meluwa Kelvin, Asaba

Ahead of this year's general elections, the Deputy President of the Senate, Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege, has called on the people of Aladja to join him to stop the "Okowa dynasty of illiterates" in the state.

Omo-Agege made the call when he visited the Aladja community for his campaign.

He and his supporters were received by a mammoth crowd in Aladja, where he dared

the PDP as he toured the community.

The federal lawmaker said the people should vote en masse for all candidates of the APC in the coming elections.

Sen. Omo-Agege promised to do whatever the Aladja community wants, stressing that he knew the pains of the people.

He also promised to build a second bridge for the Udu people and provide employment opportunities for the unemployed youths in the area.

Rivers gov'ship: PDP will retain power — Campaign DG

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Campaign Council in Rivers State has said its 'open-air campaign' will return the party to power in this year's polls.

The director of publicity and communications of the campaign council, Chief Ogbonna Nwuke, in a statement yesterday that the countdown to the PDP's appearance on the campaign trail in the state has begun.

He said, "Early in the week, the PDP in Rivers State released its official campaign timetable. We have barely four days to the commencement of the

outdoor campaign of the PDP.

"Beginning from Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area on the 16th of this month, we shall go from LG to LG to showcase our candidates and what the PDP will do for Rivers people in the next four years.

"Given what has happened in the state in the last seven years and what is still going on today in terms of the execution of well-thought-out development programmes at the grassroots, nobody who has a pure and discerning heart can be in any doubt of the capacity of the PDP to take the state to a new threshold of progress and growth.

OPINION

Email: opinion@dailytrust.com
Text: 08131800030**2023 Elections: The need to rewrite Nigeria's history**

By Kefas Lamak

Recently, many Nigerians believe that there is no hope for Nigeria because of the extant corruption, insecurity and economic hardship that engulfs the country. If an average Nigerian is asked on the street about the state of the nation, they seldom use favorable terms to describe this state.

Most people would describe the nation through their experience of hunger, suffering, death threat, anxiety, depression, lack of employment, and poor education. Some Nigerians have assumed that the country would have collapsed by now.

However, on the other side, the Nigerian community abroad is among the most respected immigrant community worldwide. This has attracted so much respect for Nigerians who leave Nigeria to further their studies in America, Europe, or Canada. In the United States, the Nigerian community is rated among the most educated, with most of her immigrants having at least a first degree.

Nigerians who attended a public university in Nigeria are likely to secure admission to top-rated universities of the world, including Harvard, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, Duke, and the University of Edinburgh. Also, students trained in a Nigerian public university could work and compete in any organisation without obtaining an additional degree outside of Nigeria.

Finally, medical doctors who graduate from different Nigerian medical schools are spread across world-class international hospitals. These doctors need no additional degree to practice in the UK, US, or China. Other African countries in the diaspora also look up to Nigerian communities for their resilience and survival strategies.

Because of this view, many Nigerians are proud to identify with Nigeria abroad more than they would living in Nigeria. There is pride, respect, and pedigree in saying you are a Nigerian abroad. So, a Nigerians' view of Nigeria locally differs from how some international communities and Nigerians in the diaspora view it.

To all our presidential aspirants come 2023, have you reflected in your manifesto what it means to be a Nigerian at home and what it means to be a Nigerian in the diaspora? How do you bring back the pride and glory of Nigeria to Nigeria by restoring hope and a sense of futurity in the mind of every Nigerian at home? What would you do to bridge this gap?

Our political leaders are the only people who stand between the perception of Nigeria abroad and the experience and perception of Nigerians in Nigeria. Nigerians of all regions are not bad, lazy, or disposable.

Nigerians are hard workers, educated, book-smart, brave, and curious people. If Nigerians have good leaders that could lead them aright, they will compete with any developed nation worldwide. We have the population and the natural resources it would take to be a leading nation in the world.

Politicians have previously divided the masses, using tribalism, ethnicity, and regionalism to their benefit. Unfortunately, Nigeria is still on the margins of these divides. As a presidential aspirant, this is a big challenge to you, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, Peter Obi, Abubakar Atiku, and Rabiu Kwankwaso. If the masses give you their love and trust in February 2023, would you continue to use politics of corruption, godfatherism, ethnicity, and religion to divide Nigerians?

I advise any aspirant who wins the 2023 election to use their victory to their advantage to build a stronger Nigeria, a patriotic Nigeria, and an attractive Nigeria. The world is expecting a lot from us. The world has so much respect for Nigeria and

Nigerians and has so much to learn from us. Would you be a patriotic leader when elected president? Would you break the genes of religious divide and ethnicity to reward competence, productivity, to build a better Nigeria?

To the Nigerian voters and masses, if there is any time to use our voting rights wisely and effectively, the time is now. The world is watching and waiting to see the leaders we will elect in 2023. These leaders can lead us to a better and more robust economy, unite Nigeria, and create the right environment for a prosperous Nigeria, a corrupt-free Nigeria, and an adventurous Nigeria.

Nigeria belongs to all of us, the poor, the rich, the disabled, men, women, children, Muslim, Christian, non-religionists, and indigenous African worshippers. We must learn to speak with one voice. Never forget that we must live together as one. The Nigerian people should not give up on their heritage and motherland; instead, we must hold our leaders to higher standards and be accountable to the people who elected them.

This election will reflect how oriented and united we are as a people. As we go to our polling units, tribe, religion, money, and regionalism should be the last thing we should vote for. Instead, our votes should be based on our aspirants' integrity, competence, patriotism, and progressiveness. Nigerian youth and the populace should not be intimidated by political hegemony and rhetoric on election rigging.

As always evident, the Nigerian masses should stand together to oppose intimidation before, during, and after elections.

Nigeria belongs to all of us, the poor, the rich, the disabled, men, women, children, Muslim, Christian, non-religionists, and indigenous African worshippers. We must learn to speak with one voice. Never forget that we must live together as one. The Nigerian people should not give up on their heritage and motherland; instead, we must hold our leaders to higher standards and be accountable to the people who elected them. We should network and unite to build a nation Nigerians, and the world would be proud of.

To INEC, you stand between the Nigerian populace and the presidential and governorship office seekers. INEC must be independent and impartial in the electioneering process. You must be independent of the Nigerian government, from the presidential aspirants, all other aspirants, and religious and ethnic organisations. The Nigerian people have not given up on you. The Nigerian people have many expectations from this present INEC than the INEC of the past. I implore you to make a difference in the Nigerian 2023 elections.

Let this election respond to the quest and cry for a New Nigeria. A Nigeria you and future generations will be proud of. If this is done, hope, trust, and patriotism will return to the average Nigerian at home and in the diaspora.

God bless Nigeria, God bless INEC and God bless all Nigerians at home and abroad.

Sir Kefas lectures at University of Iowa, USA
Email: kefas-lamak@uiowa.edu

OPINION

Expanding the democratic space through independent candidacy

By Aliyu Ibrahim

The youths of every nation are the ones that determine its future. Consequently, countries around the world that practice democratic governance are creating opportunities for the youths to be at the helm of their affairs. For instance, the current British Prime Minister is 42 years old. The Prime Minister of New Zealand assumed office at the age of 37 in 2017, and is still in office. In Ethiopia, its current Prime Minister became the Head of the Government in 2018 at the age of 42, and subsequently won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for ending the 20 year old civil war between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

However, Nigeria has not been so lucky, as most of the persons that have been steering its affairs since the return of democracy in 1999, are mostly the older generation. Formerly, the minimum age requirement for aspiring for political office as set in the Nigerian Constitution was a hindrance for the youths, for example 40 years is the requirement for any person wishing to contest for the office of the president. This problem was addressed when the Not-Too-Young-To-Run bill was signed by the President in the run up to the 2019 general elections, thereby reducing the age limit of those that seek to contest the office of the president to 35 and that of the governor of a state to 30 years. The establishment of the Act was applauded by Nigerians.

However, the biggest obstacle to the realisation of the opportunity of the Nigerian youth to be able to contest for office, is that most political parties impose extremely high fees for the purchase of nomination forms that will enable individuals seeking the nominations of parties to stand for elections. In the build up to the 2023 elections, the ruling APC priced its presidential nomination form at N100 million, and only political office holders and money bags were able to purchase the form, which ironically consist of only the older generation. The unaffordability of the nomination forms has knocked out majority of the youths from contesting the forthcoming elections.

Allowing independent candidacy in Nigeria will afford the youths an opportunity to contest for political office. Nigerians will also have more options in choosing their leaders and will also force political parties to nominate competent persons to run for office.

In addition, the indirect form of primaries adopted by the political parties which gives the mandate of selecting candidates to delegates compounded the problem for the youths, as most delegates cast their votes depending on the financial inducement given. Also, governors, in most cases, decided the aspirant that the delegates from their states will vote for in their respective party primaries, and

in most cases, prefer to support veteran politicians with deep pockets. This has added to the quandary of the youths which the law was enacted to support. There are other political parties that exist only on paper that elections are rarely won on their platforms because of their lack of visibility and spread.

Also, those occupying public offices reserve tickets for those they favour to the exclusion of others. In addition, governors that are about to complete their two term limits tend to fly the flags of their parties and contest for senatorial seats in their constituencies to the exclusion of all other persons. At the last count, 28 past and serving governors are vying for senatorial seats in the upcoming 2023 elections. Party politics in Nigeria lacks ideology, as cross carpeting is the order of the day; it is simply about which platform will give an individual an edge in the polls.

Since party politics in Nigeria has barely given the upcoming generation the opportunity to aspire for political office, it is time to allow individuals to contest for elections as independent candidates. These types of candidates will run for office without being affiliated to any political party, but the name of the person will be on the official ballot for selection by the electorate. Independent candidates, if they win elections will not be hindered by intrigues within the party and that fear of not getting the party ticket in the next round of elections is absent. This will ensure effective service delivery to the people will be in the forefront, since the individual's mandate solely depends on the electorate. Also, it will give the people the opportunity to sponsor candidates they genuinely believe will deliver on the mandate given, and not be restricted by the choice sponsored by political parties, as it is presently done.

However, for an independent candidate to be allowed to contest, stringent requirements must be set, an example of this is that at least two per cent of the total number of voters in the territory in which the election will hold must nominate the person, their NIN and voter card numbers must be included in the nomination, so that INEC, which the constitution empowers to accord recognition to political parties, can verify the authenticity of the nominators. In addition, those that nominate the person must be spread within the territory the election will hold, if the candidate is contesting for the office of the President, the nominators must emanate from all states of the federation, if vying for the office of the governor, all local governments. The law should provide stiff penalties for any false declarations to discourage unserious persons from aspiring.

Allowing independent candidacy in Nigeria will afford the youths an opportunity to contest for political office. Nigerians will also have more options in choosing their leaders and will also force political parties to nominate competent persons to run for office. If more independent candidates are elected into office, political parties may face extinction if they keep on recycling the same politicians that have been occupying political office since the return of democracy in 1999.

Ibrahim, Ph.D wrote through aliyudanmusa@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

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**Edson Nascimento Arantes
(Pele) 1940–2022**

The world was recently thrown into mourning when the news broke that renowned Brazilian footballer and global icon, Edson Nascimento Arantes, popularly known as Pele, had died on Friday, December 30, 2022, at the age of 82. His death followed an illness that kept him in for a long in hospital. By his death, his country, Brazil and the rest of the world have lost one of the most notable global icons who flourished in positive representation of several areas of human endeavour.

Starting at the tender age of 17, when he first played for the Brazilian national football team in 1957, Pele would rise to impose an enduring personal influence on world football simply through his dexterity on the field of play, as well as his personal conduct and engagements off the pitch.

In the days when football was yet to enjoy some of the advances in facilities, as well as regulatory protocols enjoyed by modern players, he was able to win laurels and acclaim from recording feats with 77 international goals in 92 appearances for his country. He was also one of only four players ever to score at least a goal in consecutive World Cup tournaments.

The fact that he enjoys the unmatched record of being the only player in history to have won the World Cup in three different tournaments, namely 1958, 1962 and 1970, says much of his dexterity and talent as far as the beautiful game is concerned. In fact, the world football governing body FIFA ranks him officially as the 'greatest footballer of all time'.

But Pele was much more than a Brazilian star footballer, as he added to his prowess on the football pitch the commendable role of helping make the game globally popular and making it the number one sport in the world. Today, there is hardly any country across the world that does not take part in one level of the playoffs for the World Cup tournament.

Hinging on his popularity in soccer he found himself adopted severally to serve as an ambassador for numerous charities. He had also once served as Brazil's minister of sport.

Pele's association with football was not accidental but the result of early grooming by his father, Joao Ramos do Nascimento (1917–1996), known better on the football pitch as 'Dondinho' who not only played professional football with several clubs in Brazil, including the great Fluminense but also mentored his son Pele. His mother, Dona Celeste, is alive and marked her 100th birthday last year as her son passed on. This is even though he did not grow up with the proverbial silver spoon. Hence his was a family that got whatever it earned in life through the dint of personal struggle.

With respect to Pele's dominant influence on global sports, especially football, he represented the flourishing and profusion of superlative enterprise of blacks in the Brazilian society with its uniqueness in diversity. He represented much of the expected results from early grooming of the youth in a discipline that comes from sporting ventures.

It is remarkable that a footballer, who never played in a European club side, with Europe being the home of soccer, could dominate global scene as much as Pele did. By his own admission, he was nearly signed by some European club sides from his Santos club base in Brazil, but it did not work out. Rather, it was in the US that he played his last professional football before retiring. This fact further attests to the spectacular contributions he made to the game from whichever theatre he plied his trade.

Much has been written and said about the man, Pele, and his exploits in the field of football to make his roots of significant interest, especially for countries like Nigeria, which is capable of producing several Peles but is facing the challenge of arrested development in its sports administration.

There are numerous lessons from Pele's life that provide guidance, especially with respect to the mentoring he enjoyed from his father, a star footballer in his own right. And that is where the lessons from his connection with his footballing father fit in. The lessons of his life tell how a young black man from a poor family can rise to global prominence through the play-out of effective mentoring at a tender age, by a veteran, with the result of unmatched enterprise and skill. He ended up not only as an asset to his country but to the world. Through the superlative enterprise of Pele, his country, Brazil, attracted global attention and rubbed shoulders with the frontline nations of the world. This is due to the power of sports, not only as an instrument for social development but also as a unifier of the world.

Nigeria has generations of outstanding sports personalities who are today languishing in abandonment. If nothing else, they can be harnessed to train the Peles we need to shore up our sporting fortunes.

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Saving the central bank (II)

So what do we do about the fact that central banks chase many objectives and definitely have to let some go? Or central banks tend to reverse policies often?

Alan Greenspan was an Oracle. That was a taciturn Central Bank governor... sorry Reserve Bank chairman. He was old and wizened, had seen all that needed to be seen. But he also had his umbilical cord buried in Wall Street, like his predecessor, Paul Volcker.

Greenspan's final ordeal was his belief that 'markets will regulate themselves.' Self-regulation was of course a big myth sold by the smart Wall Street boys to old man Greenspan. By the time the markets melted down in 2008, he had to call in the Treasury and Obama rolled out trillions of US dollars to bail out banks that were deemed too-big-to-fail. The moral hazard driving sub-prime mortgages and the spurious Collateralised Debt Obligations (never mind, just another financial abracadabra) written on it, could not regulate itself.

