

MISSING N4.1BN NASS FUNDS

SERAP Sues Lawan, Gbajabiamila

- Says suit for public interest, transparency, accountability
- Inability to probe fundamental breach of oversight function

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International Community Resolute Against Coup D'etat – Osinbajo

BY AMEH GEORGE, WITH AGENCY REPORT

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said there is a strong resolve by ECOWAS and the international community not to accept coups d'etat or any other form of unconstitutional change of government.

News Agency of Nigeria reports that

Osinbajo stated this yesterday in Accra after participating at an Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

The extraordinary meeting, in which the vice president represented President Muhammadu Buhari, was to discuss the political situation in the Republic of Mali.

Osinbajo said ECOWAS had not lost its bite as it was concerned about issues of good governance and democratic enterprise in the ECOWAS region.

He said this is the sanction against Guinea and of course, what is proposed against Mali.

"So, I think what is being done is unprecedented; in the years gone by,

the African Union, then known as Organisation of African Unity, never came down heavily on coup d'etat.

"But it is evident now; there is a very strong resolve that ECOWAS, and indeed the international community, will not accept unconstitutional takeovers of government in the form of coup d'etat and other such

unconstitutional means of taking over governments.

"So, it is very evident that there is a very strong resolve which is why we are here today", Osinbajo said.

He expressed optimism that the efforts being made to resolve the situation in Mali would yield a positive result.

EDITORIAL

On INEC's Calendar And Political Climate

With the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, rolling out a calendar of events ahead the 2023 elections, the political atmosphere is undoubtedly charged for electioneering. The situation also signals the preparedness of the electoral umpire for the general elections which comes up every four years. INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu is not taking anything to chance as to the Commission's commitment to beating its own records set in previous elections.

Yakubu had charged Resident Electoral Commissioners,

RECs, to work towards addressing some recurring logistics issues in the conduct of elections and ensure that the 2023 general elections are not marred by preventable scenarios.

The INEC Chairman has been quoted as drumming the essence of an impeccable electoral process that would surpass the commission's outing in the past. It would not also compromise on standards, especially as its outings in the off-season gubernatorial elections in Edo, Ondo, Ekiti, Bayelsa and Anambra were relatively exceptional.

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UNILORIN Promotes 685 Senior Staff



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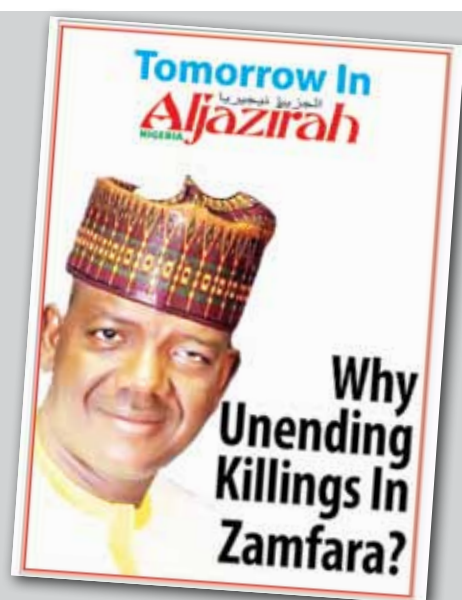
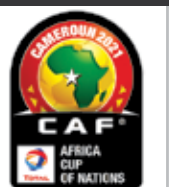
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Group Mourns Nigerian Killed In South Africa



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50 Years After AFCON Returns To Cameroon



Taraba: Hausa/Fulani Youths Divided Over Endorsement Of Senator Bwacha

BY BEN ADAJI, JALINGO

Coalition of Hausa/Fulani socio-cultural groups in Taraba State, yesterday, described the endorsement of Senator Emmanuel Bwacha for governorship in 2023 by alleged Taraba Hausa/Fulani Youths as callous and misleading.

Convener of the group, Alhaji Tukur Yerima, while briefing newsmen in Jalingo, said their view does

not represent the position of Hausa/Fulani youths in Taraba State.

AljazeeraNigeria recalls that a group referred to as Hausa Fulani Youths had earlier endorsed Bwacha, the Senate Majority Leader, representing Taraba South as their governorship candidate in the forthcoming governorship election.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 15



Bwacha



Members of diplomatic communities at the 2022 Armed Forces Remembrance Day celebration Interdenominational Church Service in Abuja on Sunday. PHOTO: JOHNSON UDEANI/NAN

NDLEA Sokoto Command Arrests 149 Suspects, 1993kg Of Substances

BY IBRAHIM GORONYO, SOKOTO

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Zonal Commandant, Abdullahi Abdul, has said the Command arrested 149 Dugs Suspects within the year out of which 144 were males and 5 females in the area of seizure.

While breaking down all seizures amounting to 1993.068kg of different types of illicit drugs, the Commandant said that Cannabis sativa worth 1487.86kg, 403.634kg of psychotropic substance, 1550 grammes of Heroine and 19 grammes of Amphetamine were among the illicit drugs

intercepted by the command.

Abdul said in December last year at Bafarawa Estate bordering Mammy market, 975 kg of Cannabis Sativa was arrested in a single operation saying the investigation is still ongoing.

In the area of Counselling and Rehabilitation, he explained that a total of 98 clients were successfully counselled while 9 were rehabilitated, 8 referred and 9 currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Abdullahi Abdul said there is hardly any family that is not contending with the challenges of a drug dependent persons

adding that it is in the same vein that the entire society is battling with the same cases of banditry, kidnapping, thuggery, rape and all forms of social vices exasperated by substance abuse.

He, therefore, called on leaders to remind their subjects that drugs are harmful to health, ruin careers, break homes, fuel violence and criminalities and that drug trafficking disrupts the economy and eventually destroys a nation.

He said with the present leadership of Brigadier-General Muhammad Buba Marwa who is the Chairman and Chief Executive of National Drugs

Law Enforcement Agency and the support of Federal and other stakeholders, the problem of drug abuse and trafficking in Nigeria is on its way to being under control.

He acknowledged and appreciated the continuous support of the state government under the leadership of Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and Sultan Sa'ad Abubakar 111 who is always accessible on all matters concerning Drugs Free Society.

He similarly commended the collaborative assistance of all sister agencies, NGOs, the media and other stakeholders numerous to mention.

Man In Police Net For Stabbing Lover's Husband To Death

Police Command in Ogun State has arrested a 38-year-old man for allegedly stabbing his mistress's husband to death.

The police Spokesman in the State, DSP Abimbola Oyeyemi, who disclosed this in a statement issued to newsmen in Ota, Ogun yesterday, said that the incident happened at Onipanu area of the State.

Oyeyemi explained that the suspect was arrested on Jan. 7 for allegedly stabbing one Emaka Umonko, husband to a woman with whom he was allegedly having a secret love affair.

He said that the suspect's arrest followed a distress call received by the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Onipanu Divisional Headquarters, CSP Bamidele Job.

Oyeyemi said that the deceased, who had been suspecting that the suspect, confronted him for having an illicit affair with his wife, adding that this led to serious fight between the two men.

"While the fight was going on, the suspect, a commercial driver, brought out a knife and used it to stab the deceased severally at his back and chest, which made him, the deceased, to collapse.

...Arrests Grandpa, Fake Security Agent Over Drug Peddling

Edo State Command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, has arrested two suspects for illicit drug peddling in the State.

State Commander of the agency, Mr Buba Wakawa, made the disclosure to newsmen yesterday.

Wakawa disclosed that the two suspects were a 76-year-old grandfather, and an alleged fake security agent.

According to him, the suspects were arrested on Jan. 7 and Jan. 4 in the state respectively.

"Whereas the septuagenarian, popularly called old soldier, was arrested on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, in the Egor area of the State for dealing in cannabis, the suspected fake security agent was arrested for importing drug chocolates and cookies from Canada to sell.

"The suspected fake security agent was nabbed during a controlled delivery of a consignment shipped into Nigeria through a courier company", he said.

He explained that the suspected fake security agent was arrested at his apartment in Benin on Jan. 4 by undercover operatives embedded in the courier firm, soon after the suspect signed for the consignment.

He added that the

consignment, which emanated from Canada, contained a suspected Colorado brand of cannabis concealed inside chocolates and cookies, weighing 6.491 Kilos, while the drug cookies and chocolates weighed 5.566 kilos and 0.383 kilos respectively.

"All the cookies and chocolates tested positive for cannabis sativa, because the cookies were also baked with cannabis", Wakawa further said.

editorial

VISION STATEMENT

To operate a world class print media organisation collocated with positive journalistic ethics and practices at its peak to our beloved readers in Nigeria.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to create hard-breaking national and international news, as it unfolds. We deliver unparalleled perspectives across multiple categories including politics, health, entertainment, education, class, judiciary, parliament, foreign affairs, business, sports and more.

On INEC's Calendar And Political Climate

FROM COVER

As prelude to its reinvigorated process an expansion of voters' access to Polling Units as well as preparations for the Continuous Voter Registration exercise, among other things have been accomplished according to INEC's reckoning.

Yakubu further noted; "As we continue to plan for the next general election, the RECs have been directed to compile and submit an inventory of all election materials in order to determine shortfalls and take early steps to ensure their adequacy and availability.

"Only a few states are still outstanding. I wish to remind the States that are yet to make their submissions to do so. This will enable us to address some of the logistics issues that have become a recurring decimal in the conduct of elections in the past. The 2023 General Election must be different from previous elections in terms of our preparations and readiness".

Speaking of the stakeholder's engagement on the proposed expansion of Voters access to Polling Units and the CVR exercises. The INEC Chairman said, "The two activities are inter-related. Our plan is to conclude the ongoing consultations and the actual work on the Polling Units in earnest so that the new locations will be made public for eligible registrants to choose where they wish to register and vote on election day".

Commenting further on planning for elections, the INEC Chairman disclosed that the commission's current Strategic Plan ,SP, and the Strategic Programme of Action ,SPA, 2017- 2021, was being reviewed to capture the period from 2022-2026.

What may put a clog in its wheel to achieving its 2023 ambitious goal is the requirement of N305 billion to conduct the 2023 general elections. We believe the Federal Government will do the needful by examining the request and ensure that

INEC does not falter in its quest to deliver beyond expectations of Nigerians.

INEC must learn from the past and ensure that the rough edges and lacunas observed in its recent outings are brought to bear for an improved electoral process in 2023.

We are impressed by the revelation by the INEC boss earlier that part of the amount required for 2023 logistics and for the purchase of all the election materials needed and also cover several bye-elections across the country had been disbursed.

We are enthralled that the commission had already received N100bn out of the required amount for the elections and it is believed in many quarters that it would not fail to justify the confidence the government has reposed in the agency by this early response. It is obvious therefore that there would be no concerns bordering on paucity of funds, given the prompt response being received by INEC.

It is time for political actors of different hues and affiliations across the country to close ranks in the interest of nation-building against the background of dirty politicking that had pervaded the polity in the past.

Political actors must jettison any acts that could jeopardise a smooth electoral process across the country in 2023. Thuggery, vendetta, mud-slinging and such other vices which are common-place during our elections must be seen to take a back seat in our processes.

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Thuggery, vendetta, mud-slinging and such other vices which are common-place during our elections must be seen to take a back seat in our processes.

Who SAID What? IN THE NEWS

"We categorically align with the disappointment expressed by the AYCF that the list (INEC commissioners) clearly excluded known persons of solid reputation and commitment to credible elections since they were appointed to the nation's election management body in 2011.

— General Secretary of Northern Emancipation Network Abba Suleiman Abdulazeze



letter/opinion

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Dear Editor,

I want to write on your story on how the man who contributed greatly to insecurity by converting pension funds of the Nigeria Police Force to private use, was released by the Correctional Service. So, instead of being in prison, he is on vacation in Egypt overseeing his private businesses. Nigeria is no doubt in an appalling situation because such cases abound in our system.

- Mohammed Ndawachin

RESPONSE

Thank you for contacting us. It is our chosen responsibility to inform and educate the Nigerian masses who read our newspaper. We shall continue to inform our readers after investigating our stories.

Dear Editor,

Your story on New Year's Day on Buhari foreseeing opposition's victory caught my attention at the Newspaper stand so I quickly bought it home to digest, and digest it I did. So come to think of it. Does the APC (All Progressives Congress) think that with all the mess in Nigeria in terms of economy, security and in virtually every facet of our national lives? Whether President Buhari knows or not, it is over for the APC. Happy new Year.

- Idowu Oluwatope

RESPONSE

Oluwatope, accept our warm

regards and good wishes for the year 2022. While we understand that your position is your personal opinion, we want to state that it takes preparation for any party to win an election and hardly sentiments. So as 2023 draws near, we look forward to seeing how the elections turn out.

Dear Editor,

Your lead story on Thursday January 6 on FG Formally Declares Bandits Terrorists made me not know whether to praise the federal government or to condemn their late declaration of these known and sworn terrorists as such. I do not know why it took President Buhari this long to declare the people who collect taxes from communities as not terrorists. People who use rocket propelled grenades to attack military and police formations as not terrorists? I think a vast majority of youths have lost interest in this country.

- Toochukwu Madu

RESPONSE:

Madu, it is a known fact that the activities of these so called bandits now recognized as terrorists have kept Nigerians in the North afraid and apprehensive. But our demand is that the federal government as well as the security agencies put a stop to all these destruction and mayhem so that Nigerians can once again live in peace.

Why The Tail Wags The Dog

BY WOLE OLAOYE

A wagging tail is usually found at the rear end of an excited dog, but a wagging dog in front of a static tail? Only in Nigeria, where the barrack mentality of military dictatorship has been smuggled into the unitary constitution to reduce the people to subjects and their elected local leaders to paper tigers.

What happened in Lagos last week when, without reference to the state governor, the federal Attorney-General deployed armed policemen from Abuja to a residential estate in Lagos, was unprecedented. The deployment could have led to wanton bloodshed, but the governor displayed commendable sagacity in not letting the situation get out of hand.

Chief security officer my foot! There is no greater evidence of the fraudulent nature of the 1999 constitution than the designation of governors as Chief Security Officers of their states when in actual fact, they are, at best, generals without troops. Nigerian governors are nothing but mere local prefects without any power over their own security and the security of the people they govern. That's why a police chief superintendent will defy an elected governor of a state of 20 million people.

Anyone still in doubt about the need for state policing must have other motives other than security of lives and property. The voices of governors Nasir el'Rufa'i and Rotimi Akeredolu, both members of the governing APC, are most strident about the need for states to have their own police to maintain law and order. But the federal government wants to continue running the country as one huge barrack with command and

control flowing from one overwhelmed central source.

Akeredolu, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, who chairs the Southwest Governors' Forum, roundly condemned the Lagos incident as another proof of the incongruity of the current 'federal' structure where the tail wags the dog: "An arrangement, which compels the governor of a state to seek clarifications on security issues in his jurisdiction from totally extraneous bodies or persons is a sure recipe for anarchy... We, on our part, will continue to interrogate the current system, which treats elected representatives of the people as mere prefects, while appointed office-holders ride rough shod over them as Lords of the Manor."

"... If Supreme Court gives a judgement and the state disobeys, the next action is to file contempt proceedings, not resort to self-help by importing policemen from Abuja to Lagos to chase people out of their houses. That is a recipe for anarchy and Malami and fellow travellers ought to know that if indeed their interest in this matter is about public good."

The unitary system being operated in Nigeria in the name of federalism is the cause of most of the security and development problems the country has. The federal government itself is not famous for obeying court orders (ask El Zak-Zakky and others). The attorney-general's claim that he was only protecting the rule of law by trying to enforce a supreme court judgement is a fib best told to the marines. Did it not take a court order to force the federal government to declare bandits as terrorists?

The argument that state governors will misuse any security force under their power is equally fraudulent. The

greatest champion of impunity and self-help in Nigeria over the years is the federal government - and no one has suggested that we should strip the federal government of the power to control forces of coercion.

Indeed, Segun Adeniyi, frontline Nigerian journalist, author and columnist, wondered how the police authorities, who are already buffeted on many fronts, decided to add Magodo to their problems: "It ought to concern the rest of Nigerians", argues Adeniyi, "that a police force faced with widespread insecurity across the nation can draft a huge contingent to Lagos for over two weeks to enforce a doubtful mandate. Clearly, the Magodo matter has once again exposed the hollow reign of narrow interest in today's Nigeria."

Let it be restated for the umpteenth time that we have always had local police before military intrusion into our affairs. I fondly recall that during the First Republic we had federal, regional and local police. Each had its jurisdiction; all collaborated whenever necessary. The argument being made by those who feel advantaged by the current hopeless unitary system shows that they think that the federal government is a kind of overlord managing recalcitrant children.

That kind of thinking flows directly from a philosophical position of a divine right of sorts. It can be seen in how the shift from parliamentary democracy to presidential system has birthed another monster: a Kabiyesi presidency which confuses the modern concept of a president as chief executive with the monarchical, unquestionable, 'rights' of a despotic king.

To be continued on January 15, 2022.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

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Opening Ceremony Of AFCON Cup
2022 In Cameroon.

Photo: english.ahram.org



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Remembrance Day: Sanwo-Olu Urges Unity

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday charged the citizens to ensure the unity of Nigeria.

Sanwo-Olu gave the charge at the Year 2022 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration Interdenominational Divine Service held at the Chapel of Christ the Light, Ikeja.

The theme of the Service is: "I will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14)", and was organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Home Affairs.

He said that the Nigerian Armed Forces had paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives, to ensure that Nigeria remained united, hence, citizens should ensure that their sacrifice is not in vain. The governor commended the men and women of the Nigerian Armed Forces for their sacrifice and their daily efforts to keep the peace in different parts of the country.

Umahi Effects Minor Cabinet Reshuffle

Ebonyi State Governor, David Umahi, has approved a minor cabinet reshuffle which affected two ministries.

This is contained in a statement issued on Saturday in Abakaliki by Secretary to the State Government and Coordinating Commissioner, Dr Ugbala Igwe.

According to the statement, Mr Frank Ngwu, Special Assistant(SA) on Road Maintenance, is now SA on Infrastructural Development for Concession and Maintenance.

"Dr Stephen Odo, Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Business Development, now Commissioner for Commerce and Industry.

Support ABU To Sustain Values – Association

President, Ahmadu Bello University Alumni Association, Mr Ibrahim Khalil, has advised members to support themselves and their almamater in regaining the university's glory as the leading university in the country.

Khalil gave the advice yesterday at Plateau branch picnic and reunion event in Jos.

"In addition to all other things, the members must come together to help themselves.

"Let's initiate projects that will impact on the life of our great institution, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria".

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

LAGOS 33°C

ABUJA 34°C

P/HARCOURT 34°C

MAKURDI 36°C

SOKOTO 31°C

OWERRI 35°C

KANO 27°C

UYO 36°C

news

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Ijaw Want More From Obaseki –IYC

BY IKHILI EBALU, BENIN CITY

Ijaw Youth Council, IYC, said Ijaw communities deserve more from the Edo State Government than procurement of gunboats to enhance security in the riverine areas.

The Secretary, Western Zone, IYC, Omaghomi Olu-Derimon stated this in a statement made available to newsmen in Benin, yesterday.

Olu-Derimon, who commended the governor for the enhanced security across the state, said the Ijaws desire infrastructural development in their communities.

He particularly noted that the people would have been more pleased if the funds used for the gunboats were directed to address the huge infrastructural deficit that is bedeviling the riverine communities.

He said this is particularly so as the first set of gunboats procured by government are yet to be utilized.

"It will be wrong if we say that the governor is not doing his best in terms of security as it affects the state.

"Even the blind can attest to the fact that security has improved tremendously under the leadership of our undaunted governor.

"Thanks to all security agencies and the Edo State Vigilante Network that are on ground in almost all communities in Edo State, including our riverine areas.

"Just recently, government announced that it has acquired some gunboats for the riverine areas which is mostly occupied by the Ijaws of Edo State.

"It suffice me to say that the Edo State Government bought similar boats a while ago and we are equally aware they are still very new and are yet to be fully utilized as far as we are concerned, so why buy more?

"We have cried out severally that the Ijaws are marginalized in terms of infrastructural development, political appointments and elective positions.

"Ijaws in Ovia South West cannot access Benin City because of the deplorable state of Udo Ofunama Inikoroigha road.

"The people in those communities have to travel through water to Gelegele or Sapele, Delta State before they embark on a road journey to access the state capital or their local government headquarters.

"In the same vein, the Gelegele Ekewan barracks road which hitherto served as a major access route to the state capital is now a shadow of itself.



Chairman of Southern Senators Forum, Sen. Opeyemi Bamidele (R), submitting his Expression of Interest and Nomination Forms to contest the 2022 Ekiti governorship election to the Director of Administration, Abubakar Suleiman, at the National Secretariat of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Abuja. PHOTO: NAN

Buhari Condolences With Urhobo Kingdom Over Death Of Chief

BY CALEB ISHAYA, ABUJA

President Muhammadu Buhari has commiserated with the family of Chief Patrick Sito Ideh, the Okpako-Orere of Otughievwen and Ushota of Ughievwen Kingdom, and all sons and daughters of Urhobo Kingdom, over the death of the royal father.

This was contained in a statement by the president's spokesman, Mr Femi Adesina, on Saturday in Abuja.

Buhari also condoled with the government and people of Delta State, professional and business associates of the departed, urging more trust in God and appreciation for the long

life of the elder statesman and former lawmaker.

The late traditional ruler had served as a member of the House of Representatives between 1979 and 1983.

The president affirmed that the legal icon and businessman worked selflessly for the unity and progress of his

domain, leaving landmark testimonies of speaking for the voiceless, supporting the underprivileged, and most significantly, ensuring the presence of sons and daughters in national discourse.

Buhari prayed for a peaceful rest for the departed and God's comfort for his family.

Group Mourns Nigerian Killed In South Africa

Nigerian community in South Africa has again gone into mourning, following the killing of yet another Nigerian in the former apartheid enclave.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the death of Mr Olusola Solarin, who was killed on December 12 has raised the death tally of Nigerians in South Africa to more than 127 since 2019.

Records show that 13 Nigerians sent to their early graves in the Rainbow Nation were killed by members of the South African police.

In a statement, the Nigeria Union South Africa, NUSA, described Solarin as a brilliant, hardworking, motivator and community leader, who has fallen victim to the orgy of violence

and criminality in South Africa.

The statement, jointly signed by the President of NUSA, Mr Collins Mgbo, and Secretary-General, Mr Nimram Durven Longbap-Longs, described Solarin as a businessman, who had a chain of businesses, including pharmaceuticals, clothes and shoes outlets.

According to the unionists, Solarin has since been buried at Makun community in Sagamu, near Abeokuta in Ogun on January 3.

Solarin was said to have met his fate after supplying goods to his customers outside Johannesburg, the business capital.

He was returning to his base when he was waylaid and in an attempt to prevent his assailants

from collecting the money he was paid by customers, they murdered him.