A central bank can see every reason to pursue a strong exchange rate for a spell, and then decide, based on its own statistics and strategy for the economy, to pursue a weak exchange rate.

If capitalism was true to itself, those banks – including insurance companies like AIG, carmakers in Detroit and beyond, defense industry behemoths and airplane manufacturers, should have been allowed to die a natural death as a result of the bad bets placed by their management and owners.

This calls to mind another problem that central banks grapple with. Central banking is a game whereby you keep playing your hand very confidently, but you must be keen-minded enough to change tack and head the other way tomorrow. A central bank can pursue a policy of cutting interest rates to stimulate the economy at some point, and then changing tack to start contracting the economy by increasing interest rates after a while.

A central bank can see every reason to pursue a strong exchange rate for a spell, and then decide, based on its own statistics and strategy for the economy, to pursue a weak exchange rate.

What we have found in our society today, is that there is much heckling but little understanding. We now see a situation where a central bank cannot even manage currency without hoopla, looking as if we shall never again be able to change our currency design because our people are used to something and can never be made to like any other thing. This is a tyranny of the people against their institution.

Nigeria is now unable to pursue cashless systems like the rest of the world, because

our politicians are used to lumbering cash everywhere in the guise of helping the poor, and we must have to remain in the past – primitive, corrupt, and unaccountable because we are special beings right? It gets so bad, that the nation's own FBI (the Directorate for Security Services – DSS), is easily coopted by these politicians and actually approaches a court of law with charges of, wait for this... terrorism... against a sitting central bank governor. Not embezzlement. Not mismanagement. Not incompetence. Terrorism no less! This is an agency charged with getting the intel on terrorism in Nigeria. For it to allege such against anyone, it should be sure of its facts, right? Otherwise, the DSS exposed itself as an agency that could take its eyes off the ball and whip up wild allegations against anyone that catches its fancy – which underlines its ineffectiveness against terrorists by the way.

I believe we should protect the central bank as an institution from:

1. Our own ignorance, anger, and overenthusiasm
2. Fifth columnists whose sole idea is to get their hands on the money in the vault
3. People who would want us to remain in the ugly past
4. People with vaunting ambition who believe they can do a better job but who don't even know what it's all about.
5. Tribal, religious, and other extraneous considerations that don't fit in the professional realm.
6. Rumours, hearsays, and deliberate machinations of instability from people with selfish and malicious ambitions.

As it uniquely pertains to Nigeria, a certain House of Representatives member has alleged the stealing of N89 Trillion at the Central Bank of Nigeria. There are all sorts of allegations flying around and the cannon fodder that the opponents of the sitting governor have handy is his quest for political office.

Indeed the quest for political office is unique and will hopefully be explained someday by the chief party. But my contention is whether a political quest should vitiate a central bank from doing its work. The trigger for the angst this time is the central bank's currency policy, which not only involves a change in design (at least in color), but a raft of policies that targets a cashless economy.

It looks as if a lot has been done in a hurry on the currency redesign end and I am also not very much excited with the fact that we couldn't make a great shift on that front. I had advised that we transit to full polymer which are harder to forge, or even to hold in great number. Still, we are achieving some mindset shift with what has been done.

However, some politicians will have none of it, and were able to coopt the DSS into trying to arrest the central bank governor for a grievous charge; terrorism no less. It's been a very comical affair. I remain solidly behind the idea of moving towards cashlessness for one key reason – its benefit to public sector value-for-money and a reduction in corruption. Except corrupt people who occupy privileged positions want to start collecting their bungs through traceable transfers, we all better slow down. More money will thus be available for the provision of public good.

— Continued on www.dailytrustonline.com



ZAMFARA STATE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNOR MATAWALLE CAUTIONS POLITICIANS AGAINST POLITICISING STATE SECURITY SERVICE TO SAVE DEMOCRACY.

Governor Bello Mohammed Matawallen Maradun of Zamfara State has cautioned Nigerian politicians to guard against politising state security service to salvage the nation's democracy.

Gov Matawalle who was reacting to attempts by some disgruntled politicians using a section of civil society organisations to smear the good name and image of the Director General of the State Security Service, Yusuf Bichi, said the DG who happened to be one of the highly dignified and respected gentleman of the highest order in the country should be allowed to do his job in accordance with the provisions of the Nigerian constitution, rather than using politics to bring disrepute to the patriotic Nigerian and the security service.

He said Bichi has been discharging his constitutional responsibilities without fear or favor as specified in the Nigerian constitution and such person should be allowed to bring sanity in all sectors of the nation's economy.

He therefore urged and encouraged the Director General to continue to provide the necessary leadership in the state security service to salvage the country from the menace of some unscrupulous few Nigerians who bowed in destabilising the peaceful coexistence our forefathers took decades to build, just for their selfish interest.

He said the Governors having security concerns in their states know the role being played by Yusuf Bichi in tackling the security challenges in those states and would do everything humanly



**His Excellency,
Hon. Dr. Bello Mohammed Matawalle MON**
Executive Governor of Zamfara State

possible to give the Director General the necessary support and encouragement to continue with the good job he has been doing to save the country from anarchy and disintegration.

Gov Matawalle therefore called on President Muhammadu Buhari to give the Director General the necessary backing and the support the state security service is needing to discharge his constitutional responsibilities without interference.

"The President knows the kind of person Yusuf Bichi is as one of the most trusted people Mr President enjoyed working with.

"How can the wife of the Director General, a responsible woman who know how sensitive the position of her husband is, will venture into ordering the arrest of a Governorship Candidate?"

Gov Bello Matawalle who served as Chairman of House Committee on Security and Intelligence of the

House of Representatives warned that State Security Service is an integral part of governance that no country will risk joking with and Nigeria should not take it for granted and play with, particularly at this material time when our country is heading for general elections facing security challenges in almost all the states of the Federation.

" I know the wife of Bichi, she is a complete gentle woman who knows the value of the position of her husband and the reputation of her family, hence, would not risk these values to bring disrepute to the family and the nation.

"The alleged plots to discredit the Director General, Yusuf Bichi, alongside his principal officials is one of the greatest mistakes we as politicians will encourage at this crucial period of the forthcoming general elections with high volume of insurgency all over the country.

"According to the service, those behind the plot have engaged Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations to not only sustain, but stage further rallies, road-shows and press conferences and use the occasions to discredit Bichi. "It is also gathered that, sections of the media have been briefed to implement the strategy through sponsored articles, commentaries and features to malign the DG, his family and select officials of the service."

"I therefore implore the Service to monitoring developments with a view to getting the plotters to book to allow peace to reign in this country. " Gov Matawalle appealed.

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CITY & CRIME

Kano hubby heads to court as wife joins film industry

There is a mild drama trending in Kano as one Sani Umar Gwarzo, who identified himself as the husband of a film actress, Hafsat Tuge, said he will go to court, as his wife joined a popular series movie 'Amaryar TikTok' without his consent.

Gwarzo said he was living peacefully with his wife until he noticed some changes in her, and that to his surprise, he sighted her in a series movie trending on YouTube.

"It surprised me because I didn't divorce my wife, when people called my attention to the fact that my wife is featured in a popular Hausa series film, 'Amaryar Tiktok'.

● He divorced me long ago – Wife

When I watched the movie, I saw her. I was very surprised."

He accused the film producers of deceiving his wife and dragging her attention with money, saying that she was a peaceful woman before.

"They just used the money to deceive my wife and put her in a movie. I will go to court to seek my right. I also want the government, Kano State Hisbah and clerics to fight for my rights."

However, speaking to Freedom Radio in Kano, the actress, Hafsat Tuge, described the man as her ex-husband who divorced her long ago.

She said the man uttered some words that indirectly meant he had divorced her, and that was why she decided to move on with her life after spending the three-month waiting period in accordance with Islamic teaching.

"When he uttered such words, I moved to my parents' home, but he didn't come for three months. That is why I moved on with my life," she said.

When contacted, the director of the movie, Ahmad Bifa, said they didn't feature the actress in the movie until she fulfilled all the requirements needed and that she



■ Hafsat Tuge

had appeared in several movies before.

Also, the Kano State Censorship Board, through its chairman, Ismail Nabba Afakallah, said although they did not receive a complaint from the husband, they would investigate the matter and come up with the right decision.

60 freight forwarders nabbed as tramadol tops list of illicit drugs intercepted in Lagos

From Eugene Agha Lagos

No fewer than 60 freight forwarders were arrested by the Apapa Command of the Nigeria Customs Service for their alleged involvement in the importation of illicit substances in 2022.

This is even as it said it impounded 157 containers valued at about N14.4 billion allegedly smuggled into the country by some of the suspects. Out of the seizures by the command, tramadol topped the list of drugs seized last year.

Briefing newsmen, the Customs Area Controller, Apapa Command, Malanta Ibrahim Yusuf, said the suspects were arrested while attempting to clear containers of illicit substances.

The controller said all the suspects have been handed over to relevant government agencies. "In the year under review, a total of 157 containers with a duty-paid value of N14.4 billion were seized, as against 102 containers with a DPV of N31.8 billion seized in 2021.

"Our record shows that fake and prohibited drugs without necessary National Agency For Food Drugs and Control (NAFDAC) certification and overdose drugs of tramadol top the list of seizures made last year.

"So far, a total of 60 suspects have been arrested in connection with some of the seizures and are at various stages of investigation and prosecution by other agencies of government we handed them over to," he said.

Fulani community razed over killing of farmer in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

One person has been killed and another seriously injured in a communal clash between Fulani and locals in Eshijiko, Pada district, Pategi Local Government Area of Kwara State.

City & Crime gathered that the incident, which occurred on Sunday, left several Fulani displaced as they fled the community in fear of reprisal attack.

A source who spoke on the issue attributed the incident to an altercation between a farmer, Usman Baba, and some Fulani herders.

"The issue was between a farmer, Usman Baba who met some herders on his farm at night and told them to leave.

"The situation degenerated, leading to the butchering of the farmer, who later died. One of the Fulani sustained hand and head injuries," the source added.

A security source told our correspondent that the Fulani settlement (ruga) was "burnt to ashes by the villagers in a suspected revenge mission over the killing of the farmer."

The Sarkin Fulani of Ilorin East, Alhaji Idris Ali, said over 1,000 Fulani have been displaced. "Our position after the report of the killing of the farmer was for security agencies to be allowed to do their job and bring whoever is found culpable to book.

"We were surprised with the latest development of taking laws into their hands," he said.

On his part, one of the Fulani leaders in Kwara, Alhaji Jao Yahaya, said about 500 houses were destroyed, with several hundred people displaced.

"Ten classroom blocks of the nomadic school for our children, maize, guinea corn, yam, rice, cassava, motorcycles, and several cows worth over N50 million were lost to the incident," he said.

According to him, the affected settlement had been in existence for more than 47 years, and they had been living peacefully with their host communities.

He said the Fulani are calling on the state government and security agencies to urgently come to their aid as they are now suffering from homelessness and insecurity in the area.

When contacted, the lawmaker representing Pategi constituency at the state assembly, Hon Adam Rufai, said, "I can't speak on that incident now because I am at a fidau for the late House leader, Hon Magaji Olawoyin.

However, the spokesman of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in Kwara State, Olasunkanmi Ayeni, confirmed the incident.

"After the death of the farmer, the Fulani settlement was completely razed, with several cows, foodstuffs, and properties destroyed in the process," Ayeni said.

Man flees after raping 13-year-old student in FCT school

...Police detain principal

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A yet-to-be-identified man has allegedly raped a 13-year-old junior secondary School student of a Universal Basic Education (UBE) school in Abaji.

City & Crime learnt that the incident happened on Wednesday, when the victim reportedly went to ease herself.

A resident, who resided close to the school, said the suspect lured the victim to one of the abandoned toilets in the school and raped her.

He said the suspect took to his heels upon sighting some people coming, even as he said the matter has been reported at the Abaji police station.

"In fact, the girl's father is my friend, and immediately after the incident happened, I put a call to him and joined him to rush the girl to the hospital," he said.

Our reporter reliably gathered that the suspect threatened to stab the victim if she refused to submit herself to him.

A nurse at the health centre where the victim was taken to, who preferred anonymity, confirmed to our reporter that

there was penetration on the victim. The management of the school failed to speak when our reporter visited the school on Thursday.

However, a police source in the area, who said he was not authorised to talk to the press, told City & Crime that the principal of the school had been detained over the incident.

"Yes, the principal of the UBE school was invited and detained when the parents of the girl came to report the incident, but the investigation is still ongoing," he said.

The spokeswoman of the FCT police command, DSP Akeh Josephine, was yet to confirm the incident at the time of filing this report.

Why I staged my kidnap, collected ransom from church members – Jos pastor

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

The Jos-based pastor, Albarka Bitrus, who was arrested by the police on Wednesday, has explained why he staged his kidnap and collected ransom from members of his church.

City & Crime reported on Thursday that the police in Plateau State said they arrested the pastor following a "vigorous investigation" that cast suspicion on him.

The police said Pastor Albarka, of ECWA Church Jos, had on several occasions staged his kidnap and collected ransom, in collaboration with a gang to commit the crime.

Speaking at the headquarters of the command, the accused said he staged his kidnap due to financial challenges he was facing but that he regretted his action.

"I put myself into these activities because of the financial challenges I am facing. When I did the first one, I felt guilty. When I went out, the money with me got finished. I was thinking of coming back. I was just confused. That is why I did the second one. I am regretting my action," he said.

When asked why he burnt the vehicle of his senior pastor, the accused said, "I burnt the vehicle because I was guilty of what I did. I was just confused. I don't even know what came over me. Being a pastor, that is why the spirit of God didn't allow me to go without confessing my action. I am sorry for what I have done. I am really sorry."

According to the police, the suspect had collected the sum of N400,000 on November 14, 2022,



■ Pastor Albarka Bitrus

and on November 30, he staged another kidnap of himself and collected the sum of N200,000 from his sympathizers, who are members of his church.

FACT CHECK: How recent is the video showing weapons of gang terrorizing Abuja, Nasarawa, arrested in Masaka hotel?



■ Front view of the hotel

Photo Seun Adeuyi

By Seun Adeuyi

A one-minute, 30-second video has gone viral across various social media platforms showing how security agents busted a hotel, 'You and You', said to be a hideout for criminals/kidnappers in Luvu, Area 1 axis of Masaka, Nasarawa State.

The video shows guns, bulletproof vests, and ammunition among others said to have been

recovered from the criminals.

Verification

Our reporter visited the area on Thursday morning and was told by many residents that although the discovery was made, it is not recent.

"The discovery was made before Christmas last year, but people are making it seem like it was yesterday. In fact, after the hotel was busted on December 23, they resumed operations on December 30.

"I learnt the Department of State

Services (DSS) invited the hotel owner for questioning, and he has since cleared himself," said a resident, Mr Gbenga Ojo.

Also, City & Crime on January 3 reported how the suspects were paraded at the Force headquarters in Abuja, the previous weekend.

Conclusion

City & Crime can confirm that the discovery in the video in circulation was made on December 23, 2023, not even this week.

QUICK READ

Man rapes woman in presence of her 2-yr-old daughter in Kwara

From Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in Kwara State have arrested a suspected rapist, Ganiyu Yusuf, 47.

The command is said to have been on the trail of the suspect since last year after the rape incident was reported.

The spokesman of the NSCDC, Ayeni Olasunkanmi, said he was eventually tracked down at Mokwa, Niger State, on January 5, 2023, after trailing him since June 2022.