In the union's condolence message to Solarin's widow named Doris, who is also the Vice-President and Head of Programmes of NUSA, the union said the Nigerian community in South Africa would miss Solarin dearly.

The union members also noted that their solace was in God, knowing fully well that Solarin had run his race and that his reward awaited him at the bosom of God.

"I have never seen a man with such a heart of gold. I have never seen a man so hardworking that with so little he built so much for his family within a reasonable time of his life.

"Life isn't fair enough to allow him to taste the

fruits of his labour. I am pushed to ask: 'God why' but if I do, of what benefit is it? Will he be brought back to life?" Mgbo wrote in his tribute.

The NUSA president said he had wished it was on a different occasion instead of Solarin's death that he was talking about his achievements.

"On behalf of NUSA, I express the union's heart-felt condolences to you and your family on the senseless murder of your loving and patriotic husband.

"It is NUSA's prayer that God will grant you the determination to bear this irremediable loss.

"Please keep it in mind that your late husband's best wishes will always be with you and your children throughout the rest of your life.

Excitement As Abia Residents Witness First Rain

Residents of Umuahia, the Abia State capital, yesterday, witnessed the first rain in 2022.

The rain started at about 8:45am and ended at about 9am.

The second batch, which came with lightning and thunderstorm, started at about 11:45am and lasted for about 40 minutes in most parts of the metropolis and its environs.

A cross-section of the residents, who spoke with a NAN correspondent, expressed happiness with the rain.

They said that the rain, which came early, was a sign of good omen for the year.

One of the residents, Mr Chika Kalu said: "We are glad to witness the first rain of the year, which incidentally came on a Sunday.

"It was showers of blessing for us and a good sign that this year will be better than the previous one".

Also, another resident, Mr Nlewedim Onyema, said the rain would reduce the excessive heat occasioned by the high temperature that had prevailed in the metropolis for some time.

"I am so happy that we have recorded the first rain of the year. At least, we can now sleep well in the night because the temperature will reduce to normal", he said.

A farmer, Mr Kingsley Chukwu, expressed delight at the rain, describing it as God's blessing to his people.

"This year's rain came so early, being that today is January 9 and it is so heavy.

"It is a sign that the year will be better, especially for us farmers, because it will enable us to start early planting", he said.

Corroborating him, Mrs Chinyere Ugwu, a farmer, believed that the rain was a sign of hope that the year would be better for farmers.

"I cultivate mainly vegetables and I need rain to do my work in order to have more yields. That is why I am happy that the rain came early", Ugwu said.

cover news

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Missing N4.1bn NASS Funds: SERAP Sues Lawan, Gbajabiamila

- Says suit for public interest, transparency, accountability
- Inability to probe fundamental breach of oversight function

Sequel to failure of the both chambers of the National Assembly, to probe, and refer to appropriate anti-corruption agencies fresh allegations that N4.1bn of public money budgeted for legislators is missing, misappropriated or stolen, a frontline non-governmental organisation, Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, SERAP, has filed a lawsuit against the President of the Senate, Senator Ahmad Lawan and Speaker of House of Representatives, Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila.

Hitherto, SERAP had last year sent a letter to the two leaders of the National Assembly requesting them to, "Use their good offices to urgently probe and refer to appropriate anti-corruption agencies allegations that fresh allegation of missing N4.1bn of public money".

In the suit number FHC/ABJ/CS/1609/2021 filed at the Federal High Court in Abuja, SERAP is seeking for "An order of mandamus to direct and compel Lawan and Gbajabiamila to perform their constitutional oversight functions to promptly probe the allegations that fresh N4.1bn budgeted for the National Assembly may be missing".

AljahirahNigeria recalls that the suit was filed the publication of the annual audited report for 2016 in which the Auditor-General of the Federation raised "concerns about alleged diversion and misappropriation of public funds and sought the recovery of any missing funds".

SERAP is arguing in the suit that the legislative arm of government has "legal and constitutional duties to prevent and combat corruption, as well as promote transparency and accountability in the management of public resources".

Both chambers, it noted can only effectively perform its anti-corruption role if it can demonstrate exemplary leadership to probe the allegations of corruption and mismanagement involving the legislative body.

"Transparency and accountability in the management of public resources and wealth according to SERAP "is essential for promoting development, people's welfare and well-being, and their access

to basic public services, as well as good governance and the rule of law".

"The failure of the National Assembly to promptly and thoroughly investigate, and to refer to appropriate anti-corruption agencies the allegations documented in the annual audited report for 2016 is a fundamental breach of the oversight and public interest duties imposed on the legislative body", the group argued.

The suit filed by its lawyers Kolawole Oluwadare and Kehinde Oyewumi, reads that "Granting this application would serve the interest of justice, reduce corruption and mismanagement, as well as end impunity of perpetrators, and advance the fundamental human rights of Nigerians.

"The National Assembly has no legally justifiable reason to refuse to investigate the allegations documented by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation.

"This suit seeks to vindicate the rule of law, the public interest, and to promote transparency and accountability. Government agencies and institutions are responsible to a court of justice for the lawfulness of what they do, and of that the court is the only judge".

The letter stated that "these fresh allegations are not part of the disclosure by the Auditor-General in the audited

The National Assembly also reportedly paid N116,162,522.60 to some contractors between April and June, 2016 without any document.



Lawan

reports for 2015, 2017 and 2018 that N4.4 billion of National Assembly money is missing, misappropriated or stolen".

"According to the Auditor-General report for 2016, N4,144,706,602.68 of National Assembly money is missing, diverted or stolen. The National Assembly paid some contractors N417,312,538.79 without any documents. The Auditor-General wants the Clerk to the National Assembly to 'recover the amount in question from the contractors'".

The two chambers "reportedly spent N625,000,000.00 through its Constitution Review Committee between March and June 2016 but without any document. The Auditor-General wants the Clerk to the National Assembly to 'recover the amount from the Committee.

"The National Assembly also reportedly spent N66,713,355.08 as 'personnel cost' but 'the payees in the Cashbook did not correspond with those in the Bank Statement'. The Auditor-General wants the irregular expenditure recovered from the officer who approved the payments.

"The National Assembly also reportedly paid N116,162,522.60 to some contractors between April and June, 2016 without any document. The National Assembly deducted N56,985,568.55 from various contract payments in respect of Withholding Tax and Value Added Tax but without any evidence of remittance."

"The National Assembly also reportedly paid N126,264,320.00 as cash advances to 11 staff members between March and December 2016 to procure goods and services but failed to remit the money.

"The Senate reportedly paid N747,286,680.00 as personal advances to staff members between February and December, 2016 for various procurements and services but failed to retire the money. The Senate also deducted N118,625,057.48 as Withholding and Value Added Taxes but



Gbajabiamila

failed to show any evidence of remittance to the Federal Inland Revenue Service."

"The Senate also spent N109,007,179.73 from the Capital Expenditure vote but without any document".

"The House of Representatives reportedly deducted N821,564,296.48 from staff salaries but failed to remit the money to tax authorities. The House also paid N254,059,513.70 as advances to staff members to procure goods and services between January and December 2016 but failed to retire the money"

"The National Institute for Legislative Studies reportedly spent N375,867,000.00 to buy 11 motor vehicles in April 2016. But the Institute also paid the same contractor N36,610,000.00 in September 2016 under the same contract without approval".

"The Institute also reportedly paid N10,927,768.80 to 7 members of staff who were redeployed from the National Assembly to provide specialized services but without details about the staff paid, and without any justification".

"The National Assembly Service Commission reportedly approved N109,995,400.00 to train some officers in Dubai, United Arab Emirates but spent N127,629,600.00 as Estacode Allowances to participants, and fees for two consultants engaged for the training. The Commission also spent N9,975,000.00 as course fees for 34 officers but it also paid a consultant N4,987,500.00 for the same course fees.

"The Legislative Aides Section earned N12,274,587.77 as interest on bank accounts in a commercial bank between January and December 2016 but failed to remit the money to the Consolidated Revenue Fund".

Meanwhile, no date has been fixed for the hearing of the suit.

Recently, It, however, admitted that there was a disagreement between the executive and the legislature over the 6,576 new schemes, worth N37 billion, "smuggled" into the 2022 budget by the NASS.

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Authorities closed 22 commercial outlets for breaching protocols.

13,709 Arrested Over Illegal Immigration In A Week

Around 13,709 violators of residency, labour laws and border security regulations have been arrested in various regions of the Kingdom within a week.

The arrests were made during joint field campaigns carried out by various units of security forces and the General Directorate of Passports, Jawazat, during the period from December 30, 2021 to January 5.

Those arrested included 7,118

violators of the residency laws, about 5,015 violators of the border security regulations, and more than 1,576 violators of the labour law.

A total of 365 people were arrested while trying to cross the border into the Kingdom, of whom 45 percent were Yemeni nationals, 53 percent were Ethiopians, and two percent belonged to other nationalities while 75 people were arrested for trying to flee the Kingdom crossing borders. The

security forces also arrested seven who were involved in transporting violators and giving them shelter.

The total number of violators, who are currently subject to punitive measures, accounted for more than 94,175 including more than 84,532 men and 9,643 women, while the cases of 83,226 violators were referred to their diplomatic missions to obtain travel documents for their deportation.

The Ministry of Interior has

warned that anyone who is caught facilitating anyone to enter the Kingdom in violation of the border security regulations, or provides him transportation or shelter or any assistance or service in any way, shall be awarded a maximum jail term of 15 years, a fine of up to SR1 million, confiscation of the means of transportation, and the residence used for shelter, in addition to publicizing their names in the local media.

In-Person Attendance Resumes For Primary And Kindergarten Pupils

Ministries of Education and Health announced the resumption of in-person attendance for male and female students in the primary and kindergarten stages yesterday.

The attendance will resume for those under 12 years old, starting from Sunday 20/6/1443 AH, corresponding to January 23, AD. As it includes all students in government, private, international and foreign schools.

According to the statement, students who are unable to attend for health problems or having certain medical conditions are excluded from the decision, and to continue to pursue education through remote learning via the various platforms concerned.

The decision came as a result of the successful efforts made by Saudi Arabia and the Ministries of Education and Health and the Public Health Authority, "Weqaya" in achieving social immunity in implementing the precautionary measures protocols for the safe attendance of the intermediate and secondary levels.

The Ministry of Education confirmed the readiness of all schools to implement the health precautions and procedures approved by the Public Health Authority, noting that it is following the progress of the educational process in primary and kindergarten stages according to the flexible operational models for in-person attendance.

Arabic Music Institute To Be Established In KSA

Saudi Arabia's Music Commission is establishing an institute to train the country's musical talent.

Bait Al-Oud seeks to be a learning center for musicians so they can get the required training in playing traditional Arabic instruments and be educated about the instruments' role in developing the region's music culture.

The oud, which dates back more than 3,000 years, is one of the oldest and most important stringed instruments in the Arab world's musical heritage and it has played a significant role through history.

The commission aims to develop the institute to be a globally recognized center, spread awareness about Arabic musical instruments, specifically the oud, and preserve the heritage of Arabic music.

"The oud is one of the most important musical stringed instruments," oud player, Hasan Iskandrani told Arab News. "It

has been called the 'sultan of instruments' and is usually used by composers in shaping their melodies."

Traditional Arabic musical instruments such as the oud, duf, rebab, and mizmar, which are used in many different celebrations in the Kingdom, have played a major role in establishing the musical culture of the country and its different forms of musical expression.

There are different types of oud - including Iraqi, Syrian, Egyptian and Turkish, and it is played in different styles across the region.

In recent decades, the Kingdom has become home to talented composers, singers, and oud players.

Many people in the Kingdom enjoy the work of Abadi Al-Jowhar, who is known as the "Octopus of the Oud."

Alongside Al-Jowhar are Talal Salamah and Aseel Abu Bakr Saleem

who, to this day, are influencing an emerging new generation of Saudi oud players.

The oud is distinctive for being fretless and pear-shaped. It is traditionally made from lightwood, has a short neck, and is normally built with 11 strings.

Being fretless, the oud is considered a versatile instrument that gives musicians the freedom to produce more fluid notes without having to retune.

And, unlike other string instruments which typically have one large hole in the center, the oud can have up to three holes, which gives it its distinctive and mesmerising tune.

This makes it ideally suited for musicians to play the maqam, a system of melodic structure used in traditional Arabic music.

And, like other ancient musical instruments, the oud has its own fans and admirers who enjoy listening to its tunes.

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The King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, staged northeast of Riyadh, attracts more than 100,000 visitors from around the world every day

Ministry Working Closely With French Authorities On Dakar Rally Team Accident

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that preliminary investigation into the accident involving Dakar Rally French support team did not indicate any suspicious criminal activity.

"The competent authority in the Kingdom is working to coordinate and inform specialists from the French side of the results of the investigation including photos, information, and evidence available to the competent authorities in the Kingdom about the incident", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday.

The ministry clarified that the concerned authorities, in cooperation with the organizers, are keen to apply all internationally adopted security and safety standards to maintain the security and safety of the participants in the Dakar Rally.

Last week, the Makkah region police spokesman said preliminary investigations into the accident involving Dakar Rally French support team revealed that no crime was suspected in the incident.

Women's Camel Beauty Contest Ends In Riyadh

Camel beauty contest judges at the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival, held in the northeast of Riyadh, have announced the results of the women's singles contest.

The contest involved Al-Mughateer camels, a famous breed among locals of the Arabian Peninsula. Bedouin tribes divide Al-Mughateer camels into colors ranging from white shades to yellow and red, and each color has a name.

Haya Al-Askar ranked first, followed by Rasma Al-Dosari in second, Malath bint Aoun in third, Lamia Al-Rashidi in fourth and Dalal bint Abdullah Al-Otaibi in fifth place.

Al-Rashidi told the media that she was pleased to be among the first Saudi women to take part in such an event.

The festival, in its sixth edition, allowed women to take part and showcase their camels for the first time.

"I would like to thank King Salman for allowing women such an amazing opportunity. I aspire to participate next year and hopefully win first place," Al-Rashidi told the media.

Munira Al-Mushkhas, who took part in the contest, expressed her happiness to participate and said that she attended the event because it was "the first of its kind."

"I invite all ladies to participate in this festival, and it is an honour for me to have my camel in the top 10," She added.

The youngest participant at seven years old, Malath bint Aoun, who placed third, thanked Fahd bin Hithlin, chairman of the board of the camel club, for providing the opportunity for women to take part.

Al-Askar, who won first place, spoke of her happiness at winning first in the contest, in which 34 women took part.

The participation of women in the festival is the beginning of broader plans by the club to expand their presence in camel events.

Advanced Petrochemical Records Highest Annual Profit

Saudi Arabia's Advanced Petrochemical Co. registered its highest-ever estimated annual profit since its incorporation in 2021, amid higher polypropylene sales.

The Jubail-based company's net profit rose by 37 percent to SR815 million, \$217 million, compared to SR596 million a

year earlier, it said in a bourse filing.

This was mainly driven by a 51 percent increase in sales of polypropylene, used to make packaging as well as a wide array of consumer products.

Total comprehensive income surged to SR985 million, up 56 percent year-on-year, due

to unrealised gains on equity investment during the period.

The hike came despite some drawbacks including a decline in its stake in South Korean affiliate SK Advanced Co. and higher prices of propane and outsourced propylene, among other factors that led to an increase in expenses.

Kingdom Welcomes UN Efforts In Sudan

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has welcomed the dialogue between the Sudanese parties and commended the role of the United Nations, UN.

The Kingdom praised the

efforts of the United Nations Integrated Mission to Support the Transitional Phase in Sudan, UNITAMS, to facilitate dialogue, encourage the values of consensus, enhance the language of dialogue

and revive the political process.

The Kingdom affirmed its support for everything that achieves security, peace, unity, stability, prosperity and development of Sudan.

Industrial Development Fund Wins Business Continuity Management Certificate

Saudi Industrial Development Fund, SIDF, yesterday acquired the ISO 22301:2019 certificate by British Standards Institution, known as BSI.

SIDF was awarded the certificate due to its 95 percent of achievements, which are compiled to Saudi Arabia's National Risk Unit with regard to business continuity management, according to the Fund's release on January 9.

BSI awarded the ISO certificate after examining the Fund's comprehensive business continuity management system.

This includes its strategies and plans to deal with accidents, disasters and crises to ensure business continuity and their compliance with ISO standards.

The certificate proves that the Fund is capable of submitting a clear methodology that enables it to identify risks and set appropriate controls to manage and deal with them. It takes a preventive approach to reduce the impact of accidents, disasters and crises as much as possible.

In 1974, SIDF was founded in Saudi Arabia to support the private sector in various industrial fields in conjunction with government entities.

The fund exerts all efforts to maintain its pioneering role in the development of the local industrial sector and keep abreast with the latest developments.

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Govt Bans Tricycles, Okada Operators In Kogi

Kogi State Government has banned tricycle and motorcycle operators from operating on the highways.

Mobile courts have also been constituted to prosecute defaulters of the new order expected to take effect on Jan. 17.

In a communiqué by Mr Baron Joseph-Okwoli, the state Commissioner for Transportation on Saturday, the government said that the restriction order must be obeyed.

"The restriction was part of far reaching decisions made after extensive stakeholders' meetings on Wednesday and Friday to address the issue of incessant accidents and the need for free flow of traffic on Kogi township roads.

"The stakeholders meeting and deliberations were in tandem with the policy of the Ministry of Transport to strategise and map out plans and programmes to ensure smooth operations by road users and safety of commuters.

"It's expected that every tricycle must be coded and branded in line with the designated area of operation before plying the highways again.

"All tricycle operators must guide against overloading, speeding and must ensure that their left sides are barricaded with iron rod to guide against any accidental fall on the road.

"Tricycle and okada riders shall ensure that both left and right side mirrors are firmly fixed.

"Tricycle and Okada operators shall also ensure that all necessary valid papers and documents are collected and produced on demand for inspection", the communiqué read.

Similarly, articulated long vehicles operating within the state have been directed by the government to observe minimal speed limits in driving around residential areas.

It enjoined motorists within the state to always validate their vehicles' papers to avoid arrest and fines.



From left: Oyo Secretary to State Government, Mrs Olubamiwo Adeosun; Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, Alhaja Kafilat Olayiwola; GOC, 2Div., Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen. Gold Chibuisi; Wife of the GOC, Mrs Joy Chibuisi; Oyo state Head of Service, Alhaja Ololade Agbooola and Chairman, Nigerian Legion, Oyo State, Julius Ogunkojo, at the 2022 Armed Forces Remembrance Church Service at The Cathedral of St. Peter, Aremo, Ibadan on Sunday. PHOTO: NAN

Matawalle Vows To Track Down Perpetrators Of Zamfara Massacre

BY SANI MUHAMMAD SANI, GUSAU

Zamfara State Governor, Bello Matawalle, said the state government and security agencies would ensure that the bandits behind Tuesday and Thursday's merciless killing of innocent people across seven villages in Bukkuyum and Anka Local Government Areas are brought to book.

Matawalle, who gave the assurance yesterday during condolence visits to Bukkuyum and Anka Emirates, said the state government and security

agencies had already mapped out formidable plans to ensure that the killers are detected and brought to book.

"With the recent federal government's declaration of bandits as terrorists and the provisions to further strengthen our security operatives, the prevailing tie with repented bandits as well, no banditry could gain space for breath anymore in the state.

"We are hoping to secure continuous unconditional release of kidnapped victims

through ongoing onslaughts by security operatives on identified bandits' camps, as well as blocking all possible exits for the fleeing criminals", Matawalle stressed.

He earlier visited the affected villages in company of the commissioner of police and the general officer commanding of the Nigerian Army in the state to commiserate and assess the damages done to the victims.

Governor Matawalle also visited the monarchs of Anka, Alhaji Attahiru Ahmed

Anka and that of Bukkuyum, Alhaji Mohammed Usman in their separate palaces, urging them to continue to give due support as usual with a view to combat all criminal activities.

In their separate remarks, the emirs pledged unreserved support and continuous directives on their subjects for the timely report of any questionable movement and character to their village heads who will subsequently communicate to the nearest security establishment for prompt action.

... Humanitarian Minister Commiserates With Govt Over Massacre

BY JOEL AJAYI, ABUJA

Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar-Farouq, has condoled with the government and people of Zamfara State over the invasion of five communities and killing of over 200 people.

In a statement yesterday in Abuja and signed by her Special Assistant on Media, Mrs

Nneka Anibeze, the minister condemned the killings in Anka and Bukkuyum Local Government Areas, describing it as horrific.

She described the incident as "horrific and tragic, adding that "we are very saddened by this incessant invasion and killings by bandits and we are also worried about the displaced persons, who are fleeing in their hundreds from their

communities, especially women and children".

Besides, "we sympathise with the government and people of Zamfara in this trying period and condole with the families of the dead.

"We pray for the repose of their souls and that peace returns to the state as soon as possible".

The minister directed that relief materials be sent to

internally displaced persons in the state to cushion the effects of the sudden displacement.

According to her, more than 10,000 victims have been rendered homeless after their homes were razed by bandits while scores are still missing.

"More than 500 bandits on motorcycles reportedly attacked five villages and razed their homes after killing over 200 people", she said.

2023: South-East Will Support Osinbajo For President -Group

United Nigeria Ambassadors, UNA, said the South-East geo-political zone will support the emergence of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo as president if he accepts to run for the presidency in 2023.

National Coordinator of UNA, a political group committed to the unity and progress of the country, Mr Timothy Nwachukwu, gave the assurance in a statement in Abuja, yesterday.

Nwachukwu emphasized that the South-East would support Osinbajo to emerge president in 2023 to consolidate on the already existing projects which the present administration had massively embarked upon in the zone.

He noted that Nigerians across the six geo-political zones have been calling on Osinbajo to run for the presidency.

Nwachukwu while

reminiscing over the impact of the shared facilities inaugurated by Osinbajo in Ogbunike, in Anambra, thanked him for supporting the state.

He also thanked him, especially for the support that Anambra had received from the federal government across different sectors.

He noted that thousands of small businesses had benefitted from schemes implemented by the

Buhari-Osinbajo-led government including direct disbursements to businesses in Anambra.

He said shoe manufacturers in Ogbunike who were producing 200 to 400 shoes a month, using manual processes were benefiting from the project.

This, he said, had transformed businesses within and around the cluster by hugely increasing their production capacity.

Total Appoints Delta-born Asasa as Chief Financial Officer

BY OWEN AKENZUA, ASABA

TotalEnergies EP Nigeria Limited has appointed a Deltan from Aviara in Isoko South Local Government Area, Mr Frederick Asasa as the Chief Financial Officer and member of the Corporate Executive Committee, EXCOM, with effect from January 1.

Asasa succeeds Mrs Tai Oshisanya who will retire in March.

The company, in a statement said Asasa brings to the position over three decades of extensive experience in finance.

He joined TotalEnergies in 1999 as Head of Accounts and has since held several senior positions within the company in Nigeria and at its headquarters in France.