He said the suspect is from Aboekuta, Ogun State.

According to Olasunkanmi, "after we arrested him, he confessed that he broke into the house at Oloje area in Ilorin through the roof and overpowered the woman who was alone with her 2-year-old daughter in the house.

"He raped the woman in the presence of her daughter and went away with her two laptops and two Android phones," he added.

He said the command was still searching for the buyers of the exhibits and appealed to the public to be conscious of what they buy.

Taskforce arrests 48, impounds 37 bikes, hemp

From Eugene Agha Lagos

In a continued onslaught on violators of the state traffic laws, operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce, have raided Oshodi and Ikorodu roads, during which 48 people were arrested.

The raid, which was led by the chairman of the agency, CSP Shola Jejele, was carried out during the closing hours, and 37 commercial motorcycles, also known as Okada, were impounded.

"It is disheartening to see these recalcitrant riders operating their bikes commercially, endangering the lives of their passengers and pedestrians on the state highways despite the ban still being in place.

"We have sent out a series of warnings through our official channels, but it fell on deaf ears with some of them, thus the need to carry out this enforcement exercise," he said.

Ekiti LG installs 100 solar streetlights

The Chairman of Ikole Local Government Area in Ekiti State, Mr. Sola Olofinu, on Thursday, inaugurated the installation of 100 solar-powered street lights in Ikole Ekiti.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the solar-powered street light was installed in Oke Aremo Quarters of the town.

"I am officially flagging the installation of 100 poles solar powered street lights along Ara Road in Oke Aremo Quarters in Ikole-Ekiti to keep the area safe at night in the name of God," he said.

NAN reports that the chairman also inspected the reconstruction of Ikole town. (NAN)

How Gombe 'masa' seller raised 3 graduates

A 45-year-old masa seller, Rahila Polycarp, has said she used the proceeds of the business to sponsor three of her five children in the university.

Masa is a popular Northern Nigerian snack made from maize or rice.

Polycarp told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at Yelenguruza community in Gombe State that she went into the masa business when her husband could not get a job to cater for the family.

"I have been in the business for over 25 years, and masa business has made me the breadwinner of my family.

"In the 25 years of selling masa, I was able to raise my five children and send them to school from the proceeds of the business."

According to her, though she is uneducated, she has ensured that all her children got the best education she could afford.

"Three of my children are now graduates and have done their national service, while the



■ Masa on fire

remaining two finished their secondary education in 2022.

"This business has helped me to realise my dream of educating my children and ensuring that they are better off today because of their education.

"I wonder how I would have trained them if I didn't know how to make masa."

Polycarp advised women, especially housewives, to venture

into businesses that require little capital to start.

According to her, her children would have been school dropouts if she had sat at home waiting for her husband to cater for the family.

"Start little and be consistent, don't wait for your husband to do all the work because those times when only men worked to care for the family are over.

"There were days I had to

borrow money to buy ingredients to make masa, and after the day's business, I paid the money and used the profit for household needs," she said.

Polycarp, who still sells masa after 25 years, however, said the pressure of selling to meet household demands had reduced compared to the past, as she now gets support from her children. (NAN)

Communities to benefit as FG moves to add value to raw salt production, others

By Hussein Yahaya

The Director-General of the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Professor Hussaini D. Ibrahim, has said the council, through its Research and Development programme, has upgraded indigenous processes used by communities in Nassarawa State to add value to raw salt production.

Professor Ibrahim, who spoke in a paper titled 'Development of Solid Minerals Sector; Panacea to Nigeria's Economic Diversification Agenda', said the initiative had also helped in the production of calcined kaolin to replace 40% of imported titanium dioxide in paint making using the kaolin deposit in Alkali, in Bauchi State.

"In addition, RMRDC has

been able to develop a protocol for producing pharmaceutical grade talc from locally mined ore deposits at Kagara, Niger State.

Likewise, the R&D programme has led to the production of ceramic water filter candles and other ceramic products such as tiles, porcelain, china wares, etc. using kaolin, kyanite and quartzite deposits in the country," he added.

The DG noted that Nigeria is endowed with over 34 commercially viable solid mineral deposits spread across the country but regretted that the country is only contributing 15 per cent of all foreign direct investment inflows to Africa because of various unfriendly policies since the Indigenization Decree of 1972.

He said to reverse the tide, the council, since its inception, recognised the need for the development of Nigeria's solid

mineral resources for industrial use.

That also informed its collaboration with other relevant MDA's and the characterization and classification of most of the deposits of minerals in the country.

"Investment promotion activities and joint venture programmes in collaboration with private sector organisations have resulted in the design,



■ RMRDC DG, Professor Hussaini D. Ibrahim

fabrication, and installation of granulated limestone processing plant in Calabar, Cross River State and hydrated lime production plant in Kwakuti, Niger State in collaboration with Bembu Mining and Engineering Services Ltd," he said.

He said collaboration with mandated research institutes, private sector investors and state governments also resulted in the establishment of small-scale plants to process raw materials found in commercial quantities in several localities.

"Some of the projects include the Talc processing Plant in Kagara (Niger), Phosphate Rock Beneficiation plant (Sokoto), Phosphate Beneficiation Plant, Ifo (Ogun), Kaolin Processing Plant, Gwarzo (Kano), Fertilizer Blending Plant, (Enugu), Granulated Limestone Plant,

Calabar, (Cross River), Pharmaceutical Grade Kaolin Plant, Kankara (Katsina), and Integrated Mineral Grinding Plant, Owerri, (Imo).

"These plants have stimulated the emergence of several SMEs," he said.

He said recently, the council established a Technology and Innovation Complex (TIC) at the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) in Abuja to develop practical skills and drive change across local raw materials processing technologies.

The DG said it was becoming increasingly important for the government to promote the establishment of beneficiation plants by investors that are showing interest in solid minerals mining locally, most especially in the metallic minerals subsector.

“Under the guidance of a strong general, there will never be weak soldiers”.

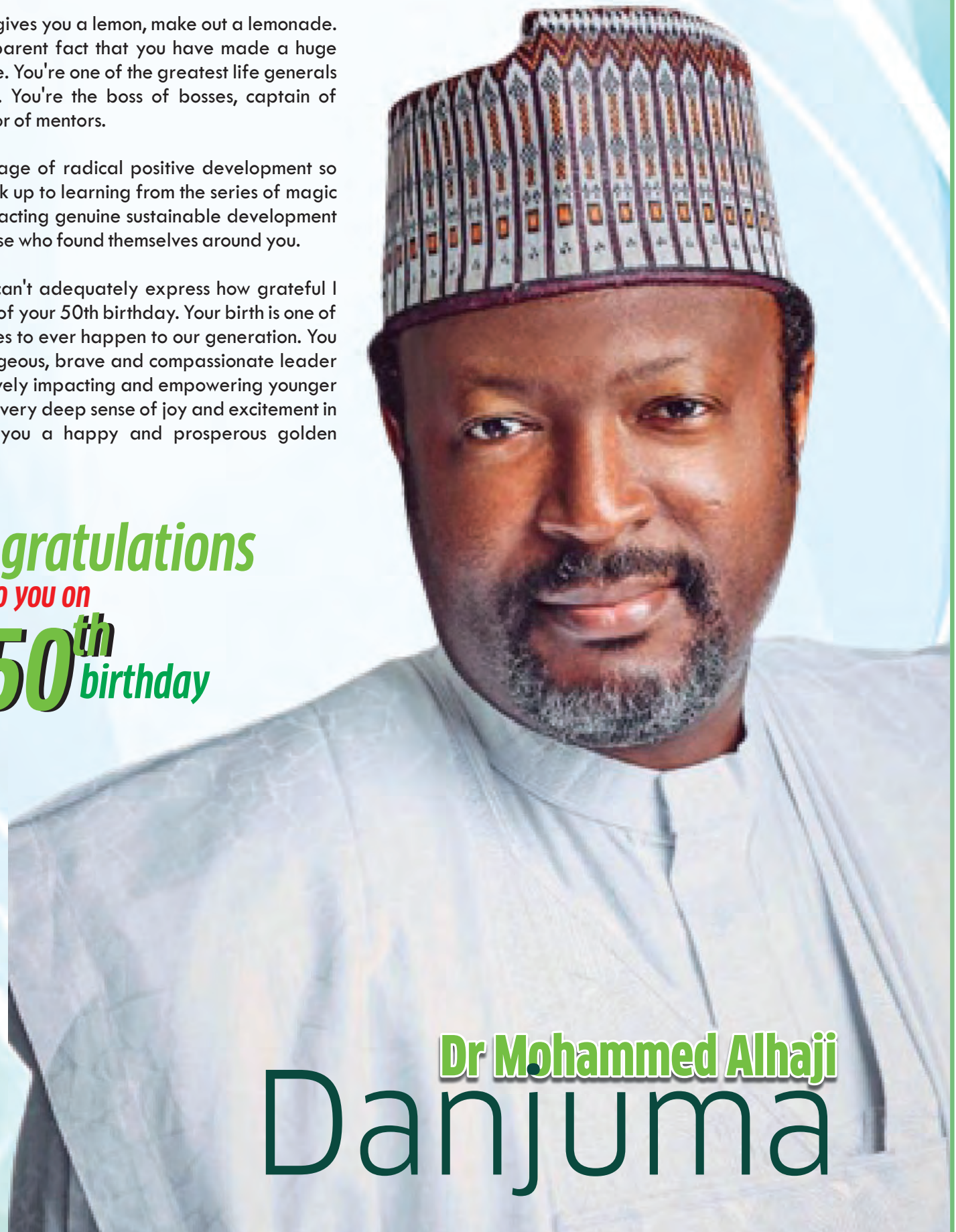
You’re one of the strongest life generals I have ever known. You have run a good life race. You represent all that is desirable in leadership. You have been a crusader of positive impact without bitterness.

They say when life gives you a lemon, make out a lemonade. It is indeed an apparent fact that you have made a huge lemonade out of life. You’re one of the greatest life generals I have ever known. You’re the boss of bosses, captain of captains, and mentor of mentors.

You have been a sage of radical positive development so much so that we look up to learning from the series of magic you perform in impacting genuine sustainable development in the lives of all those who found themselves around you.

Indeed, sir, words can't adequately express how grateful I am on this occasion of your 50th birthday. Your birth is one of the greatest miracles to ever happen to our generation. You have been a courageous, brave and compassionate leader committed to positively impacting and empowering younger generations. With every deep sense of joy and excitement in me, I am wishing you a happy and prosperous golden jubilee.

Big congratulations
to you on
your **50th** birthday



Dr Mohammed Alhaji
Danjuma

Signed:
Mr & Mrs Ataguba Enemku H.

BUSINESS

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

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

COMMODITIES PRICE (December 28, 2022)

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

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

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

By Sunday M. Ogwu (Abuja),
Abiodun Alade (Lagos), Clem-
ent A. Oloyede (Kano) & Titus
Eleweke (Awka)

CBN to sanction banks hoarding new naira notes

● Sensitizes marketers in Abuja, Kano, Awka

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said it will sanction any commercial bank hoarding the new naira note just as the apex bank begins monitoring banks to identify defaulters.

Speaking during a sensitisation exercise at Wuse Market traders on new Naira notes in Abuja, Kareem Williams, a representative of CBN Abuja Branch Controller, Mr Michael Ogbu, said: "As of today, the CBN will be sanctioning any commercial bank that is not dispensing new notes to the public.

"We will be visiting commercial banks to ensure that they give out the new naira notes to the public to do their business. We will make sure that the new notes made available to banks are not diverted to politicians only."

The apex bank also held the sensitisation exercise at the main market, Onitsha, Anambra State where the Branch Controller of Awka CBN, Anambra State, Mr Benedict Maduagwu, the bank's new redesign was targeted at safeguarding the nation's currency from hoarding by individuals who stock naira in their houses.

He said, "The hoarding of banknotes by members of the public, with statistics, shows that 84.71 per cent of the currency in circulation is outside the vaults of commercial banks, with only 15.29 per cent in the central bank and commercial banks."

At the Dawanau International Grains Market in Kano state, the Director of Currency Operation, CBN, A.B. Umar said the traces of ink produced when rubbed with plain white materials indicate the note is genuine and not fake; he added that the traces of intaglio ink indicate its authenticity.

Umar, who was represented by



■ CBN Gov.
Godwin Emeifele

an official of the bank, Shamsuddin Zubair Imam, said any currency, even the US Dollar, is expected to produce the ink mark when rubbed on a white material as a sign of its authenticity.

"It is untrue that if you rub the new Naira notes and see the mark of the ink in the currency is fake. That ink mark is a sign of quality. It means it is genuine, not fake. That is the feature that shows a currency is genuine," he said.

The Deputy Chairman of Dawanau International Grains Market, Alhaji Baba Wawo decried the non-availability of the new currency for the traders, adding that traders in the market, which is the biggest grains market in West Africa, find it difficult to access the redesigned N1000, N500 and N200 notes, even as the deadline is

fast approaching.

"We call on the CBN to make the new currency available at banks and other financial institutions. We welcome the new policy but let it be easy for us to access the new Naira notes," he said.

New Naira notes emerge in Lagos ATMs

In Lagos, *Daily Trust* has however, through a survey, observed an improvement in the number of ATMs that are loaded with the new notes from the situation it was earlier in the week.

While most ATMs on Lagos Island have started dispensing new N500 and N1000 notes, a good number of ATMs on Lagos Mainland are still dispensing the old notes.

A cross section of banks visited along the Ikeja-Ogba axis

indicated that some ATMs were dispensing new notes while others were loaded with old notes. It was observed that a good number of the ATMs belonging to United Bank for Africa, Sterling Bank, First Bank, Fidelity Bank and Zenith Bank in Lagos Island, Ikeja and Surulere were loaded with new notes.

A jubilant customer, Daniel Ajayi, who got new notes at an ATM belonging to First Bank at Ogba, expressed surprise at the development.

"I was not expecting it but I'm happy that I have the new notes now," he said.

There was an increased number of customers at some of the ATMs dispensing the new notes on ACME road, Ogba.

Two out of the four ATMs at Zenith Bank, Katangia near Abule-Egba, dispensed new N1,000 notes while the other two dispensed the old N1,000 notes as observed by our correspondent.

A top official with one of the deposit money banks assured our correspondent that in a matter of time, all ATMs will be loaded with the new notes.

"We have the new notes and with the directive from the CBN, I can assure you that it is a matter of time before all the ATMs are loaded with new notes," he said.

Another source, however, said, there is no need to panic as the old N200, N500 and N1,000 are still legal tender till the January 31 deadline.

However, ATMs belonging to some commercial banks are still being loaded with old N500 and N1,000 notes despite the CBN directive.

KADCCIMA urges FG to review economic policies

By Faruk Shuaibu

The Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KADCCIMA) has called on the federal government to review its economic policies and re-strategise to forestall an economic tailspin in the country.

In a statement by the 1st Deputy President of KADCCIMA, Esr. Ishaya Idi, yesterday said with food inflation hitting 23.72 per cent and some food items rising to between 50 – 100 per cent, the government needs to promote greater local value addition into domestic industrial production.

"As such, the government should fully implement the provisions of the Executive Order 3 aimed at institutionalising government patronage of made-in-Nigeria products and services at all levels. It should also re-align and adapt fiscal and monetary policies to challenges faced by the real sector by ensuring support and reactivation of the comatose industrial sector and in particular the cotton, textile and garment value chain," Idi said.

He noted that it is to effectively support the organised private sector in its quest to take advantage of potential brought about by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement via aggressive export drive, to come up with tailored and effective intervention schemes able to significantly and positively impact and develop the rural economy in all its ramifications.

While urging the state and federal governments to synergise efforts, he said they should design and implement home-grown policies to address health, education and skill acquisition for the youth.

Customs collected N1.023trn in 2022 from Apapa Port

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The Apapa Command of the Nigeria Customs Service yesterday said it collected the sum of N1.023 trillion as revenue in 2022.

The Controller of Customs, Apapa Area Command, Malanta Ibrahim Yusuf, made the disclosure while briefing newsmen on the activities of the

command in 2022.

This figure is about 16.07 per cent higher than the N870.4 billion the command collected in the same period in 2021.

The figure is over 35 per cent of the revenue target of N3.02 trillion for the service in 2022.

He said the command also processed export cargoes with a Free On Board (FOB) value of 68.5 million dollars,

about N28.2 billion in 2022 from non-oil commodities.

In all, agricultural cargoes top the list on the export chart for the year under review.

He said items exported through the Apapa Port last year include steel bars, agricultural produce such as hibiscus, sesame seeds, cocoa, cashew nuts, ginger, soya beans and mineral products.

Spanish investors shop for Nigeria's oil industry – Sylva

By Simon Echowofun Sunday

The Minister of State, Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, has said some major Spanish investors have indicated investment interest in the Nigerian oil and gas industry just as the bid for seven deep offshore oil blocks is in process.

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) is meant to close the bid submission by month's end to proceed to the sifting stage.

Sylva stated this yesterday when he received the Foreign Minister of Spain, Jose Albares, along with some investors from the country.

He said, "NUPRC has already pitched and they are already in the process of having a bid round. With this number of investors on the table which ordinarily they would have gone, they have them here. As a country, we need a lot of FDI."

The minister also said the country needs more investments, especially with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, which he commended

Spain's foreign minister for the move.

"As a country, we need all the investments that we require. The oil and gas sector is at the core of our economy and he has come in with these arrays of investors, very major companies in Spain, then I am sure that we have the potential of having a lot of investment coming into Nigeria from now on."

Sylva said the delegation was also in Nigeria with interest on the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline project started recently that could boost gas exports.

Naira losing value as African currencies come under pressure

By Vincent Nwanma

The naira, Nigeria's currency, is expected to come under pressure in the New Year, with the general election being one of the factors that will weigh down on its value. This is as currencies across the African continent are projected to experience varying degrees of depreciation in the year, with inflation and interest rate increases, and a weak growth outlook accounting for part of the pressure.

The naira weakened relative to the dollar, exchanging for 752 from 748 at last week's close on the parallel market, as demand for foreign exchange picked up in the New Year.

This came also against the background of the World Bank's downward revision of its growth forecast for the country to 2.9 per cent, from an earlier projection

of 3.1 per cent. The bank cited continued weakness in Nigeria's oil sector, where theft has deeply hurt production.

"With crude prices moderating and security issues persisting, the country's oil production outlook remains challenging. We expect FX demand to weaken the naira in the near term further," AZA Finance, Africa's largest non-bank currency broker by trading volume, said in a note to its clients on Thursday.

In Ghana, AZA expects the cedi to decline under the combined weight of the country's debt crisis, rising inflation and weaker growth outlook. The currency, which lost about 37 per cent last year, fell against the dollar to 11.02 from 10.20 at last week's close, but AZA expects it to trade in the 11 to 12.5 range "in the coming week". Ghana's inflation rose to a record 54.1 in December, the seventh highest rate in the world,

as investors continue to exit the market. The Bank of Ghana also raised the interest rate to 27 per cent last year. The government last month defaulted on its foreign debts, after announcing a restructuring of its local debts. The World Bank has forecast a 2.7 per cent economic growth this year.

In Egypt, the central bank devalued the pound, the third in less than a year, causing the currency to fall to 30.5 to the dollar, from 27.4 where it closed last week, according to AZA.

"The bank has committed to allowing the currency to float more freely and not to intervene in the FX market as part of a deal to unlock fresh IMF funding and to ease the impact of a dollar shortage in the country," the currency dealer said.

Egypt's annual inflation rose to a five-year high of 21.3% last month, from 18.7% in November, led by a sharp rise in food and

beverage prices. The government plans to reduce fiscal spending and shelve infrastructure projects that consume large quantities of foreign currency. "We expect the pound to continue depreciating in the short term until those spending cuts take effect," AZA said.

Right now, Zimbabwe's dollar is the world's worst-performing currency, after falling 521 per cent to an exchange rate of 689 per dollar from 111. Even so, AZA says the currency seems destined to fall further, with the country owing approximately \$13bn to international financial institutions and ineligible for additional lines of credit from the IMF.

It noted that pressure on Africa's central banks to raise interest rates continues into 2023 amid lingering inflationary strains. Defending currencies against depreciation adds to pressure for further rate hikes in the year ahead.

Era of estimated, post-paid billings over – EEDC

From Titus Eleweke, Awka

The Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) has urged residents of Anambra State to take advantage of the mobile Meter Asset Provider (MAP) metering to be metered.

Chief Technical Officer of EEDC, Engr. Vincent Ekwewku gave the advice on Wednesday while flagging-off the mobile map metering in Ogidi, Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

He said the era of estimated and post-paid billings were over with the introduction of the new arrangement targeted at ensuring customers access prepaid meters within 48 hours.

"The whole essence is to increase patronage and close the metering gap because people are complaining they are no more comfortable with estimated billing. But with this arrangement, the era of estimated and post-paid is gone. Apart from the smart prepaid meters being recharged online, you can now regulate your supply and manage your energy," he said.

The Commissioner for Power and Water Resources in Anambra, Engr. Julius Chukwuemeka said Governor Chukwuma Soludo is committed to 24-hour power supply in the state as one of his major deliverables for the year.



■ L-R: Group Chief Executive Officer NNPC Limited Mallam Mele Kyari, Chief Executive Officer Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Regulatory Authority Engr. Ahmed Farouk, Minister of State Petroleum Resources Chief Timipre Sylva, Spanish Foreign Minister Mr Jose Alabares, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Petroleum Resource Amb. Gabriel Aduda, Chief Executive Officer Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission Engr. Gbenga Komolafe and Managing Director Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Mr Philip Mshelbila, during a bilateral meeting between Nigeria and Spain, in Abuja, on Thursday

Buhari gets business facilitation bill for assent

By Philip Shimnom Clement

Following the earlier passage of the Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provision) Bill 2022 by the House of Representatives and the Senate, the National Assembly has now transmitted the bill to President Muhammadu Buhari for assent.

Making the announcement in a statement yesterday, the Special Adviser to the President, Ease of Doing Business/PEBEC Secretary, Dr Jumoke Oduwale, said the bill

is designed to strengthen ongoing reforms and consolidate legislative provisions that border on ease of doing business in Nigeria.

She said the Business Facilitation Bill aims to codify Executive Order 001 (EO1) on Transparency and Efficiency in Public Service Delivery, amend select business facilitation laws identified as critical to the ease of doing business in Nigeria, and institutionalise business climate reforms.

"The transmitted bill is

a culmination of 4 years of collaboration of public and private sector stakeholders since 2018, including the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMoJ), the Section on Business Law of the Nigerian Bar Association through the participation of over 40 law firms and consulting firms, the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), and the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER).

"The omnibus bill is an intervention of the Presidential

Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), chaired by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, to consolidate and amend legislative provisions towards deepening PEBEC reforms and removing bottlenecks for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria.

"The business community eagerly looks forward to the bill being signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari in order to reap the attendant benefits for the Nigerian economy," she added.

FG establishes sugar institute to resuscitate sector

By Faruk Shuaibu

In a bid to continue the revamp of the Nigeria sugar industry, National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) has commenced the official take-off of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI), Ilorin.

The Executive Secretary of NSDC, Mr Zacch Adedeji,

during the event yesterday stated that the institute was established to conduct research, develop modules for training professionals in the sector as well as serve as the main training hub for stakeholders in the sugar sub-sector of the Nigerian economy.

In a statement by the head of the Public Affairs Unit of the commission, Abdullahi W.

Yunusa, Adedeji said research, data and technology are critical ingredients required to build a sugar sector that would place Nigeria among the comity of leading sugar producers within the continent.

He said that the NSDC is committed to putting in place programmes, policies and innovations that would

accelerate Nigeria's drive to attain self-sufficiency in sugar production through faithful implementation of the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP).

He pointed out that the sector has recorded tremendous achievements during the last 10 years of implementing the sugar road map, surpassing its local raw sugar refining capacity.

NCC lunches E-Health Solution at ATBU

From Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

Nigerian Communication Commission has launched the E-Health Solution at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBU-TH) in Bauchi to improve the lives of patients and facilitate appointments and payments to reduce queues in hospitals.

Speaking during the lunch yesterday at a hospital in Bauchi, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of NCC, Professor Umar Garba Danbatta, said the prime e-health hub is one of the recipients of NCC grant aimed at facilitating funding for the Innovation Startup Ecosystem, adding that the grant was provided by the commission to deploy Smart Clinic solutions to facilitate appointments and payments to reduce queues in hospitals.

Earlier in his remark, the Chief Medical Director, Dr Jibrin Bara, said e-health encompasses more than a mere technological development. "E-health is an emerging field in the intersection of medical informatics, public health and business. Referring to health care services, information delivered through the internet and related technologies are aimed at improving healthcare delivery and improving the overall health status of the population.

Happy 64th Birthday

Alhaji Murtala Abdulkadir Dan'iya on behalf of my humble self and members of my family congratulate the Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan on his 64th birthday anniversary.

Sir, there is no gain saying that, your tenure has demonstrated that there can be a cordial relationship between the legislature and the executive even without compromising oversight function of the national Assembly which you head, like never before.

Your tenure has witnessed the passage of bills that have previously placed in the cooler, thus accelerating developmental project in this country.

As you attained this milestone, May Allah continue to protect you, direct your affairs and grant you the robust energy to continue to add value to this country and the humanity.

His Excellency
**Sen. (Dr.) Ahmad
Ibrahim Lawan, GCON**
(Sardaunan Bade)
Yobe State
Chairman, 9th National Assembly
President of the 9th Senate



Signed:
Alhaji Murtala Abdulkadir Dan'iya



YOUTHVILLE

...young at heart

Friday, January 13, 2023



Talent is cheap; dedication is expensive. It will cost you your life. - Irving Stone

Youth initiative launches campaign to boost voter turnout

By Simon Echewofun
Sunday

A non-profit organisation in the North West, Golden Star Initiative, has launched a campaign to promote massive mobilisation of voters for the 2023 general elections.

Speaking at the project launch in Katsina, the executive director, Dr Anas Sanusi Gusau, said the campaign called 'Shun voter apathy, I pledge to vote' is a project that is set to mobilise young voters to collect their PVCs and vote in the 2023 general elections.

He said: "The project focuses on Sokoto, Katsina, Kebbi, and Zamfara and ultimately targets increasing voter turnout in 2023 general elections by mobilising 60 per cent of young registered voters to participate in the electoral process."

Also speaking, the project officer for Katsina State, Ismail Bello, said:



"Reversing the trend of low participation requires a context-specific citizens' mobilisation strategy premised on innovation, inclusion, collaboration and consistent targeted actions.

"The decline is attributed to distrust in the electoral

process, inaccuracies in the voter register, poor voter mobilisation, threats of violence, bad governance, militarisation of election, among other factors."

The programme launch was attended by representatives from the police, INEC, IPAC, civil

defence, NDLEA, CSOs, among others.

Golden Star is implementing the programme along with LEAP Africa through the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) and funded by MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Jos youth tasked on election participation

From Dickson S. Adama, Jos

The convener of Initiative for Better and Brighter Nigeria (IBBN) and Coalition for a Better and Brighter Nigeria (CBBN), Isa El-Buba Sadiq, has called on youths to endeavour to participate in the forthcoming general elections and also deliberately vote in credible leaders.

He stated this while addressing newsmen in Jos, the Plateau State capital. El-Buba said the youths must elect someone grounded in economy management, young and agile.

"I wish to express my gladness with the level of eye opening that Nigerian youths are giving to the coming election. It is the one good thing that has come out of our current nightmare. Irrespective of

political affiliations, I urge you to vote for your conscience.

"For once, let our votes reflect our earnest yearning in 2023. It is now Operation Save Nigeria with good governance. Let no political party affiliation stand in the way. Let no ethnic or religious sentiments stand in the way," he urged the youths.

The cleric said with the presidential elections in about 40 days, there is a clear choice of the candidate with the sincerity of purpose and clarity of vision to serve Nigeria with love, strength and faith as well as go ahead to implement public policy that will birth a renewed nation.

"People should come out on the 25th of February to vote for the candidates who will deliver the nation," he said.

FG challenges youths to 60-day app creation

By Linda Ifeachor

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development in partnership with the Bank of Industry has called on Nigerian youths to participate in the 2nd National Sixty-Day App Development Challenge.

There are 10 grand prizes of N1 million each to be won along with business development training, laptops and participation certificates for the 50 winners expected.

The 60-day app challenge is aimed at engaging young Nigerians in designing a mobile application to improve a range of processes and increase the level of accessibility to available services, the notice said.

The challenge which commenced on Monday is open until March 10, 2023 when youths between 18 and 35 years of age can submit their pitches.



According to the ministry, the initiative is to improve innovation and creativity among Nigerian youth by encouraging them to develop their own app ideas and turn them into a reality by using them to solve problems.

The challenge cuts across agriculture, education, finance, health, sports and the telecommunications sector.

For agric-tech, apps are needed around precision farming, crop monitoring, and irrigation systems. For edu-tech,

apps should hover around online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and educational games.

The government is also seeking tech ideas on mobile banking, online payment systems, and personal finance management tools in the fintech sector.

In health, apps should be on telemedicine, fitness tracking, and disease management. "An app idea that solves a problem in this sector could be one that helps people manage their health

more effectively, provides access to healthcare for underserved communities, or tracks and motivates healthy behaviours," it noted.

For sports, an app idea that solves a problem in this sector could be one that helps athletes optimise their performance, such as fitness tracking among others.

In telecommunications, apps such as mobile networks, internet service providers, and communication tools are sought after.

NNPC, Shell open scholarship for varsity students

By Simon Echewofun Sunday

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited in partnership with NNPC Limited has opened entries on scholarship for university students in four host states.

According to the scholarship notice, the firm said the gesture is in pursuance of its social investment programme in education aimed to promote academic excellence and enhance the employability of young Nigerians.

Applicants should be Nigerian students admitted into full-time academic studies in the 2020/2021 session and can apply for

the National Merit (NM) award and the Areas of Operation Merit (AOM) award.

While the NM is open to all Nigerians, the AOM is open to Nigerians who are indigenous to SPDC's operational areas in Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, and Rivers states.

Applicants have since this week and up to February 3, 2023 to apply as long as they are in 200 Level or possess proof of admission into undergraduate programme in the 2020/2021 academic session.

They must not be beneficiaries of any other scholarship from an entity operating in the oil and gas industry, national or international.



NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI

P.M.B 1022, KEFFI, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA
www.nasuk.edu.ng

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSTS OF BURSAR, DIRECTORS OF HEALTH SERVICES, PHYSICAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AND WORKS AND MAINTENANCE

The Governing Council of Nasarawa State University, Keffi hereby announces that the positions of the Bursar; Director of Health Services; Director of Physical Planning and Development; and Director of Works and Maintenance are vacant and so invites interested and qualified candidates to apply.