Until his appointment, he was the finance controller responsible for group financial reporting activities of affiliates in the North Sea, Russia and Continental Europe at TotalEnergies EP Headquarters in Paris, France.

He had previously been seconded as finance controller at the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG, Limited and more recently as the General Manager, Deepwater Assets' Finance, TotalEnergies EP Nigeria Limited.

With a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and an MBA, Asasa is a Fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, FCA, and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, FCTI.

TotalEnergies Companies in Nigeria has been serving the Nigerian hydrocarbon industry for more than 60 years, in partnership with the Nigerian Government and in different equity associations with other private companies.

TEPNG, an affiliate of TotalEnergies SE, has operated in the upstream sector for 60 years and has added over 3.6 billion barrels of oil equivalent to Nigeria's production till date.

Incorporated in Nigeria in 1962, TEPNG has maintained strong and steadfast partnership with the Nigerian Government, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, and several indigenous companies in developing the hydrocarbon industry.

TEPNG operates and holds a 40 percent interest in the NNPC/TEPNG Joint Venture, producing oil and natural gas from several onshore and shallow water concessions.

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FRSC Records 413 Deaths In Road Crashes

BY ABDULLAHI IDRIS, BAUCHI

Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, in Bauchi State said 413 people lost their lives and 2,157 others sustained injuries in road crashes in 2021, according to the Sector Commander, Mr Yusuf Abdullahi.

FRSC in its 2021 annual road traffic crashes report issued yesterday in Bauchi also said that 480 road accidents were recorded across the state within the year under review.

Abdullahi blamed the accidents to speed violations, reckless driving, wrongful overtaking and overloading.

He said most of the crashes occurred at night and involved commercial vehicles passing through the state.

"No fewer than 3,586 people are involved in road crashes in 2021.

"We recorded 162 fatal and 307 serious crashes during the year under review. Speeding remained the number one source of worry for corps personnel in road safety management", he said.

The sector commander lauded the commitment of the corps to control road traffic crashes resulting from speeding in 2022.

According to him, the corps will continue to monitor road usage to guard against dangerous driving among other causes of road crashes in the state.

He said the State Road Safety Advisory Council, SRSAC, inaugurated by the state government would strengthen campaign against road crashes.



Oyeyemi

Minister To Inaugurate New Polys, CoEs Governing Councils

STORIES BY CHIKA MEFOR-NWACHUKWU

Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, will, on January 18, inaugurate the governing councils of all the newly-created federal polytechnics and colleges of education.

Director, Press and Public Relations in the ministry, Mr Ben Goong, disclosed this in a statement issued in Abuja, yesterday.

Goong said the Board of the National Senior Secondary Education Commission, NSSEC,

would also be inaugurated by the minister on January 20.

According to him, the inauguration is to strengthen the governance and administration of the institutions and make them meet the expectations of the federal government.

Goong listed the institutions as: Federal Polytechnic, Ayede, Oyo State; Federal Polytechnic, Ohodo, Enugu State; Federal Polytechnic, Shendan, Plateau and

Federal Polytechnic, Ugep, Cross River.

Others, according to him, are Federal Polytechnic, Monguno, Borno; Federal Polytechnic, Wannue, Benue; Federal Polytechnic, Daura, Katsina and Federal Polytechnic, Kaltungo, Gombe State.

Also to be inaugurated are: Federal College of Education, Gidan Madi, Sokoto State; Federal College of Education, Jamaare, Bauchi State and Federal College of

Education, Odugbo, Benue.

The remaining institutions are: Federal College of Education, Isu, Ebonyi; Federal College of Education, Iwo, Osun and Federal College of Education, Ekiadolor, Edo.

According to him, all the chairmen and members of the governing councils/board are expected to present copies of their curriculum vitae and personal identification at 9am on each day of the inauguration.

Benue Govt Distributes 18,181 Chairs, Desks To Schools

BY HENRY IBYA, MAKURDI

Benue State Government has commenced the distribution of plastic chairs and desks to secondary and technical schools.

Speaking at a ceremony to launch the second batch of the distribution of about 18,181 plastic chairs and desks to secondary and technical schools, Governor Samuel Ortom said the donation was necessary due to the emphasis placed on education.

Represented by his Deputy, Engineer Benson Aboune, the governor noted with satisfaction, the efforts made so far by his administration through the rehabilitation of structures, particularly at the primary school level at the inception of the administration in 2015, assuring that government would not relent in the development of other infrastructure for improved living standard of the people.

The governor promised that more schools would be rehabilitated to enable the state maintain its lead in the area of education.

In a remark, the Commissioner for Energy, Science and Technology who is also the Supervising Commissioner of Education, Dr Godwin Oyiwona, expressed appreciation to the governor for improving the quality of education, as well as the giant strides recorded through the elevation of schools and massive renovation of structures.

He assured of equitable distribution of the equipment across schools.

The Head of Service, Mrs Veronica Onyeke, thanked the governor for contributing to the growth of education which she described as the bedrock of what Benue stands for.



From left: Representatives of Enugu State University of Science and Technology Neuro-Psychiatrist Hospital, Nurse, Ms Chinenye Chukwuma; Nurse, Mrs Ngozi Omeje; representative of the Consultant Psychiatrist, Mrs Ruth Okechukwu and management team of Diana Foundation International (DFI), Executive Director, Mrs Ijeoma Ede; Programmes Manager, Mrs Eveth Anyadiegwu and Public Relations officer, Mr Osita Ani, during the donation of medical and food items to the hospital in Emene Community of Enugu State on Sunday.

PHOTO: NAN

JAMB Registrar Is NextMoney 2021 Person Of The Year

NextMoney, a Nigerian financial magazine, has named the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB, Professor Is'haq Oloyede, as Person of the Year 2021.

Editor-in-Chief, NextMoney, Mr Ray Echebiri, said this in a statement issued yesterday in Lagos.

Echebiri said Oloyede's emergence as person of the year was informed by his relentless and uncompromising pursuit of academic excellence.

He said Oloyede's unwavering commitment

to transparency and accountability in public service was notable.

Echebiri added that the awardee, during his tenure as vice-chancellor of the University of Ilorin (Unilorin), pursued academic excellence.

"Concomitantly, Unilorin became the most sought-after institution by candidates seeking admission into tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

"Soaring on the wings of academic excellence feathered by him, Unilorin's ranking among world universities has remained on the upward

trajectory", he said.

The NextMoney Editor-in-Chief said Oloyede, in his current capacity as JAMB CEO, pursues academic excellence by ensuring transparent and credible admissions into Nigeria's tertiary institutions.

"Quietly and steadily, he is leading a revolution in the educational system, ostensibly with the objective of implanting academic excellence, especially at the tertiary level of education.

"The revolution he is leading ensures that no candidate without

the requisite academic achievements finds himself/herself on the campus of any tertiary institution as a student.

"He is prosecuting this revolution by conducting very credible, transparent and fraud-free Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, UTME, and by ensuring that admission into tertiary institutions in Nigeria is based first and foremost on merit", he said.

Oloyede, currently serving a second term as JAMB CEO, was first appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari in August, 2015, for a term of five years.

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Kwara: NSCDC Boss Tasks Community Leaders On Farmers/ Herders Cohesion

BY ABDUL SALAUDEEN, ILORIN

An appeal has gone to royal fathers and community leaders in Kwara State to work towards peaceful coexistence of farmers and herdsmen in their communities in the bid to put an end to the incessant farmers and herdsmen clashes in the State.

The appeal was made by the NSCDC Commandant in Kwara State, Makinde Iskil Ayinla, while reacting to the two separate Fulani and farmers bloody clashes recorded in Alapa and Patigi towns of Asa and Patigi local government areas respectively of the state over the weekend.

According to the NSCDC spokesman in the State Babawale Afolabi, the Commandant frowned at the geometrical rate of farmers and herdsmen clashes in some of the communities in the state adding that efforts are ongoing by the corps to meet the royal fathers and village heads in order to find lasting solution to the crises.

He recalled that on Saturday January 1, 2022, one Mohammed Aliu, 42 of Tankpafu village came to report how Fulani herdsmen stormed his farm and uprooted his entire cassava plantation to feed their cattle and also on Saturday there was a bloody clash between farmers and a Fulani herder in which both of them sustained serious machete injuries.

The Commandant explained further that security has been beefed up in those communities adding that there will soon be a stakeholder's forum that will comprise representatives of the village heads, Fulani herdsmen, farmers and the security agencies in order to find a lasting solution to the crises.



From left: Ibadan based Politicians: Chief Adegbuyega Adegoke; Elder Wole Oyelese; Sen. Rilwan Soji Akanbi and Senator Femi Lanlehin at the 8th Day Fidu for Olubadan of Ibadanland Oba Saliu Adetunji in Ibadan, yesterday.
Photo: Timothy Adeogodiran/NAN

Army Lauds Zulum For Logistics Support To End Boko Haram

BY HASSAN JIRGI, MAIDUGURI

Acting General Officer Commanding 7 Division of the Nigerian Army, Major General A.A. Eytayo has commended Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umaru Zulum, for his offering logistics and other support to the Nigerian Army, to enhance the fight against Boko Haram.

The General, who disclosed this when Zulum visited the headquarters of the 7th Division in Maiduguri for a social gathering organized to celebrate the acting GOC's recent promotion to the

rank of a Major General.

While acting as GOC, Eytayo is Commander of Sector 1 of operation "Hadin kai" a larger body that is fighting Boko Haram across the North-east.

According to him, severally without being prompted, you, Governor Zulum, come to our aid to support us, the army, even logistics wise. Through your persistence and unrelenting cooperation and assistance, you, Governor Zulum, have one way or the other, turned the spirit of the soldiers into fighting machines", General

Eytayo said.

He said that the GOC requested Governor Zulum to convey the gratitude of his officers to President Muhammadu Buhari and the Chief of Army Staff for identifying and promoting deserving soldiers involved with the fight against Boko Haram in Borno State, which he indicated was highly encouraging.

In his respond the state Governor Zulum congratulated the acting GOC and other recently promoted military officers, saying the people of Borno share the good moment and are happy

with it.

He described that the officers and personnel of the military and other security establishments deserve to be supported and encouraged.

Added that, "Let me tell you that, their duties are tough ones hence the need for not only support by states, for increase in their entitlements, when the economy permits such considerations by the Federal Government.

AljahirahNigeria, learnt that Governor Zulum was there as part of his usual support to the military operations in Borno State.

Bello Support Group Trains 100 Women, Youths On Skills

A support group of Yahaya Bello for President, "One to tell 10 GYB Support Group" has organized a three-week skills acquisition training for 100 women and youths in Nasarawa.

The Women Leader of the group, Hajiya Khadija Suleiman, disclosed this yesterday in Keffi on the sidelines of the ongoing programme.

Suleiman said the skills acquisition programme, being supervised by Prince Abdullahi Attajiri, was aimed at empowering women and youths to be self-reliant, which is one of the key visions of Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi.

She said that the three-week programme launched

on Friday, in Keffi was ongoing across different local governments of Nasarawa with the theme "GYB-PYB Youths and women warriors".

According to her, as a support group for Yahaya Bello for President in 2023, it intended to drive the visions and objectives of the Kogi governor to Nasarawa.

She said that all Nigerian women and youths will get the opportunity to be empowered once Bello becomes Nigeria's President.

"The three-week GYB-PYB Youths and women skills and acquisitions training programme was launched as a pilot scheme.

"It is aimed to train, support and educate the teaming

youths both men and women, on the effect of self-reliance and good governance in Nigeria.

"It is also in an effort to canvass 19 million votes from the 19 Northern states for Gov. Yahaya Adoza Bello in the forthcoming 2023 General Elections.