1. THE INSTITUTION

The University was established under Nasarawa State University, Keffi Law NO.2 of 2001. With the main campus located in Keffi town, the University caters for both full time and part time students. Others include Pyanku, Lafia and Gudi campuses. It has eight (8) faculties, 63 academic programmes, a Postgraduate School, Institutes and Centres.

2. THE POSITION

a. Bursar

The Bursar is a Principal Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the University. He is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day financial administration and control of the University finances.

b. Director of Health Services

The Director of Health Services is a Management Staff and the Administrative Head of the University Health Services. He shall assume full responsibility for effective organization, administration and general policy of the University health care services. He shall work under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the Health Centre.

c. Director of Physical Planning and Development

The Director, Physical Planning and Development is a Management Staff and the Head of the Directorate under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor. He/She shall be responsible for the physical development of the University, including landscape development, coordination and supervision of project construction, ensures quality and standard of physical structures through proper advice and liaison with relevant bodies involved in construction works, prepare quarterly and annual reports on state of physical facilities to include ongoing and/or planned projects while ensuring proper preparation of tender documents for the University.

d. Director of Works and Maintenance

The Director of Works and Maintenance is a Management Staff and the Head of the Directorate under the direct supervision of the Vice-Chancellor. He/She shall be responsible for the physical/infrastructural facilities management and maintenance in the University. He/She shall undertake supervision by ensuring quality standard/maintenance and servicing of physical structures, motor vehicles and machines and keeping proper inventory of all University properties and having responsibility of their security and upkeep.

3. THE CANDIDATES

For all the positions, the University seeks candidates who are proactive with amiable track record in public service, must be visionary with proven academic distinction, managerial ability, high integrity and transparency in private and public life. He/She must fully understand the complexity of the University System and command respect and engender loyalty of both staff and students.

Candidate must also enjoy good mental and physical health, must be ICT proficient in relevant computer applications and should not be above 60 years of age at the time of assumption of office. Candidate must show evidence of NYSC discharge certificate or exemption.

4. QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

a. Bursar

Candidate must possess a minimum of second class lower degree in Accounting or related discipline from a recognized University. Possession of a relevant higher degree will be an added advantage. Candidate must in addition; possess professionally recognized Accounting qualification(s) and registered with professional body e.g. ICAN, ANAN, ACMA, ACCA, CAN, CPA.

The candidate must have at least fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience and ten (10) years post professional qualification(s). In addition, the candidate must have at least seven (7) years relevant experience in senior management position preferably in a University. He/She must be a Deputy Bursar as at the time of applying.

b. Director of Health Services

Candidates must possess good honours degree in medicine from a recognized University/tertiary institution. Possession of a Fellow of Medical Postgraduate College Certificate or Higher Degree in relevant fields of Medicine will be an added advantage. Candidate must have acceptable evidence of full registration and licencing with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience; seven of which must have been spent in Senior Management position.

In addition, candidate must have spent at least four (4) years as Deputy Director or Chief Medical Officer or Medical Consultant in a University or comparable institution.

c. Director Physical Planning and Development

Candidate must possess a minimum of Second Class Lower degree from a recognized University/tertiary institution in Civil or Building Engineering, Estate Management, Quantity Surveying, Urban and Regional Planning, Environmental Resource Management or Architecture. Possession of a Ph.D or Postgraduate qualification(s) in relevant field shall be an added advantage. Candidate must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience seven (7) of which must have been spent in Senior Management position and atleast four (4) years as Deputy Director in a University or comparable institution.

Candidates must in addition, possess professionally recognized qualification(s) and registered with relevant professional and regulatory bodies such as: COREN, ARCON, CORBON, OSRBN, TOPREC, ESVARBON and must demonstrate impressive knowledge in project conception, handling and management including promotion of green campus.

d. Director of Works and Maintenance

Candidate must possess a minimum of Second Class Lower degree from a recognized University/tertiary institution in Civil or Building or Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, Estate Management, Quantity Surveying, Urban and Regional Planning or Architecture. Possession of a Ph.D or Postgraduate qualification(s) in relevant field shall be an added advantage. Candidate must have a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience seven (7) of which must have been spent in Senior Management position and atleast four (4) years as Deputy Director in a University or comparable institution.

In addition, candidate must possess professionally recognized qualification(s) and registered with relevant professional and regulatory bodies such as: COREN, ARCON, CORBON, OSRBN, TOPREC, ESVARBON and must demonstrate high level of knowledge and competence in the general maintenance of the University Physical Infrastructure.

5. SALARY

The remuneration and fringe benefits applicable to the Post of the Bursar, Director of Health Services, Director of Physical Planning and Development and Director of Works and Maintenance are as obtainable in Nigerian Federal Universities and as may be determined from time-time by the Nasarawa State Government and/or the Governing Council.

6. CONDITION OF SERVICE

The appointment shall be for a single term of five (5) years from the date of assumption of duty.

7. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should apply with twenty (20) copies of their applications, photocopies of their credentials and current curriculum vitae duly signed and dated highlighting the following information:

1. Full name (Surname first in capital letters)
2. Place and Date of Birth
3. Marital Status
4. Number and ages of children
5. E-mail and telephone number(s)
6. Postal address
7. Permanent Home address
8. Nationality
9. State of Origin and LGA
10. Schools attended and academic/professional qualifications obtained with dates Statement of experience including full details of former and present posts
11. Statement of the candidate's vision for the University (in the relevant area) in the next five (5) years
12. Other activities outside current employment
13. Membership of professional bodies
14. Names and addresses of three (3) referees

Applications should be submitted under confidential cover in sealed envelope marked at the upper left hand corner: POST OF BURSAR, DIRECTOR- HEALTH, DIRECTOR-PPD OR DIRECTOR- WORKS (as the case may be) addressed to:

**The Registrar,
Nasarawa State University, Keffi,
P.M.B. 1022, Keffi,
Nasarawa State,
Nigeria.**

8. REFEREES REPORT

Applicants are expected to request their Referees to forward their reports under confidential cover directly to the Registrar.

9. CLOSING DATE

Applications and Referees Reports should reach the office of the Registrar not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication. Note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Signed
Bala I. Ahmed II, mnim, fcai, fcim
Registrar/Secretary to Council



NIGERIAN SHIPPERS' COUNCIL

In collaboration with

The Union of African Shippers' Councils

Under the auspices of

Federal Ministry of Transportation

Organises

9th African Shippers' Day

- Date** ➤ Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th, January, 2023
Venue ➤ Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos
Time ➤ 9:am Daily

Theme: African Continental Free Trade Agreement: A veritable platform for African Shippers to mainstream into global trade.

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR:

His Excellency, President
Muhammadu Buhari GCFR,
 Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

CHIEF HOST:

Hon. Minister of Transportation,
Alhaji Mu'azu Jaji Sambo

LINK TO ONLINE REGISTRATION
<https://9thafricanshippersday.ng/>

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Chief C.C. Agu
 +234 8060873957

cajetanagu@shipperscouncil.gov.ng

J.O Saka (Mrs)
 +234 8023465108

jsaka@shipperscouncil.gov.ng

Visit: www.shipperscouncil.gov.ng

Signed: MANAGEMENT



ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS
KATSINA STATE CHAPTER

His Excellency,
Executive Governor
Of Katsina State
Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello
Masari, CFR



CORDIALLY INVITES



**ALL APC FAITHFUL, COPORATE ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS
TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT BUILDING APPEAL FUND LAUNCH**

**UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMANSHIP OF:
SENATOR HADI ABUBAKAR SIRIKA, MINISTER OF AVIATION**

CHIEF LAUNCHER: ARC. KABIR IBRAHIM FASKARI

**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR:
SENATOR ABDULLAHI ADAMU
APC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

**CHIEF HOST: HIS EXCELLENCY, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KATSINA STATE,
RT. HON. AMINU BELLO MASARI, CFR**

DATE: SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY, 2023.

TIME: 11:00 AM

**VENUE: APC PERMANENT SECRETARIAT COMPLEX.
BESIDE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, KATSINA-DUTSINMA ROAD, KATSINA.**

**SIGNED:
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

TRUST ISLAMIC FORUM



■ Officials of NAHCON and Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah after a strategic meeting held on the sidelines of Hajj and Umrah Expo in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

2.5m Muslims to perform 2023 Hajj

... \$53.2bn spent on expansion of Makkah Grand Mosque

By Faruk Shuaibu with agency report

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared that the numbers of pilgrims to perform Hajj this year would be the same before the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.

About 2.5 million people took part in the Hajj exercise in 2019.

After the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the Kingdom's authorities allowed only 1,000 domestic pilgrims to participate in an effort to curb the spread of the disease.

The following year, the Kingdom upped the total to 60,000 fully vaccinated Saudi residents.

In 2022, Saudi Arabia increased Hajj pilgrimage capacity to one million, allowing both foreign and domestic pilgrims to participate in the exercise.

The Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, said the kingdom would scrap all age requirements for pilgrims after three years of restrictions.

He spoke at the opening ceremony of "Expo Hajj", the conference and exhibition of Hajj and Umrah services, which concluded on Thursday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

He also disclosed the reduction of Umrah pilgrims' insurance by 63 per cent from SR235 (N28,265) to SR88 (N10,584) and Hajj pilgrims'

insurance reduced by 73 per cent from SR109 (N13,110) to SR29 (N3,488).

The minister said Umrah visa has been extended from 30 days to 90 days and allows its holder to move around the kingdom.

He said, "Any visitor to the kingdom with any type of visa can perform the Umrah and visit Madinah. We worked with partners to enrich the cultural experience after performing the rituals and developing and activating Islamic historical sites related to the Prophet's biography."

He said the kingdom was working on rehabilitation of 100 Islamic historical sites during the upcoming years, adding that over SR200 billion (\$53.2bn) has been expended on the expansion of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, making it the largest construction project in history.

Meanwhile, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has commended Saudi authorities for the timely release of general guidelines and rules of engagement guiding the 2023 Hajj.

NAHCON, in a statement, said the strategic meetings it had with the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has allowed it to make vital and critical steps in the areas of enlightenment, transportation and logistics.

The commission's Assistant Director Information and Publications, Mousa Ubandawaki, said discussion between the two sides centred on pilgrims' orientation, security, safety, flight schedule and movements.

He said NAHCON's commissioner of Planning, Research, Statistics, Information and Library Services, Sheikh Suleman Mommoh, thanked the government of Saudi Arabia for restoring the 95,000 Hajj slots to Nigeria for 2023.

Daily Trust reports that the 4-day Hajj and Umrah expo was attended by over 400 participants, including private tour operators and Hajj missions across the world.

Jeddah airport starts free shuttle service to Holy Mosque

King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah has launched a free shuttle service for pilgrims.

The new service will take pilgrims from Terminal 1 at the airport to the Grand Mosque in Makkah, the airport announced on Twitter.

"Beneficiaries of the service must wear the Ihram and produce the national ID for Saudis or the passport for foreigners."

Trips will depart from the airport every two hours, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and will depart from the Grand Mosque every two hours, from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

UK mosque plan to end prayers in car park

A United Kingdom Mosque where worshippers regularly have to pray in the car park has drawn up plans for a new building.

Central Masjid on Southfield Road in Middlesbrough wants to build a bigger mosque along with a 24-hour gym, a lecture theatre, classrooms and cafe.

Chairman Gohar Ihsan said the community has outgrown the current site and wanted to create a hub for more interaction with local people.

The plans will be submitted to Middlesbrough Council "imminently".

About 500 people currently worship at the mosque but only

about half of them can fit inside at one time. The new mosque is intended to cater for 1,000 worshippers.

Mr Ihsan said: "We have people praying outside in the rain sometimes on Fridays and it's freezing cold, especially in the winter."

"What we are building is not just a mosque, the whole point of the development is there is a broader vision for a community hub, there is nothing like this in the whole of the North East."

"It will be the most forward-thinking mosques in terms of development and interaction, bringing new initiatives to the community."

Mr Ihsan told the Local Democracy Reporting Service in the summer more people attended and the car park is "absolutely ram packed".

The vision for the new site includes the provision of education classes, as well as activities for children and initiatives such as visits to people in care homes, litter picks and tree planting.

The mosque has an "open door policy" for the local community and runs a weekly food bank.

Mr Ihsan said "99.9%" of its users were not Muslims, and he believes it is part of the mosque's role to "welcome and accommodate everyone". (BBC)

THE RELIGION WITH ALLAH IS ISLAM

AFIS A. OLADOSU
08122465111 (Text only)

2023 and the madmen in our cities (II)

Brethren, let us pause a moment to ponder this question: what usually leads to involuntary madness? Two revered scholars in Islamic annals have refreshing perspectives. First, let us consider that of Ibn Qayyim. According to him, "evil spirits usually take possession of those having little religious inclinations and those whose hearts and tongues faith has deserted; those whose souls are dissolute of the remembrance of the Almighty...when evil spirits meet a man who is isolated, weaponless and naked they are easily able to attack and overcome him".

Now Ibn Taimiyah adds a different but equally useful perspective. He says a man may become a victim of demonic possession if he falls in the track of a Jinn which has excessive sensual or sexual desire. In other words, just as we have humans who engage in debauchery and bestiality, just as we have humans who seek pleasures in animals and other species outside their own, there are Jinns which equally seek pleasures from creatures other than their own. Once they find some among humans who catch their fancies, they possess such individuals. Jinns equally possess humans out of mischief or out of anger.

Let us side-step this in order to get to the subject of today's sermon. Brethren, when we contemplate the two states of madness I mentioned above, namely, voluntary and involuntary madness, we find uncanny similarities and lessons. For example, when you look around our cities, you would see men and women suffering mental dementia and insanity; men suffering involuntary madness. They parade the streets and pathways of our villages on a daily basis. In fact, they are the real occupiers of our nation. They usually bask in an unusual state of happiness. You remember that mad guy in the market square. He dances around the city. He runs and walks without aim or goal. But is that really true? Is the madman's movement actually aimless and useless? Is his happiness futile and banal? I am of the opinion the answer may actually be in the affirmative: that there are pleasures in being mad which none but the madman and woman can explain.

Evidence to show that there are pleasures in madness probably lies in the vocation of the madmen and women. An ordinary madman and woman are busy-bodies. Both strive, on a daily basis, to create an 'empire' for themselves, for their world - an empire of garbage, of debris and detritus. Pause a moment in front of the 'palace' of the mad man in your neighbourhood and he would remind you of your humanity. She is surrounded by his world: a world of pleasure and of material acquisitions: of disused television sets, of brooms and pans, of mats and mattresses, of pots and utensils, of homes that are actually homeless.

In other words, dear brethren, the madman is human and cannot stop being one. Except that he hardly cries; except that he hardly experiences emotions of loss and pain, the mad man and woman are mirrors of other mad men and women in our society - those suffering from acquired madness. Brethren, those suffering from acquired madness are essentially humans, like those mentioned above. But unlike IM, they experience fits of madness because of their incontinence and their excessive acquisition of the material. Like the involuntary mad man, the voluntarily mad man feels a sense of completeness only when he is surrounded by the material- the useful and the useless. Like those suffering from IM, the voluntarily madman equally gathers every rubbish and scrap he can lay his hands on even though they are of no use to him! In fact, he carries and conducts his affairs as if he is mentally deranged. He lives amidst the community as if he lives all alone. He prefers to be alone, to eat alone, to sleep alone and, yes, to die all alone. Like the mentally deranged, he lives in the inside as if he is on the outside.