"Governor Yahaya Bello takes the issue of women and youths very seriously, he always includes them in his leadership government and that is what we are also pushing for.

"The 100 youths and women were selected from the 13 local government areas across the three senatorial zones of Nasarawa State.

"Twenty Five women are

being trained in tailoring in Akwanga, 25 men are being trained in Computer knowledge in Keffi, 50 youths and women are being trained in leather work, liquid soap making, Sanitizer among others.

"N10,000 starter packs were given to each of the 75 youths and women as a capital and three fairly used laptops were given to the best three youths trained in computer", she said.

Suleiman also told newsmen that among all the APC Presidential Aspirants contesting for President in 2023, the Group endorsed Bello to become president due to his commitment, hard work and dedication towards National Development.

Interfaith Prayer Service Holds For Late Olubadan

An interfaith prayer service took place at the popular Mapo Hall, Ibadan in Oyo State, yesterday to mark the eight days fidau for the late Oba Saliu Adetunji, the 41st Olubadan of Ibadan.

Oba Adetunji died on Jan. 2 at 93 years old during a brief illness at the University College Hospital, UCH, Ibadan.

Pastor Iyiola Oladokun of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, led the Christian faith service, while Prof. Kamil Olosho of the Department of Islamic and Arabic Studies, University of Ibadan, led the Muslim faith service.

In his message, Oladokun urged people to always remember that God owns the soul and could take it at any time.

He urged Nigerians to live with the fear of God, being the creator of every creature.

"There is one thing God put in our care that is soul; we should value it and use it in the way of the owner, because God can take it back when it's time.

"Let's endeavour to live in holiness, in accordance with the Will of our Creator", he said.

Oladokun then eulogised the late Olubadan, whom he described as father of all "who never discriminate, but took everyone as his own, irrespective of religious stances".

In his sermon, Olosho urged people to be more dedicated to God, saying that human beings were created to worship Him.

He eulogised the late Ibadan traditional ruler for promoting peace and harmonious coexistence among ethnics and religious people in Ibadan land.

Chief Bayo Lawal, the State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, who represented Gov. Seyi Makinde at the event, said that the late Oba Adetunji was a lover of peace.

Lawal expressed hope that the next Olubadan would sustain the good virtues that the late Oba Adetunji was known for.

Among dignitaries at the event were the former Governor of Oyo State, Chief Rashidi Ladoja, who is also the Osi Olubadan and Sen. Ganiyu Solomon, who represented Bola Tinubu, former Lagos State Governor.

They included Sen. Teslim Folarin, Oyo Central, Chief Bayo Adelabu, the Governorship Candidate of the All Progressive Party, APC, in 2019 in Oyo State and a former Senator, Soji Akanbi.

news

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Benue: Court Remands Herdsman For Killing Farmer

BY HENRY IBYA, MAKURDI

Chief Magistrate court, Markudi presided over by His Worship Vincent Kor, has ordered that a 21-year-old Fulani herder, Salisu Audu, be remanded at the Makurdi correctional centre facility for the alleged murder of Igwe Agale.

The accused herder operating in Iyech community of Igumale, in Ado Local Government Area, is charged with culpable homicide, causing death of Igwe Agale and for openly grazing with his cows on a cassava farm belonging to the deceased, contrary to the provisions of the open grazing prohibition and ranches establishment laws of Benue State.

Prosecution has told the court that on December 19, 2021, one Sunday Ogale, of Iyech community of Igumale in Ado Local Government Area, reported to the police that he and his father met the accused on their farm with his cows grazing openly and in the cause destroyed their cassava farm valued at about 1 million naira only.

Prosecution further informed the court that when Igwe Agale now late pleaded with the accused to pursue his cows away from his cassava farm, he became aggressive and in the process removed a machete and cut Igwe Agale, on his head which as a result of bleeding from the injury, felled down and died on the spot.

During police investigation, the accused was arrested and allegedly confessed committing the crime but prosecution however, opposed to the bail application of the accused on condition that investigation was still in progress and asked for adjournment.

Ruling on the application, the Chief Magistrate Vincent Kor, did not take the plea of the accused for want of jurisdiction, instead ordered that the accused be remanded at the Federal Correctional Center Makurdi, and adjourned the matter to the 3rd March this year for further mention.



From left: Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Olufunso Adebisi; Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Pauline Tallen; Parish Priest of Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Nyanya, Abuja, Rev. Francis Kale; former wife of the Governor of Kaduna State, Amina-Elizabeth Yakowa and former wife of the Governor of Nasarawa State, Mairo Al-Makura, during a thanksgiving in honour of the Minister and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry as part of the activities to mark their birthday in Abuja on Saturday.

PHOTO: JIMAH SULEMAN/NAN

Gov Abdulrazaq Salutes Armed Forces Patriotism

BY ABDUL SALAUDEEN, ILORIN

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman Abdulrazaq, yesterday, acknowledged the sacrifices of the Nigerian Armed Forces in maintaining peace and security as well as stabilizing the country.

AbdulRazaq stated this at the Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service organized to commemorate the Armed Forces Remembrance Day and Emblem Appeal week at All Saint African Church Gaakanbi, Ilorin.

Represented by his Deputy, Mr Kayode Alabi, Governor AbdulRazaq further stated

that security forces have demonstrated unparalleled patriotism, courage, loyalty and commitment as they face the challenges involved in defending Nigeria's territorial integrity.

"Permit me to say that this administration also acknowledges and commends the unrelenting efforts of the Nigeria Legion of Ex-servicemen at caring and providing for its members consistently in mobilizing funds annually to aid their incapacitated colleagues and families", he said.

He added, "We assure you of the state government's support to your noble cause,

as we are aware that with necessary encouragement, the legion can always be relied upon to complement the efforts of our security agencies in providing necessary security that is needed for conducive environment for rapid development in our state".

Delivering the sermon titled 'Fighting the Good Fight' Rt. Revd. Ade Fagbayi, called for all hands to be on deck in achieving an enviable country in the comity of nations, urging for collaboration and greater synergy between politicians, Military and the Judiciary.

The Vice-Chairman of

Christian Association of Nigeria, Kwara State chapter, Bishop Sunday Adewole, in his address noted that the Armed Forces Remembrance Day brings to the fore the efforts and sacrifices of officers, some of whom paid the ultimate price in the course of serving the nation.

Special prayers were offered for Nigeria, the church of God, the Armed Forces and families of the fallen heroes.

The Armed Forces Remembrance Day, AFRD, is observed every January 15 to honour fallen heroes of the Nigerian Armed Forces in various wars and national assignments.

Police Avert Bloody Clash Between Delta Community Youths

BY OWEN AKENZUA, ASABA

The timely intervention of a team of security personnel, led by CSP Harrison Nwabuisi, Sapele Divisional Police Officer, has saved what could have become a bloody clash between youths of Otonyasere Community and their neighbouring Abigborodo.

There had been growing tension between the two over the ownership of a forest reserve and the land where Seplat Energy Plc office is situated at Otonyasere in Sapele Local Government Area of the Delta State

It was further gathered that about four persons sustained severe injuries with a Toyota Corolla and a building belonging to Otonyasere Community destroyed during the clash.

The disputed land is currently a subject of litigation before the court and is also being resided and farmed by residents from both communities.

The clash which resulted in a heavy gridlock also had residents of Otonyasere Community fleeing their homes as youths from both communities openly brandished dangerous weapons.

The prompt intervention of CSP Harrison Nwabuisi, the Sapele DPO, supported by men of the Nigerian Army, Koko, however, saved the situation from escalating.

A source said that Otonyasere, Abigborodo Sapele - Okpe Community laid claim to the ownership of the disputed land, adding that since 1999 when the renew dispute started, developers who got land in the area for industrial and other commercial purposes were forced to pay to both Sapele-Okpe community and Otonyasere.

The source stated further that the present crisis was triggered off when "some Abigborodo youths this morning came to the land and started digging, that they want to build a house on the land, that was when youths from Otonyasere mobilised themselves and stormed the place and that was when the clash began".

According to the source, "the DPO with his team, however, intervened and dispersed the youths with tear gas before the crisis could escalate further. Most

Police Arrest Man Over Theft Of 200 Phones In Yobe

BY HASSAN JIRGI, DAMATURU

Police in Yobe has arrested a 35-year-old man, Usman Ali, for allegedly stealing over 200 cell phones and other valuables in Damaturu.

This is contained in a statement by the Spokesman of the Command, ASP Dungus Abdulkarim, on Saturday in Damaturu.

Abdulkarim said the suspect, a resident of Nayinawa Sallake area of Damaturu, was arrested by operatives of the Crack Squad Unit of the command.

"The culprit on Jan. 7,

2022, at about 0600hrs apprehended by police detectives of the Crack Squad Unit after responding to a distress call from the Ward Head of Marfa-Kallam Village, where over four houses were burgled and many valuables carted away in one night.

"The suspect specialised in intruding into unsuspecting victim's houses at night while sleeping, thereby stealing all valuables that come to their sight, ranging from cell-phones, TV sets, money, jewellery among others.

"The suspect patronises noodles and tea sellers spot

or hang around with friends in the target area of crime, to observe the movement of people and other security measures.

"And when it is getting dark in the evening, he hibernates in some secluded location and come out at midnight to perpetrate their heinous acts.

"They usually operate within the hours of 0200hrs to 0300hrs by sneaking quietly into houses through doors, windows or other penetrable openings.

"The command has been trailing the culprit and his syndicate for a short while now and he is one of the

most wanted on the list", he said.

He said that preliminary investigation indicated that the suspect stole more than 200 cell phones over the years, and sold at a minimum price of N800 each.

He said that the suspect would be charged to court after investigation was concluded.

The spokesman commended residents of the Marfa Kalam community for their cooperation and urged other communities in the state to support the police in crime prevention and control.

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Edo Govt Refutes Report On Relocation Of 100 Years Hospital

EDO

BY IKHILI EBALU, BENIN CITY

Edo State Government has disclosed that it is not relocating the over 100 years old Central Hospital but reorganizing it for better service to the people.

It also debunked fears that healthcare may become inaccessible to the poor, adding that it would explore all existing health policies and programmes that "take care of the poorest of the poor".

Speaking on the demolition of parts of the hospital which it was gathered may be turned into a park, the Commissioner for Health, Professor Obehi Akoria said with COVID-19 that has changed global narratives, Stella Obasanjo Hospital which was closed to its normal activities to strictly dispense COVID-19 treatments was being rebuilt to be restored to its original activities.

According to her, "what we are doing is this; Edo State has Edo Health Insurance Commission, Edo Health Insurance Scheme with various packages suited to the needs of various people in our heterogeneous population.

"We have stationed about ten teams right there between Stella Obasanjo and Central Hospital and as patients come, they are accessing the team because there is something called the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund which is supposed to cater for the healthcare needs of the poorest of the poor via insurance and our people are already paying for it.

"The federal government has provided some funding, the state government has its own counterpart funding and there are many mechanisms that are on ground that will take care of the health needs of different strata of the population and for the very poorest of the poor, Basic Healthcare Provision Fund ensures that they get minimum package without having to pay anything".

On the relocation of the hospital, Akoria said it is being moved to the Edo Specialist Hospital. "Recently, anybody who has been to the Central Hospital will see the state of the structure, infrastructure and service provision, so the decision to upgrade healthcare means that there has to be a lateral phased movement of services from Central Hospital to Edo Specialist Hospital.



Vice President Yemi Osinbajo (L) and former President, Goodluck Jonathan, at the Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to discuss the political situation in the Republic of Mali, in Accra, Ghana on Sunday.
PHOTO: SUMAILA IBRAHIM/JAU/NAN

Nasarawa: 5 LGAs Endorse Sule For Second Term, Senatorial Aspirant

NASARAWA

BY DAVID CHRISTOPHER, LAFIA

Youths from the five local government areas that constitute Nasarawa West Senatorial District have endorsed Governor Abdullahi Sule for a second term.

Over 2,000 youths, who marched in solidarity with the governor, also expressed their support for Barrister Shuaibu

Labaran Magaji for Senate come 2023.

Their positions were made known on Saturday in Keffi.

The Speaker, Northern Youth Assembly, Ibrahim Lawal, said supporting the All Progressives Congress, APC-led federal government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari and the Nasarawa State Government led by Governor Sule have

become imperative.

Ibrahim said Magaji has demonstrated a high level of competency, drawing from his present occupation as the lead counsel in the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation and called for more support to enable him succeed in his quest to represent the people of Nasarawa West.

He added that "we have watched with keen interest how he

deliberates on critical cases in court, especially issues of banditry, piracy and other grave crimes against the state.

"Therefore with this background, we have over 200,000 youths with the willpower to vote for him to become our next senator. We are calling on him to contest the 2023 election, if he fails to do so, we will drag him to court and I believe he will not fail us", he said.

Delta Governorship Aspirant Cries Out Over Defaced Banner

DELTA

BY OWEN AKENZUA, ASABA

Governorship aspirant in Delta State, Chief Abel Esievo, has condemned the defacing of his campaign banner at Ughelli by some faceless persons, describing the act as the handiwork of his political detractors.

Esievo, who spoke to journalists in his campaign office in Asaba, the state

capital, frowned at the several gimmicks being adopted by those against his aspiration, adding that the recent defacing of his banner was one of such moves to frustrate him from contesting for the position.

He narrated that a damaged trailer was first parked in front of the banner for months, blocking people from reading the message therein, adding that after

concerted actions, the trailer was removed, only for the banner to be completely defaced a few days after.

He wondered why he was being attacked from different quarters, saying they are indications that he has something to offer which his detractors are scheming to truncate.

The governorship aspirant noted that no amount of intimidation would distract

his aspiration to become governor in 2023, adding that Delta State deserves the best.

He berated those frantically working against the right person to succeed Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, who, he said, had positively transformed the state, adding that it would be disastrous for the wrong person to succeed him and ruin all his legacies.

Members Pass Vote Of Confidence On Warri Correspondents Chapel Chairman

DELTA

BY OWEN AKENZUA, ASABA

Members of Warri Correspondents Chapel, Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, Delta State Council, have passed a vote of implicit confidence on the NUJ Chairman, Comrade Michael Ikeogwu, describing him as a dogged leader who has creditably managed the affairs of the union.

The vote of confidence was contained in a communique

issued at the end of Warri Correspondents Chapel meeting held at the Press Centre in Warri and signed by Comrades Victor Okpomor and Dele Fasan, Chairman and Secretary respectively.

According to the communique, "the Chapel notes with particular interest the recent attack on the person of Comrade Michael Ikeogwu by some members of the union with intent to pitch the council chairman against officials of the Delta

State Government.

"The Congress urged members to restrain from acts capable of causing disaffection between officials of the Delta State Government and the entire members of the NUJ, Delta State Council, rather they should engage themselves in endeavours that will promote unity and cordial relationship among members.

"The Congress therefore, passed a vote of implicit confidence on the NUJ

chairman who is a member of the NUJ Warri Correspondents Chapel for his dogged leadership in managing the affairs of the council".

It also passed a vote of confidence on the Commissioner for information, Charles Aniagwu, as well as the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr Olise Ifeajika for ensuring a harmonious working relationship with practicing journalists in the state.

UNILORIN Promotes 685 Senior Staff

KWARA

BY ABDUL SALAUDEEN ILORIN

Management of the University of Ilorin has approved the promotion of 685 senior staff members from the academic and non-teaching cadres.

This was sequel to an approval by the University's Appointment and Promotions Committee, A&PC, which considered the various recommendations from various faculties and units at its last meeting in November.

A cursory analysis of the promotion exercise, as obtained from the Registry Unit, showed that 201 of the beneficiaries are academic staff while 484 are non-teaching staff drawn from various units of the institution.

Further breakdown revealed that 13 were promoted to CONTISS 14.

Those promoted to CONTISS 14 include Mrs. Khadijat Garba, Mr. M.A Opaleke and Mr. M.O Adewuyi, all of whom were promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar.

At the institution's Directorate of Corporate Affairs, Mr. George Adebisi Adenle and Mr. Segun Agboola were elevated to the rank of Deputy Directors while the Head of the Legal Unit, Mrs. Rukayat Olorukoba, was also promoted to the rank of Deputy Director.

A former Chairman of the University's chapter of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, SSANU, Mr. Mohammed Akanbi, was elevated to the rank of Deputy Bursar just as Mr. MKB Yusuf and Mr. SE Aliyu were also elevated to the rank of Deputy Bursar.

Mr EF Robert of the University's Works Department was equally promoted to the rank of Deputy Director, just as Mr OO Akintola was elevated to the rank of Senior Chief Technologist while Mr. IM Salihu was promoted to Head Teacher of the University School.

Some of the beneficiaries commended the authorities for granting them the career elevation, which they said would encourage them to work harder.

Mrs. Olorukoba of the Legal Unit said her joy knew no bounds on receiving the letter conveying her promotion.

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Community Seeks Govt Intervention Over Rising Tricycle Robbery

DELTA

BY OWEN AKENZUA, ASABA

Residents of Ughelli in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State have called for government's intervention following the increased cases of robbers who use tricycle, known as Keke, to dispossess people of their valuables. According to sources, they force unsuspecting passengers to part with their valuables, while at other times, they use charms or tricks on them. Some of the hoodlums, suspected to be internet fraudsters, use stolen SIM cards to withdraw money from the bank accounts of their victims.

One of the victims, Thomas Akatika, a lecturer at Heroes of Faith Bible School, narrated how he was robbed on his way to his office in a tricycle. He said before getting to his destination, the tricycle started swaying from one side of the road to the other, not knowing that it was meant to distract him. He noted that when he came down, he suspected that something was wrong, but did not know that his phone had been stolen until he got to school. Another victim who did not disclose his name said he boarded a tricycle from Otovwodo Junction with one passenger already inside and another came in later, adding that he came down at Afiesere Junction only to discover that his handset had been stolen.

Esther, another victim, was however lucky as attempts to dispossess her of her cash failed after struggling with the hoodlums.

According to her, she was going to Otovwodo Market to purchase some provision and foodstuffs. Esther said she entered the tricycle with two passengers already inside, one of them a lady, adding that on the way, the tricycle rider branched off the Ughelli-Patani Expressway and headed towards Aro Road.

Plateau: Monarch Died Negotiating Ransom For Colleague's Release

PLATEAU

BY UKANDI ODEY, JOS

Late first class chief in Plateau State and Mishkam Mwagavul, Da Nelson Bakfur, died on December 28 while negotiating with kidnappers on the ransom to be paid for the release of another monarch who was kidnapped on December 26.

It was gathered at the palace of the late Mishkam Mwagavul that he was in touch with the kidnappers of Sum Pyem of Gindiri, Charles Mayo Dakat, who had demanded a ransom of N500 million.

According to a source at the palace, Bakfur had urged the

kidnappers to significantly reduce the amount, insisting that they cannot mobilize N500 million.

Unknown to him and others around, the kidnappers had a mole and informant in the palace who was reporting developments in relation to the negotiation in their hideout.

Death came via a call to the monarch after a sympathizer made a donation to the ransom project and left.

According to the source, immediately, they called the deceased and told him how much he received as donation, noting that the amount received as one donation contradicted

the claim that they are not worth N500 million.

Angry, the kidnappers told the Mishkam that negotiations had collapsed, and the next line of action was to kidnap and snuff out his life without any option of fine.

At this point, the source said the Mishkam, who had heart related challenges and was billed for a routine checkup early this year, broke down and all efforts to revive him failed.

When our correspondent visited his palace, ironically the Sum Pyem whose release was being negotiated by the late Mishkam, was the chief mourner. He was seen receiving

and entertaining sympathizers who arrived in droves on condolence visit. Among the notable sympathizers were the Forum of former Speakers of the Plateau State House of Assembly led by Idi Song, Mwagavul traditional title holders led by a 2023 gubernatorial aspirant, Ambassador Bagudu Horse, Senior Advocate of Nigeria and a gubernatorial aspirant, Garba Pwul, a delegation sent by the campaign organization of another gubernatorial aspirant, Ephraim Lenka Dewa, who told Sum Pyem that the late Mishkam whom he had met in Maryland in 2008 will be missed for his "thoughtful leadership".



From left: Ibadan based politicians: Chief Nureni Akanbi; Sen. Rashidi Ladoja and representative of Oyo State Governor and Commissioner for Local Government, Chief Bayo Lawal, at the 8th Day Fidau for Olubadan of Ibadanland Oba Saliu Adetunji in Ibadan on Sunday.
PHOTO: TIMOTHY ADEOGODIRAN/JAU/NAN

Taraba: Hausa/Fulani Youths Divided Over Bwacha's Endorsement

TARABA

FROM COVER PAGE

Yerima also described the action of some chieftains of the All Progressives Congress, APC, who did not only take part but were present during the endorsement by the purported group as inimical and embarrassing to the genuine coalition of Hausa/Fulani youths.

"The action of Alhaji Ahmed Yusuf, a frontline politician and critical stakeholder of the APC and others who took part in the endorsement of a Peoples Democratic Party's, PDP, aspirant, has already undermined the credibility and qualification of the nine APC gubernatorial aspirants.

"We are waiting to see if the APC would hesitate to sanction its members who were involved in such ridiculous conduct", he noted.

Yerima also said that the coalition has disassociated itself from the Kangaroo endorsement.

"We therefore call on the general public to disregard such purported and misguided information from rented and unidentified youths.

"Furthermore, we wish to let the general public know that they are not in any way representing the interest of the Hausa-Fulani in Taraba and as such should apologize to the socio-cultural group with immediate effect", he said.

The convener, however, said the coalition would endorse a candidate based on qualification and merit in due course.

He added that it was too early to endorse a candidate until more political events unfold.

He commended Governor Darius Ishaku for ensuring peace between herders and crop farmers.

He also eulogized the governor for the giant development in the state.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the **Offer Letter and Recertification Letter** in respect of **PLOT NO. 143, FILE NO. ED 10379, CADZONE: E16** bearing **MR. Oshiomah Oruhmi** of No 10 Abu Obe Street, Off **Wole Soyinka Road, Second Avenue Gwarinpa**, got missing in transit. All efforts to trace the document proved abortive, please if found return to the nearest police station. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the **Original Right of Occupancy (R Of O)** in respect of **PLOT NO. 2484, FILE NO. AK10086**, District A06, measuring about **1,209.06 Sqm²** bearing **UWEMEMOH EKPO ESSIEN** got missing in transit. All efforts to trace the document proved abortive, please if found return to the nearest police station. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note.

OLAJUMOKE

I, formerly known and addressed as **ASHAMED AISHAT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SADIQ AISHAT OLAJUMOKE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the **Original Right of Occupancy (R Of O)** in respect of **PLOT NO. 987, FILE NO. ED 10163 DAKIBIYU DITRICT, FCT, SIZE 2.313.22 Sqm²**, bearing **SYLVESTER OSADOLO ODIGIE** of No. **10A Talabi Street Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja Lagos State**, got missing in transit. All efforts to trace the document prove abortive, please if found return to the nearest police station. Authorities concerned and the general public please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME

This is to inform the general public that **MOHAMMED LIMAN KADU** and **MUHAMMAD KADU LIMAN** refers to the same person, now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED LIMAN KUDU**. All former documents remain valid. Stanbic IBTC and the general public should please take note.