Brethren, the VM man could be the billionaire on the street. He builds houses for those who would fight over and inherit it. Al-Rasul once asked his companions: 'who among you loves the money of his inheritor more than he does his own?'. All the companions chorused: "we all love our money, not that of those who will inherit us". But al-Rrasul said the similitude of he who loves someone else's money is he who keeps his money away and refuses to spend it on the path of the Almighty.

ADVERTORIAL

RETRACTION OF LIBELOUS PUBLICATION & APOLOGY

A book titled "No easy Road to Priesthood", authorized Biography of Most Revd. Ali Buba Lamido was published by one Gideon S. Tseja sometime in 2022 and was formally presented to the public at Wusasa Zaria on the 12th November, 2022. The book contains statements which are untrue and libelous against a person who is described in the said book as "a retired army officer", "Evangelist" and "an Engineer by training".

The said libelous statements were intended and regarded by several Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) members and in public circles and communities in and around the Wusasa areas of Kaduna State to be of and concerning Major Abdallah Baikie (Rtd)

The undersigned hereby acknowledge and state unequivocally that the statements contained particularly at pages 85 to 91 of the book are untrue, misleading, reckless and are capable of tarnishing the hard-earned reputation of Major Abdallah Baikie built over a period of more than 4 decades, to the extent that he is believed by right-thinking members of his church community, particularly within the Church of Nigeria, (Anglican Communion) and the Wusasa Community generally, to be the person referred to in the publication as "a retired army officer", "Evangelist" and "an Engineer by training" even though unnamed.

The inclusion of the statements complained about that are on pages 85 -91 of the book were not a deliberate falsehood on the part of the undersigned and not made with any malicious intent to lie or defame the character of Major Abdallah Baikie but based upon an erroneous and mistaken opinion held by the undersigned.

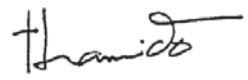
Consequently we the persons whose names appear below hereby agree to do the following:

1. Retract pages 85 to 91 of the book titled "No easy Road to Priesthood" authorized Biography of Most Revd. Ali Buba Lamido.
2. Offer our unreserved apology to Major Abdullah Baikie who is believed by right thinking members of the church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and other persons including persons in the Wusasa communities, to be the person described in the book as "a retired army officer", "Evangelist" and "an Engineer by training".
3. Pay an agreed undisclosed conciliatory sum to Major Abdullah Baikie towards the legal fees incurred by him in the pursuit of his claim against the undersigned.
4. Cause this statement to be published in three National daily newspapers to be agreed upon, one of which shall be a newspaper with the widest circulation in the Zaria and Wusasa areas of Kaduna State as a full and unequivocal public retraction and apology to Major Abdullah Baikie for the statements contained on pages 85-91 of the book.

The undersigned have also given an undertaking not to repeat these or any other erroneous and false allegations about Major Abdullah Baikie.



Gideon S. Tsaja



Most Rev. Ali Buba Lamido

Classifieds made easy PUBLIC NOTICE Page 3

ODUBANJO: I, formerly known and addressed as **OYELOWO ADEOLA TEMITOPE.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **ODUBANJO ADEOLA TEMITOPE.** All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and general public take note.

BASSEY: I, formerly known and addressed as **SMART BASSEY MOSCOW.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **BASSEY SMART MOSCOW.** All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and general public take note.

That I was formerly known, called and addressed as **IBERI OBIANJU and IBERI UJU.** That from henceforth, I wish to be known, called and addressed as **OBI OBIANJU** due to my present status as a married woman. That all documents bearing my former name remain valid and General public should take note.

OJUPON-AKIODE: I, formerly known and addressed as **OJUPON RAMOTA MORENIKE.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **OJUPON-AKIODE RAMOTA MORENIKE.** All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and general public take note.

OMIYALE: I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS AKINODE ELIZABETH TOMILOLA.** Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs OMIYALE ELIZABETH TOMILOLA.** All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and general public take note.

VERIFICATION OF NAME I formerly known and addressed as **MUSA PEACE** now wish to be known and addressed as **PETER PEACE MUSA** All former documents remain valid G.D.S.S. fkyu All concern and authority General public should please take note.

TOBI I, formerly known as **TOBI INNOCENT PETER** now wish to be known and called **TOBI PETER VINCENT.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

I, ALIYU MUSA ABDULLAHI do solemnly declare that the name **ALIYU MUSA ABDULLAHI** and **ALIYU ABDULLAHI** are referred to me, as I used to answer either of the names. Now I wish to be known and called **ALIYU MUSA ABDULLAHI** with **03/03/2003** as **D.O.B.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

ADAMU I, formerly known as **ABDULAZEEZ ADAMU** now wish to be known and called **ABDULAZIZ ADAMU JINGI.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and public to note.

YUSUF I formally known as **YUSUF NASIHA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and Addressed as **YUSUF ABDULLAHI** All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

IBRAHIM : I formerly known as **IBRAHIM HAMED** now wish to be known as **IBRAHIM MUHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid . General public should take note.

YARO: I, Formerly known as **ALAHIYA JULIANA DANIEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **YARO JULIANA BALAMI.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

DEBORAH: I, formerly known as **AKINRINADE DEBORAH OLUWAFUNMILAYO** now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINRINADE DEBORAH OLUWATOFUNMI.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

DANLADI I formerly known and addressed as **DANLADI NUHU KATSINA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DANLADI NUHU KATSIRA** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

WAKIL I formerly known and addressed as **WAKIL MUHAMMAD ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **WAKIL MUHAMMAD** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

MOHAMMED : I formerly known as **MUSA MOHAMMED MAMMAN** now wish to be known as **MOHAMMED MUSA.** With **D O B 01/01/1995** To **21/11/2001.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MUHAMMAD: I formerly known as **MOH'D SHETTIMA** now wish to be known as **MUHAMMAD SHETTIMA.** All former document remain valid. General public should take note

FAVOUR: I formerly known as **GABRIEL RUTH FAVOUR,** now wish to be known and addressed as **PAUL RUTH FAVOUR U.** All former documents remain valid . Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

LAWAN I formally known as **KARFA ADAMU,** that I now wish to be call and address as **LAWAN ADAMU.** Henceforth, all my former documents remain valid. I want all authorities concern to take note.

KASHIM: I formerly known as **MOHAMMED GONI KASHIM,** now wish to be known as addressed as **BABAKURA KASHIM IBRAHIM.** All Former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

ESTHER: I formerly known as **ESTHER JOYNESS SHADRACH,** now wish to be known as addressed as **ESTHER SHADRACH.** All Former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

LIMAN: I formerly known as **LIMAN MOHAMMED MONGUNO,** now wish to be known as addressed as **LIMAN MUHAMMAD MONGUNO.** All Former documents remain valid.

JOHN I, formerly known as **ELIZABETH MOLTA** now wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN MABEL LAMULONGS.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

UMAR I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR USMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR USMAN UMAR.** All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

ZARA: I formerly known as **ZARA UMARU,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZARA USMAN.** All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MONICAH: I Formerly known as **MONICA G. ADAMU** NOW wish to be known and addressed as **MONICAH MARTIN** All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

AMINA I formerly known as **AMINA CHIROMA,** now wish to be called as **AMINA ABU BABA CHIROMA.** All former documents remain valid . Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ZARA. I formerly known as **ZARA MUSTAPHA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZARA MUKTAR.** All former documents remain valid. With correct with **DOB 01/01/1966** NOT **01/01/1963,** General public should please take note

JOEL I formerly known as **YERIMA FALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **JOEL FALI** All former document remain valid General public should please take note

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **MUHAMMED ALHAJI KOLO,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED BABA-KOLO,** All former document remain valid. With correct **DOB. 15/05/2000** NOT **01/01/1992,** General public should please take note

FATIMA: I formerly known as **FATIMA LAWAN,** now wish to be known and addressed as **FATIMA LAWAN ISAH,** All former document remain valid. General public should please take note

AHMAD: I formerly known as **AHMAD TIJJANI ALHAJI,** now wish to be known and addressed as **AHMAD TIJJANI ALKALI,** All former document remain valid. General public should please take note

IBRAHIM I formerly known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ALI BAFFA** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ALI** All former documents remain valid All concern and authority General public should please take note.

FALADE: I, was formerly known called and addressed as **MISS. PEPPLE TAMUNOENE GODWIN** now wish to be known called and addressed as **MRS. FALADE TAMUNOENE AJOKI.** All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should take note.

UDO: I, formerly known and addressed as **SUNDAY, UDO GOODNESS,** now wish to be known and addressed as **UDO, GOODNESS SUNDAY.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note

OKAFOR: I, formerly known and addressed as **NWABUWANNE NKALU STELLA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **OKAFOR NKALU STELLA.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note

IBARAH: I, formerly known and addressed as **IBORAH EREYANATE G,** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBARAH EREYANATE GEORGE.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note

ONYEMEACHI: I, formerly known and addressed as **CHRISTOPHER GOD'STIME AMECHI,** now wish to be known and addressed as **CHRISTOPHER GOD'STIME ONYEMEACHI.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note

SULAIMAN = I, formerly known and addressed as **MUHAMMAD ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **SULAIMAN MUSA.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MRS. CHIBUNDAH = I, formally known as **MISS NNAJI, IJEOMA LOVETH.** now wish to be known as **MRS. CHIBUNDAH, IJEOMA LOVETH** . All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should take note

MRS. AGNES = I formally known as **MISS. AGNES BORNU.** now wish to be known as **MRS. AGNES JAMES NALLEY.** All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note

MRS. ALLISON= I, formally known as **MISS ONUOHA CHINYERE.** now wish to be known as **MRS. ALLISON CHINYERE TEKENA** . All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should take note

MRS. WUCHE = I formally known as **MISS. ATATA VICTORY CHIKLE .** now wish to be known as **MRS. WUCHE VICTORY CHIKLE** . All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should take note

OKOROAFOR i, formerly known as ***OKOROAFOR NNENNA OGBONNE*.** Now wish to be known and addressed as ***OKOROAFOR GRACE ISAAC*.** All former documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

ONYEMECHI i, formerly known as ***NWOKOTUBO MBAKWE*.** Now wish to be known and addressed as ***ONYEMECHI FESTUS MBAKWE*.** All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, Formerly Known And Addressed As **CHINONYE CONFIDENCE ADAKU,** Now Wish To Be Known And Addressed As **CHIMEZIE CONFIDENCE ADAKU .** All Documents Bearing my former name still Remain Valid General, Public please Take Note.

I, Formerly Known And Addressed As **ONYEBERECHI LINDA ADANNA,** Now Wish To Be Known And Addressed As **OSUJI LINDA ADANNA.** All Documents Bearing my former name still Remain Valid General Public please Take Note

I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR NUHU GORONYO** with **D.O.B 15-02-1973** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR NUHU** with **D.O.B 10-10-1968.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **YUSUF SHU,IBU JIBRIN** with **D.O.B 10-05-1980** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF SHA,IBU** with **D.O.B 10-04-1980.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **BELLO A HALILU** now wish to be known and addressed as **BELLO HALILU.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **NASIRU UMARU** now wish to be known and addressed as **NASIRU UMAR HAIBA.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **AISHATU MUHAMMED** with **D.O.B 12-05-1980** now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA MOHAMMAD NAMADINA** with **D.O.B 12-05-1977.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **UMAR BASHAR MARAFA** now wish to be known and addressed as **BASHAR UMAR SANYINNA.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **DONATUS AGIM ABANGKWA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DONATUS AGIM UPI.** All former documents remain valid. **UDU, Sokoto, Premium Pension Ltd, PenCom,** general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED KABIR ALHAJI SHEHU** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED KABIR SHEHU.** All former documents remain valid. **UDU, Sokoto, Premium Pension Ltd, PenCom,** general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **MALAMI ALI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALIYU MALAMI MOHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid. **FCMB,** general public and authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **ABDULMALIK AHMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULMALIK AHMAD.** All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note.

Classifieds

Booking is Simple and Quick

MADE EASY

1 E-booking/E-payment
Make payment into Media Trust Account, type the material by using our already existing format below, attached marriage certificate/Court Affidavits and send with evidence of payment to: **dailytrustadvert@gmail.com**
**See account details below*

2 For Enquiries Call:
ABUJA: 0703005 4108, 08135550022
LAGOS: 08038600327, P/H: 07032757193
KANO: 08050455382, SOKOTO: 08034275900
KADUNA: 08063479316
JOS: 07065103971
MAIDUGURI: 08060473379
e-mail: dailytrustadvert@gmail.com

3 Visit
Abuja Office: No. 20, P. O. W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way, Utako, Abuja
Lagos Office: No. 10, Acme Road, (Textile Labour House), Agidingbi - Ikeja, Lagos
Kano Office: Plot 66, Behind Kano International Trade Fair Complex, Off Zoo Road, Kano
Kaduna Office: Abdussalam Ziza House, A9 Mogadishu City Center, Kaduna

4 Costing:
Change of Name - **N3,000**
Loss of Documents - **N9,450**
Registration of Trustees - **N15,500**

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

COMPANY REGISTRATION

CHANGE OF NAME

LEGAL NOTICE

JOSEPHINE: I, formerly known as **JOSEPHINE KEMBERA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JOSEPHINE VEMBERA**. My date of birth was wrongly captured as **15/5/1992** instead of **14/08/1998**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MOSES: I, formerly known as **ANYAM MOSES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ANYAM AONOONGUSHA MOSES**. My date of birth was wrongly captured as **01/01/1992** instead of **01/01/1990**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

VICTOR: I, formerly known as **KEHINDE COMFORT BALOGUN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. COMFORT VICTOR IMO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known and called **ASHAFA MUHAMMED S**, now wish to be known and called **SHUAIBU MUHAMMED ASHAFA**. All former documents remain valid. First bank of nigeria, jaiz bank, access bank and the general public to note.

ELLA: I, formerly known as **ATASE ELLA EJUMUDO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ELLA EJUMUDO CHIBOGWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

UMAR: I, formerly known as **ABDULAHIM YAHAYA OMARO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR YAHAYA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ESTHER: I, formerly known as **ADENIYI OLUWASEUN ESTHER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OLUWASEUN ESTHER OLUFOKUNBI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OYIBO: I, formerly known as **VICTORY OJOCHENEMI ATTAH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTORY OJOCHENEMI OYIBO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHIDEL: I, formerly known as **CHIDELBELU MBAEKWE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CHIDEL MBAEKWE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AMINAT: I, formerly known as **AMINAT SHADE SALAWU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMINAT FOLASHADE SALAWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

COMFORT: I, formerly known as **TANKO COMFORT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMUEL COMFORT**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MARK: I, formerly known as **BABANGIDA SOLOMON SARKI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARK BABANGIDA SOLOMON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

JOY: I, formerly known as **CHIOMA JOY NNENNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as. All former documents remain valid **MRS. OKOROJI JOY NNENNA**. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **ASAMAU ADAMU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **LAMI ABDU**. All former documents to remain valid. General public, financial institutions and all authorities concerned should please take note.

Confirmation of Name: **I, EZE AUGUSTINA NGOZI** is the same person bearing **EZE NGOZI AUGUSTINA**. I wish to be known and addressed as **EZE AUGUSTINA NGOZI**. All former documents remain valid and the general public should take note.

ADAMU: I, formerly known as **GONI ADAM IBN MOHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ADAMU MOHAMMED BOY**. All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public to take note.

ABUBAKAR: I, formerly known as **MUSA MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MUSA MUHAMMAD**. All documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **JOHN AMINA** now wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN VICTORIA AMINA**, and **DOB 24/12/1978**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

DAYIL: I formerly known and addressed as **AARON MIAPLONG**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AARON LUKAS DAYIL**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

VIVIAN: I formerly known and addressed as **ADAPODE TEGA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADARODE OGHENETEGA VIVIAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

MIKE: I formerly known and addressed as **ABOHI OMOAUKHE MICHAEL**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ABOHI OMOAUKHE MIKE**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **YAKUBU ABUBAKAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **YAKUBU ABUBAKAR LAWAL**. General public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **HENRY UDEME** now wish to be known and addressed as **JACKSON UDEME CORNELIA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

MAIRO MOHAMMED: I was formally known and called **MAIRO YAHAYA**. But from now henceforth, I wish to be known and called **MAIRO MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. The general public to please take note.

YUSUF: I, formerly known as **YUSUF NAALLAH SAIDU** now wish to be known and address as **YUSUF ABDULLAHI**. **DOB 30/09/1970**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SADIK ; I, formerly known as **SADIQ YUSUF UMAR** now wish to be known and address as **SADIK YUSUF**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SHITTU: I, formerly known as **SHITTU TIRIMISIYU IYIOLA** now wish to be known and address as **SHITTU TIRIMISIYU ISSA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **DORCAS KEFAS** now wish to be known and addressed as **LARABA KEFAS**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

MERCY: I, formerly known as **MISS MERCY ZEYAN DANRANDA** now wish to be known and address as **MRS MERCY AMOS GAYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **EBAN EMILY MOZAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **EBAN EMILY** former document remain valid. General public authority concerned to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **FANTAMI ALHAJI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALHAJI FANTAMI BULA** All former document remain valid. General public authority concerned to take note.

IBRAHIM : I formerly known and addressed as **IBRAHIM SALE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM SALE ABUBAKAR AND MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 5-03-1995 NOT 25-2-1992**, all former documents remain valid, general public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **AKPERE JONAH EKWOGBE** now wish to be known and addressed as **KIDZE-AKPERE JONAH EKWOGBE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **IBRAHIM AGA** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBRAHIM ZAMANA**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

JOHN: I formerly known and addressed as **BRAIH ALENOGHENA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **JOHN, ALENOGHENA**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public to take note.

JACOB: This is to notified the general public that: ADEGOKE GODDAY and JACOB GODDEY. Belong to me and same person. Now wish to be known and addressed as **JACOB GODDEY**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and public to take note.

SAADATU I formerly known as **SAADATU MAHMUD** now wish to be known and addressed as **SAADATU MAHMUD MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.

BINTA I formerly known as **1.BINTA LAWAL BAGIWA 2.BINTA BUGAJE MAINASARA** now wish to be known and addressed as **BINTA MAINASARA BUGAJE**. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.

I formerly known as **SANI NAFISAT** now wish to be addressed as **ABDULRAZAK NAFISAT SANI**. All former documents remain valid and general public should take note.

I formerly known as **obaje egboli**, now wish to be called and addressed as **Obaje daniel egba ojo**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I, formerly known as **JACOB ABU PETER**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SHAWULU ABU PETER**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

Mustapha: I formerly known as **Mustapha Shehu** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mustapha Abubakar Shehu**. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF BIRTH: I, AFACHUNG JUSTINE UYONAH, wish to notify the general public that my Date of Birth was wrongly captured in my International Passport No: A06304537 as 20th September, 1982 instead of 22nd September, 1975. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR: I formerly known as **SAADATU ABUBAKAR**, but now wish to be known and addressed as **AISHA ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known as **PAULINA OKLEWU**, now wish to be called and addressed as **OKLEWU PAULINA LOIS**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I formerly known as **SAPHARY LYDIA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SAPHARY LYDIA ALHASSAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

JAMES: I formerly known and address as **JAMES DOGONYARO** now wish to be known and address as **THOMAS DOGONYARO** All formal documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public take note.

ORUKPE: I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **ORUKPE LOUISA IMADE** NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AND KNOWN AS **HURRY JESSICA**. ALL PREVIOUS DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

I formerly known as **ONUCHE UGBEDEJO PATIENE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **UGBEDOJO PRECIOUS EMMANUEL-OCHEMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I was formerly known as **YUSUF ISMAIL** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF SAMAILA** with **D.O.B 07/02(1978)** all my documents remain valid authority concern and general public should please take note

I formerly known as Mrs Peace Damilola Olayinka-Obasusi now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Damilola Peace Olayinka-Obasusi. All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public should please take note.

MOSES: I formerly known and addressed as **MOSES UMUANAT** but now wish to be known and addressed as **UMUANAT MALLO**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned should take note, please.

I, formerly known as **JIBRIN ABDULLAHI**. now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN ABDULLAHI ZOLOLO**. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **MOHAMMED NUR SALE** Now wish to be known and addressed as **SALEH MAMMAN NUR** All former documents remain valid, general public take note

I formerly known as **KAKALAI ABUBAKAR** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR ABUBAKAR** All former documents remain valid General public should please take note

I formally known **BILYAMINU LAWAL** now wish to be known and addressed as **BILYAMINU ALHAJI LAWAN** with **DOB 16/06/1990** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note

I formerly known as **MURTALA KADA IDI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MURTALA IDRIS**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and General public should please take note

IBRAHIM: I, formerly known as **MUSA IBRAHIM MUHAMMED**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

BUNUNU: I formerly known as **SAADU ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SAADU ABDULLAHI BUNUNU**, **D.O.B, 08/08/1991**, All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public should please take note.

SAIDU, I formerly known as **IBRAHIM SAIDU** now wish to be called and addressed as **SAIDU IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **HASSAN MUSA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **HASSAN MUSA MOHAMMED**, All former documents remain valid. Authority concerned and the general public should please take note.

SALEH* : I formerly known as ***SALEH GANJUWA*** now wish to be known and addressed as ***SALEH MUHAMMAD GANJUWA*** All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

Classifieds made easy

PUBLIC NOTICE Page 2

PATIENCE: I whose name was wrongly used on my BVN as **ATESE ERDOO PATIENCE** now wish to be known as **NYIYONGO ERDOO PATIENCE**. All former documents remain valid, the general public should take note

I formerly known as **KABIRU IBRAHIM** now wish to be called and addresses **SAMIR MUSA UMAR** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note

I formerly known as **FATIMA SUNUSI ZAKARIYYA** now wish to be called and addressed as **FATIMA SUNUSI UMAR**. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

I formerly known and addressed as **RAYYAN SADIQ** now wish to be known and addressed as **RAYYAN ABUBAKAR**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

DANIEL: I Formerly known as **DANIEL MARKUS WHOTOH** Now wish to be called and addressed as **DANIEL MARKUS** All Former documents remain valid **ZENITH BANK PLC** Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

My name was wrongly written as **ALO DONALD OLALEKAN** with **D O B** as 08/12/1993 instead of **ALO APEAYE OLALEKAN** henceforth, I want to be known called and addressed as **ALO APEAYE OLALEKAN** with correct **D O B** as 08/12/1995. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities, banks and general public should please take note.

I formally known as **abdulraszak sani Yola** now wish to be known and addressed as **abdulrazak sani Yola**. all former document remained valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **ABDULRASHID ABDULWAHAB** now wish to be called and addresses **ABDULRASHEED ABDULWAHEED SALAUDEEN** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note

I formerly known as **ILIASU NASIRU** 02/06/1991 now wish to be called and addressed as **ZUBAIRU ILYASU**. **DOB: 25/06/1992**. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

JOHN: I, formerly known as **JOHN VIANNEY AUGUSTINE**, now wish to be known and called **JOHN AUGUSTINE HASSAN**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

ILIYA: I Formerly known as **BITRUS ILIYA** Now wish to be called and addressed as **ILIYA BITRUS** All Former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note

My name was wrongly written as **OLAGOKE ADETILOYE ARREY** instead of **ADETILOYE JOHN OLAGOKE** henceforth, I want to be known, called and addressed as **ADETILOYE JOHN OLAGOKE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities, banks and general public should please take note.

BINTA, I formerly known as **BINTA USMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **BINTA USMAN SULAIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **MAGAJI MUHAMMED MUHAMMED** 30/11/1973 now wish to be known as **MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD GAMBO** 7/1/1973 All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

I formerly known as **BALA BOUFUHN** now wish to be called and addressed as **BALA MUNANAN BOUFUHN**. All former documents remain valid Authority concern and general public to note

FATIMATU: I, formerly known as **FADIMATU ASABE DANLAMI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FATIMATU DANLAMI MUHAMMADU**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

MUKHTAR: I Formerly known as **ALIYU MUKHTAR** Now wish to be called and addressed as **MUKHTAR ALIYU** All Former documents remain valid Any Authority concern and the General public to please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS OGUNNOLA WALE**, now wish to be known, called and addressed as **MRS. IBIJOLA WALE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **ILIASU AMBALI AMINU** now wish to be called and addresses and **AMINU AHMAD** all former document remain valid authority concern and general public should take to note

I formerly known **AUWAL BADAMASI** now wish to be known as **AUWAL ABDULMAJID** All former documents remain valid Authority concerned and general public should please take note

KOLADE, I formerly known as **KOLADE OLAPADE SULEIMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **KOLADE IDRIS SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

ISMAIL: I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM IDRIS SAMAILA** 13/1/1968, now wish to be known and called **ISMAIL IBRAHIM** 1/1/1969. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

SADIYA: I, formerly known as **SAADIA BALA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SADIYA BALA MADA**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

AKINWAMIDE: I, formerly known as **MISS OGUNLEVE ODUNAYO EBUNOLUWA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. AKINWAMIDE ODUNAYO EBUNOLUWA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ILIYA, I formerly known as **ILIYA ILIYA MU'AZU** now wish to be called and addressed as **ILIYA MU'AZU**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **COULIBALY HASSANA SALIHU** 21/4/1973 now wish to be known as **HASSANA SALIHU JAH** 1/11/1973 All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

IMAN, I formerly known as **IMAN AHMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **IMAN MUHAMMAD AHMED**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

FREDRICK: I, formerly known as **FRIDAY ADEJO EDIME**, now wish to be known and called **FREDRICK ADEJO EDIME**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

That I was formerly known, called and addressed as **AREMU ADEBAYO**. That henceforth I now wish to be known, called and addressed as **AREMU ADEBAYO SUNDAY**. That all documents belonging to me and bearing former names remain valid. General public take note.

OWOYE: I, formerly known as **MISS AJAYI ELIZABETH DAMILOLA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OWOYE ELIZABETH DAMILOLA**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public should take note.

I formerly known as **FATIMA SHEHU** now wish to be known as **FATIMA SULAIMAN** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

I formerly known as **MARYAM HARUNA** now wish to be known as **MARYAM ABDULLAHI** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and unity bank general public should please take note

I was formerly known as **SAFARI AUDU** now wish to be known and called as **AUDUSAFARI MOHAMMED**. All my former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note

EMMANUEL: I formerly known as **EMMANUEL JOSHUA** but now wish to be known as **EMMANUEL JOSHUA MAMAH**. All former documents remain valid. The Authority concern and members of the public please, take note.

SHOGBIYANJU: I, formerly known and addressed as **Miss OLALEYE OLAMIDE BARAKAT**. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **Mrs SHOGBIYANJU OLAMIDE BARAKAT**. All former documents remain valid. Authority Concerned and general public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **FATAI AFUSAT AND FATAI AFUSAT OKORUMI**. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **FATAI AFUSAT OKORUMI**. ALSO MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 6TH DECEMBER, 1976. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINS VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

I formerly known as **MARSILA IDRIS MUAZU** now wish to be known as **MARSILA IDRIS MUAZU** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

I formerly known as **MOHAMMED MOHAMMED** 25/1/1977 now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULLAHI MUHAMMAD** 1/1/1977 All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

I formerly known and addressed as **ALI AHMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **ALI AHMED**. all former documents remain valid general public should take note

HADIZA: I, formerly known as **HADIZA ALI IDRIS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HADIZA SHUAIBU ADAM**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note

CONFIRMATION OF NAME I **SOBAYO OLUKAYODE MICHAEL**, that I am the same person as **SOBAYO SOLOMON**. Now I wish to be known and addressed as **SOBAYO OLUKAYODE MICHAEL**. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

ONIFADE :I was formerly known and addressed as **JOEL RUTH ADETUTU**, henceforth I wish to be known and addressed as **ONIFADE RUTH ADETUTU**. All former documents remain valid, Authority concerned and general public should take note.

I formerly known as **ABBAS ILIYASU** now wish to be known as **ABBAS ISMAIL** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

JAMILA: I formerly known as **JAMILA ABDULAZEEZ** now wish to be known and addressed as **JAMILA ABDULAZEEZ BUBA**. All former documents remain valid. **NIMC** And General Public Should please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **BABA ALHAJI LAMARA DATE OF BIRTH** 09/03/1962 now wish to be known and addressed as **S LAMARA BABA DATE OF BIRTH** 27 / 01 / 1965 . all former documents remain valid general public should take note

MOHAMMED: I formerly known as **GONI MOHAMMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOHAMMED GONI**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **Miss OKOYE CHINWENDU IJEOMA MARYCYNTHIA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs UWAEZUOKE CHINWENDU IJEOMA MARYCYNTHIA**. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authority concerned please take note.

DERE: I, formerly known and addressed as **AZEEZ SAMIAT OMOTOYOSI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DERE SAMIAT OMOTOYOSI**, due to marital status. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public and Authorities concerned should please take note.

I formerly known as **MUHAMMED BELLO** now wish to be known as **SULAIMAN BELLO** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

ABDULLAHI, I formerly known as **ABDULKARIMU MUSA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABDULLAHI MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **SHAMSU UMAR** wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR SHAMSU UMAR** and my correct **DOB** is **15-05-1980** not **23-03-1980** all former documents remain valid, General public and the authority concerned should take note

PATIENCE: I, formerly known as **MISS PATIENCE JOSEPH GAMBA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS PATIENCE GAMBA JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

OMIGBENLE: I, formerly known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI ABIBAT AJOKE**. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **OMIGBENLE GANIYAT ABEKE**. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

OWOSEN: I, formerly known and addressed as **ADANLAWO, OLAWUNMI ABOSEDE**. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **OWOSEN, OLAWUNMI ABOSEDE**. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

I formerly known as **ISAH INUSA** now wish to be known as **ISAH YUNUSA** All former documents remain valid authority concerned and general public should please take note

FATIMA, I formerly known as **FATI SALE** now wish to be called and addressed as **FATIMA SALE AHMAD**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **HAJARA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **SALAHA MUDDI** all former documents remain valid, General public and the authority concerned should take note

HELEN: I, formerly known as **HELEN OTOBHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HELEN EHGONGON OLASUNKANMI**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and any authority concerned to please take note.

OGUNJOBI: I, formerly known and addressed as **OYEWOLE ABISOLA TEMITOPE**. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **OGUNJOBI ABISOLA TEMITOPE**. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

YUSUF: I, formerly known and addressed as **YUSUF IMAM** and **YUSUF SULEIMAN**. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as **YUSUF IMAM SULEIMAN**. All former documents remain valid, Authority Concerned and general public take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOSS OF DOCUMENT
I, **IYA ABBA HABIB** of NO.12 commissioner road Nasarawa GRA Kano, would like to inform the general public that I have lost/ misplaced the original copy of the allocation letter for plot **NO. 1610** (Letter of Grant/ No. **Eb 4305b** of FHA KARU) in Abuja Municipal Area Council. The said piece of plot was sold to me by **MR NJOKU THOMAS**. The use of this document by any person or company will be illegal. General public is hereby notified of this development.
Cc:
Land admin Abuja Municipal Council
The Nigeria Judiciary
The Nigeria Police Force

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY (R OF O) IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO 4438 WITH FILE NO. KW 62300 CADASTRAL ZONE A09 GUZAPE DISTRICT, ABUJA MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 1199.76SQM, BEARING IYOLA OYEDEPO. ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE SAID MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND KINDLY RETURN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Certificate of Occupancy **Plot No. Piece of Land File No. KNML08193 (RES/82/584)**, Situated at Rwaff Road Quarters. TP/MB/8A. Bearing the name of **SILVER WINGS AIR LIMITED** of No. 17B Post Office Road, Kano. All efforts made to trace the original Certificate of Occupancy proved abortive. Members of the general public to note. If found kindly return to the nearest police station.

PUBLIC NOTICE
JASMINE SPIFF FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL
This is to notify the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters, 1990.
TRUSTEES
(1) Spiff Emmanuel Tobin - Chairman
(2) Esther Ayomiposi Adeniyi - Secretary
(3) Ateh Bobolayefa - Legal Adviser
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
(1) To train Teenagers and Young Professionals with digital skills and other relevant technological skills.
(2) Trainings and working out job placement to empower young professionals.
(3) Reach-out to the community, host hackathons and support their dreams.
Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, before 28 days of this publication.
SIGNED:
Spiff Emmanuel Tobin
Chairman

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
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2023 polls must not be postponed — Rafsanjani

By Abbas Jimoh

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and Transparency International (TI) Nigeria have urged stakeholders to stop making comments or statements suggesting the possibility of election postponement with less than 44 days to this year's general elections scheduled to hold on 25th February 2023, and 11th March 2023.

Executive Director CISLAC, Malam Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, who is also the TI-Nigeria Chief Executive, said this on Thursday in Abuja.

He said postponing the elections would have

huge financial implications on the country.

“We see statements like this as counterproductive as they encourage the waste of public funds and can promote the wish of undemocratic agents that do not want Nigerian

citizens to exercise their democratic rights.

“We hereby state that this should not be allowed to happen. Security personnel and election officials need to be fully equipped to always deal with challenges,” Rafsanjani said.

You are ignorant, Lai Mohammed blasts Buhari's critics

Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, has labelled those criticising President Muhammadu Buhari over the state of the economy as ignorant.

He spoke on Thursday at the ongoing 18th edition of the President Muhammadu Buhari (PMB) Administration

scorecard series. Mohammad insisted that the government had done well in the past eight years and as such, deserved another opportunity to further deliver dividends of democracy to Nigerians.

In his words, “Critics of the administration are wont to say that while it has done well in the area

of infrastructure, it has not fared well in the area of the economy. With due respect, statements like these are borne out of ignorance.

“As you are aware, the much-ballyhooed Second Niger Bridge has been completed and will soon be commissioned. Well, I am happy to announce today that

another highly-valuable bridge and road are ready for commissioning in the next few weeks.

“I am talking here of the 2.055km Loko-Oweto Bridge over River Benue and the 74-kilometre Nasarawa-Loko Road linking Nasarawa and Benue states. The road and the bridge are game changers and economy-booster for the two states in particular and the nation in general.”

Buhari condemns killing of 7 NSCDC personnel in Kaduna

By Muideen Olaniyi

President Muhammadu Buhari has expressed his anguish over the death of seven personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) who were ambushed and killed by bandits in Kaduna State while on official duty.

In a statement issued Thursday by his media aide, Malam Garba Shehu, the president described the incident as a tragic event.

The statement said the president had directed the Armed Forces to go after the bandits and make them pay the price.

NERDC to standardize learning resources

By Chidimma C. Okeke

The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC), Professor Ismail Junaidu, has said the council is working to deploy an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solution to handle data for enhanced book assessment.

Junaidu who stated this during a workshop on the development of software to ease book Assessment in Nasarawa State recently said this is in response to the challenges of data management, arising from huge storage, recording, sorting and classification of instructional materials.

Junaidu in a statement by NERDC Director, Book Development Centre (BDC), Dr Eleri Nnanna Otu Eleri, said the council in the recent past had committed a lot of resources towards the upgrading of assessment instruments and processes.

Daily Trust | Trust TV | Aminiya

Date: 14th January, 2023 | **Time:** 10:00 am

Venue: Local Government Service Commission Conference Hall, Kaita Road, Katsina

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SPORT



■ PSG star players, Lionel Messi (R) and Kylian Mbappe

Ronaldo missing as Messi, Mbappe among nominees for FIFA Best award

Fresh from their brilliant performances at the World Cup, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe are among the nominees for FIFA's Best Men's player award for last year, world football's governing body announced on Thursday.

But there was no room for Al-Nassr new signing Cristiano Ronaldo in the list of 14 players.

Messi, who has won the prize once before, captained Argentina to victory in Qatar, a career-defining triumph that has boosted his chances

of winning an eighth Ballon d'Or but may also make him favourite for this prize.

As well as Mbappe, who netted a hat-trick in the World Cup final, another two Paris Saint-Germain players are nominated in Neymar and Achraf Hakimi.

Karim Benzema, who won last year's Ballon d'Or for his performances with Real Madrid, is also nominated, as is Robert Lewandowski, winner of the Fifa prize in the last two years.

The list of nominees is

completed by Manchester City's Julian Alvarez, Kevin De Bruyne and Erling Haaland; the Real Madrid pair of Luka Modric and Vinicius Junior; Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Jude Bellingham.

Alexia Putellas is nominated for the women's award despite being out for the last six months due to injury.

The Barcelona and Spain midfielder won the award last year and retained the Ballon d'Or in October.

Arsenal striker Beth Mead, runner-up to Putellas for the

Ballon d'Or, is also nominated, as are two other members of the England team that won the European Championship on home soil in Leah Williamson and Keira Walsh.

There are also prizes for the best male and female coach, the best goalkeeper, and the Puskas Award for the best goal of 2022.

A public vote, open until February 3, will decide the three finalists in each category.

The winner is then voted for by a jury made up of national team coaches and captains as well as journalists and fans.

Draper fires warning to Nadal by reaching Adelaide semis

Britain's Jack Draper fired a warning to Rafael Nadal by storming past Karen Khachanov and into the Adelaide International semifinals on Thursday.

The promising 21-year-old faces defending champion Nadal in the first round of the Australian Open next week and showed he was in fine touch with a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Russia's Khachanov.

It was a measure of revenge for Draper after losing to his third-seeded opponent last week.

Draper lifted his ranking from 262 to 40 in a breakthrough 2022 and his Adelaide semi is his third in the past six months.

"It'll be amazing to play on court with him, he's a great champion," Draper said of 22-time Grand Slam winner Nadal. "I want to play really well and I want to compete hard and do the best I can."

Draper added that he believed he could achieve "great things" but there was "a mountain of work to do".

While the talk continues to grow around him, the young Briton is not allowing it to influence his approach.

"There's always going to be a lot of noise. It's important to keep your head down and just get on with the job because you're more likely to do it that way," he said.

Draper will take on South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo for a place in the final after the world number 84 dominated Sweden's Mikael Ymer 6-1, 6-2 in under an hour.

Osimhen awarded Power Horse Emerging Player of the Year

Victor Osimhen, the Nigerian striker currently playing for SSC Napoli has received the Power Horse Emerging Player of the Year award for his outstanding performance during 2022.

The 13th edition of the Dubai Globe Soccer Awards, organized with the Dubai Sports Council, was held in Dubai on 17 November 2022.

Stars of international football gathered with celebrities and guests to celebrate the annual event and recognize the winners in 21 categories.

Dubai Globe Soccer Awards also welcomed POWER HORSE® as a new sponsor, introducing the Power Horse Emerging Player of the Year award,



recognizing young players who stood out in the last season with their incredible performances.

The winner of the category was the Nigerian striker, Victor Osimhen, who had a fantastic season in Serie A and established himself as one of the rising stars in Italy and around the globe.

Victor was not able to attend the event in Dubai, therefore Globe Soccer and POWER HORSE® decided to hold the awarding ceremony in Naples, Victor's current hometown.

Salvatore Caizzone, CEO of Power Horse, was joined by Cristiano Giuntoli, Sporting Director of SSC Napoli, and Enrico Bendoni of Globe Soccer as they handed out the Award to the winner.

"We at Power Horse are delighted that Victor Osimhen is recognized as the winner of the Power Horse Emerging Player of the Year award, and wish him to become even more unstoppable in the future", said Salvatore Caizzone, CEO of Power Horse.

Quadri dims Chinese's Sun, moves into WTT Contender Round of 16

From Dotun Omisakin, Lagos

African Champion, Aruna Qaudri's stroking power came into action yesterday as he convincingly waltzed through to the round of 16 after defeating his Chinese opponent, Sun Wen, at the ongoing World Table Tennis, WTT Contender in Durban.

The Nigerian who is the highest ranked African and 15th in the world began his campaign with a convincing 12-10, 15-13, 11-13 and 11-8 and 3-1 victory against the highly rated Wen in the men's singles.



Aruna's opponent in the round of 16 would be determined after the encounter between Kilian ORY of Germany and Felix Lebrun of France.

The \$75,000 prize money tournament has Brazil's Hugo Calderano and Germany's Nina Mittelham as number seeds in men's and women's singles.

The tournament ends on January 15 with winners getting 400 ranking points.

In the women's category, Africa's number one, Dina Meshref of Egypt is flying the continent's flag in Durban.

SPORT REPORT

DEEPENING DEMOCRACY with **Jibrin Ibrahim**
jibrinibrahim@dailytrust.com

Policy making as make belief

Nigerian policymakers and implementors love fiction, and we as citizens play along. I just remembered that our next census is going to be in April, immediately after the elections in February and March. If there is a need for a runoff presidential election, it would happen just as the census is taking off. No sane country would roll out two massive, high-cost events that require massive logistics and security arrangements just days apart. Sanity says they simply cannot happen in the same year. In Nigeria, no one cares because we all know it is make belief and will not happen as planned. The elections will hold as they have to but the census will be pushed forward until the incoming government can work out how to plan, finance and roll it out in the coming years.

In fact, although the census is in the government plan, it is not even in the 2023 budget, most probably because the government could not find the source for the N533 billion it needs to borrow to count Nigerians. The 2023 population and housing census is the first digital count that will occur in Nigeria. It requires a massive geographic information system to cover the entire country to provide geocodes for each house in the country and will be covered by satellite imaging. Digital maps of all habitations will be generated and software will play a key role in analysing the data. All IDPs in the country will be captured and the housing element will capture sanitation data for all households in the country to allow us to meet SDG 6. All these are to happen in two months' time but government has not even done the appropriation because everyone knows it will not happen as scheduled. Nonetheless, the National Population Commission is under obligation to say everything is going according to plan and it will happen as programmed.

Currently, we are supposed to be in the process of changing our old naira for new naira notes, another massive logistics challenge. Just six weeks were allocated for the change - from December 15 to January 31. To convince us it is for real, President Buhari was displayed on television launching the new notes. When December 15 came and banks did not have the new naira to distribute, except a few samples, the take-off date was pushed to February 9. In conformity with the six-weeks allegedly needed for

Two days ago, the Central Bank warned banks to ensure they put enough new notes in their ATMs for customers. Encouraged, I went to my bank only to find out they still do not have the new notes. I drew their attention to the warning of the Central Bank that they would be dealt with if they didn't give out the new notes, and the manager laughed...

the swap, the end date should have been adjusted, but it was not - what needed six weeks will now be done in three weeks.

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I spoke to some people with inside information and was told essentially that the whole charade is drama. By law, only the mint can now print our currency. However, the capacity of the mint is minuscule in relation to the volume of new notes required, so everybody in the CBN, banks and government know the plan will not work simply because of the capacity limitation we have. Nonetheless, we have to pretend it will work because there is a nice narrative to sell - the currency swap will expose corrupt politicians who have stolen government money to bribe during the elections and the government is committed to its anti-corruption policy, so it's a smart policy move to deal with corrupt politicians.

The real story will be something else, some people will make a lot of money in the printing process. Central Bank staff will preside over the distribution of

scarce new notes, and many will have to be bribing massively to get access to the new notes. Meanwhile, the crisis will soon become serious as markets start to break down as the countdown to the withdrawal comes closer. In the coming days, people will start rejecting the old notes as the end date approaches, but there will be a serious scarcity of the new ones. The pressure will mount on the government, and a two-month extension of the old notes will be announced and repeated again and again. Everybody knows that will be the eventual outcome, so we just love living in our narratives of delusion.

Meanwhile, the back story is the most fascinating one. Just as the policy implementation was starting, the main implementor, the Governor of the Central Bank, followed the President to the United States, disappeared from the return flight, and apparently went into exile. The security agencies, it turned out, were trying to detain him just as the President was publicly asserting his support for the governor. Government has refused to speak to the concerns of Nigerians about whether the CBN Governor is a terrorist financier or is being framed unfairly. Parliament calls the acting CBN Governor to find out whether enough notes have been printed, and she says she does not know. The CBN Governor has not sent a press release from London to reassure Nigerians. The only thing we all know is that there is an intense process of lobbying for a new CBN governor to emerge. MAYBE, just maybe, that might be the real story of printing the new currency. Someone will get a juicy job.

I will end with my most fascinating make-believe story over the past few weeks. The president has been repeatedly telling Nigerians that the security situation in the country has improved remarkably under his stewardship. It's excellent fiction, but as is usually the case, Nigerians know the real story. Long live policy fiction in Nigeria.

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Bidding for Ronaldo-Messi prestige seat passes \$2.6 million



■ Cristiano Ronaldo

A Saudi Arabian businessman is leading a bid to watch the latest chapter in Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's celebrated rivalry in global soccer with a 10 million riyals (\$2.66 million) offer for a ticket to a showpiece game.

The Saudi government's entertainment arm said on Twitter that Mushref Al-Ghamdi, general manager of real estate group AqarOne, was the leader so far in an auction ending on 17 January.

The "Beyond Imagination" ticket is for a match featuring a combined team from Saudi clubs Al Nassr - who recently signed Ronaldo - and Al Hilal versus Messi's Paris St Germain.

Murray, Fritz polish Australian Open form with Kooyong wins



■ Andy Murray

Andy Murray and Taylor Fritz applied a final layer of gloss to their pre-Australian Open form Thursday with straight-sets wins at the Kooyong Classic.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray scored a confidence-boosting 6-3, 6-3 defeat of Australian world number 24 Alex de Minaur, while Fritz followed up on his Team USA United Cup title by toppling Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Murray spent a profitable two days at Kooyong, overcoming China's Zhang Zhizhen on Wednesday.

"I had a good level in today's match and part of yesterday's," said the British veteran. "I'm playing the tennis I need to try and be successful. The courts require aggressive tennis, the balls shoot through."