ABDULHAKAM

I, formerly known and addressed as **ABDULHAKAMU LUKUMANU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF ABDULHAKAM**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

This space is for sale

Saraki Pays Condolence Visit To Kwara CAN Over Chairman's Death

KWARA

BY ABDUL SALAUDEEN ILORIN

Former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, has visited the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Kwara State branch, over the demise of its chairman, Bishop Paul Olawoore.

Saraki, in a condolence message signed by his Press Officer on Local Matters, Abdulganiyu Abdulqadir, extended his deepest condolences to the Christian community and the Catholic Church over the passing of Bishop Paul Olawoore. "As we mourn the passing of Bishop Olawoore, we celebrate his life, which was dedicated to serving humanity, and we pray that the Almighty God grants his family and his congregation peace and solace at this difficult time", he said.

Former Deputy Chief of Staff to Saraki, Genga Makanjuola, who led the delegation, delivered a condolence message to CAN. Makanjuola said, "Our leader, Bukola Saraki, would have loved to be here today to commiserate in person with the CAN family on the loss of a great man who dedicated his life to the service of his maker. "The president of the 8th Senate also prayed that God Almighty gives his family, CAN, Kwara State Chapter, and his loved ones the fortitude to bear this great loss".

"I don't believe in superstitions. I just do certain things because I'm scared in case something will happen if I don't do them." – **Michael Owen**



sports

Abuja Agog As Water FC Stages 3-Day Scout For Young Talents

The federal capital territory is agog as the proprietor of Water Football Club of Abuja Makanjuola Nureni, is set give back to the society by scouting for young talents in Lagos, Makurdi, Abuja, Portharcourt and other parts of the country.

The scouting that will take place inside MKO Abiola stadium at FIFA goal project in Abuja come 12-14 of January 2022 in collaboration with Qatar Sponsors.

According to him, All that is need, is for the players to find their way to Abuja and be a part of the screening exercise.

"Who is the next Babatunde Michael, Success Makanjuola, Okechukwu Gabriel? Water FC, one of the most famous academies in Nigeria, is embarking on a screening exercise to scout for young talents that can fit into European standard".

It could be recalled that the likes of Babatunde Michael, Success Makanjuola, Okechukwu Gabriel, Adewale Oladoye and Emeka Chinonso are all products of Water FC and presently doing well in Europe.

He urged young players to take advantage of this screening and be part of the names mentioned, to play outside the shores of this country.



Ibrahimovic Equals Ronaldo's Goal Record In Latest Serie A Venezia Match

AC Milan star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has equalled a unique goals record initially set by Cristiano Ronaldo after his latest Serie A strike against Venezia.

Ibrahimovic has been widely regarded as one of the best centre-forwards in Europe throughout his 22-year career, and is showing no signs of slowing down yet despite turning the ripe old age of 40.

Milan brought Ibrahimovic back to the club for a second spell in January 2020 and he has hit 36 goals since then, with his most recent effort coming in a 3-0 win at Venezia on Sunday.

The Sweden international opened the scoring at Pier Luigi Penzo Stadium with just two minutes on

the clock, turning home a Rafael Leao cross from close range in trademark fashion.

Ibrahimovic has now scored against 80 different clubs across Europe's major leagues, becoming the second man to achieve the feat alongside Ronaldo.

The Portuguese, who returned to Old Trafford from Juventus in the summer after a three-year stint in Italy, reached that mark first when he scored in Manchester United's 3-1 win against Burnley on December 30.

The towering Swede has also enjoyed successful spells at Ajax, Juventus, Inter, Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United, scoring 492 goals in 802 games overall.

50 Years After, AFCON Returns To Cameroon

● Aboubakar scores brace as Cameroon defeat Burkina Faso in AFCON opener



BY JOEL AJAYI

Fifty years after hosting the Africa Cup of Nations, Cameroon kicked off the continental showpiece on Sunday targeting a sixth title while hoping the specter of the Coronavirus does not overshadow the tournament.

Cameroon, though, is football mad and many fans will be desperate to attend games in a country that has only hosted the Cup of Nations once before, in 1972 when there were just eight participants.

However, fans were excited that their town, Limbe, is hosting matches at the Africa Cup of Nations .AFCON. The continent's showcase international football tournament gets under way on Sunday.

The tournament's 52 matches will take place at six venues spread across the central African

country.

With 24 teams taking part in this year's showpiece, the tournament has been expanded from the 16-team format. This means that 12 teams will qualify from the group stage automatically, with four best losers to make it 16 teams for the Round of 16.

In the opening game between Home and Bukina Faso, Hosts, Cameroon on Sunday came from behind to defeat Burkina Faso 2-1 in the opening match of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON.

The Indomitable Lions conceded the first goal in the tournament when Steeve Gangare scored in the 24th minute to make history as the scorer of the first goal in the 33rd edition of the continental showpiece.

Cameroon responded with two goals from the spot through their captain, Vincent Aboubakar in the 40th and 45th minutes after Gustavo Sangaro scored the first goal of the tournament for Burkina Faso in the 24th minute.

Aboubakar's potential hat-trick goal in the 73rd minute was ruled out for offside after VAR check.

Aboubakar, nevertheless, made history on his own as he became the first player to score a brace in the tournament.

The Indomitable Lions held on tenaciously to the end to record a deserved win on the opening day.

The AFCON 2021 will end on February 6, 2022.



Ronaldo



Basketball: Dakar To Host Second Window Of World Cup 2023 African Qualifiers

BY IBRAHIM LAWAL

Senegal will be the host nation for the second window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 African Qualifiers, as confirmed by FIBA on Friday.

The three-day tournament will take place at newly built Dakar Arena from February 25-27 with eight teams from Groups B and D vying for six places in the decisive Second Round of the African Qualifiers.

Teams competing in the event include Cameroon, Rwanda, South Sudan and reigning African champions Tunisia in Group B, while Group consist of DR Congo, Egypt, Kenya and hosts Senegal.

The first window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 African Qualifiers started in November 2021 in the Angolan city of Benguela where

AfroBasket 2021 runners-up Cote d'Ivoire finished as the only undefeated team in three games.

The top three teams from Groups A, B, C and D will advance to the Second Round of the African Qualifiers scheduled to start in the fourth window in August 2022. And the teams that finish in the top two places of Groups E and F in the Second Round, followed by the best third-place team will qualify to the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 to be co-hosted by Indonesia, Japan and Philippines.

Senegal hosted one qualifying window for the World Cup 2019 African Qualifiers in the capital Dakar in June-July 2018 at Marius N'Diaye Stadium.

Launched in 2019, Dakar Arena was home to the FIBA Women's AfroBasket 2019.

Karate To Hold National Senior Championships In February

Plans have been concluded for the maiden National Open Karate Senior Championship sponsored by Stratabase Nigeria Limited.

According to the Technical Director of Karate Federation of Nigeria, Sensei Dave Jegede, the Championship is scheduled for 17th to 20th February, 2022 at Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Jegede said that the championship is ranked with Event Factor "6" and athletes will gather points in the various cadres.

He explained that the federation's policy is to have a regular championship in 2022 in order to build high competitiveness among athletes, sharpen their techniques and drive the standard sequences.

"The Karate Federation of Nigeria ,KFN, National Open Senior Championship sponsored by Stratabase Nigeria Limited with the KFN S/ South Chairman, Engineer Chukwudi Dimkpa will be the first among the events slated for the

first quarter of the year.

The Federation policy is to have regularity of Championship and build high competitiveness. This would sharpen the athletes' techniques more and drive the standard sequences. There will also be Referees and Coaches Certification courses."



Agara

Spurs and Liverpool FA Cup S

Tottenham scored a flurry of late goals as they avoided an embarrassing FA Cup exit at the hands of third-tier Morecambe on Sunday while Liverpool came from behind to beat lowly Shrewsbury 4-1.

Moura put Spurs ahead in the 85th minute after rounding the goalkeeper and Kane made sure Spurs would progress.

Speaking after the game Tottenham coach Antonio Conte said: "Our target was to go to the next round

and we won

In other Leeds 2-0 round match League tea Champions

3-0.

Wolves courtesy of Podence

Semedo v strugglers N Charlton 1-



Tornadoes 0-0 Rivers Utd
Lobi 1-0 Akwa Utd
Katsina Utd 2-1 Gombe Utd
Enyimba 1-0 3SC
Sunshine Stars 3-0 Kano Pillars
Kwara Utd 1-1 Rangers
MFM 2-1 Abia Warriors
Heartland 1-0 Wikki
Remo Stars 1-0 Plateau Utd
Dakkada 2-1 Nasarawa Utd



The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning.” – Pelé



Okoye

Nigeria Not Favourite To Lift AFCON Title – Eagles Goalkeeper

BY JOEL AJAYI

Nigeria’s Super Eagles goalkeeper, Maduka Okoye has said they are not the favorites to win the 33rd edition of the African Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

The competition which will commence on Sunday has defending champions Algeria, last edition runners up Senegal, host Cameroon, Tunisia and Morocco among the title contenders tipped by the

bookmakers.

While speaking from the team camp in Cameroon through Netherlands news outlets, Okoye said even though they are not among the favorites, winning the tournament remained their ultimate goal.

“We are not one of the big favorites, but we want to make our country proud. Winning the tournament: that is our goal”, he said.



AFCON Group Stage Fixtures & Time

Sunday, January 9

Group A:

Cameroon vs Burkina Faso - 5pm

Ethiopia vs Cape Verde - 8pm

Monday, January 10

Group B:

Senegal vs Zimbabwe - 2pm

Guinea vs Malawi - 5pm

Group C:

Morocco vs Ghana - 5pm

Comoros vs Gabon - 8pm

Tuesday, January 11

Group E:

Algeria vs Sierra Leone - 2pm

Group D:

Nigeria vs Egypt - 5pm

Sudan vs Guinea-Bissau - 8pm

Wednesday, January 12

Group F:

Tunisia vs Mali - 2pm

Group F:

Mauritania vs Gambia - 5pm

Group E:

Equatorial Guinea vs Ivory Coast - 8pm

Thursday, January 13

Group A:

Cameroon vs Ethiopia - 5pm

Cape Verde vs Burkina Faso - 5pm

Friday, January 14

Group B:

Senegal vs Guinea - 2pm

Malawi vs Zimbabwe - 5pm

Group C:

Morocco vs Comoros - 5pm

Gabon vs Ghana - 8pm

Saturday, January 15

Group D:

Nigeria vs Sudan - 5pm

Guinea-Bissau vs Egypt - 8pm

Sunday, January 16

Group F:

Gambia vs Mali, in Limbe - 2pm

Tunisia vs Mauritania - 5pm

Group E:

Ivory Coast vs Sierra Leone - 5pm

Algeria vs Equatorial Guinea - 8pm

Monday, January 17

Group A:

Cape Verde vs Cameroon - 5pm

Burkina Faso vs Ethiopia - 5pm

Tuesday, January 18

Group B:

Zimbabwe vs Guinea - 5pm

Malawi vs Senegal - 5pm

Group C:

Gabon vs Morocco - 8pm

Ghana vs Comoros - 8pm

Wednesday, January 19

Group D:

Egypt vs Sudan - 8pm

Guinea-Bissau vs Nigeria - 8pm

Thursday, January 20

Group E:

Sierra Leone vs Equatorial Guinea - 5pm

Ivory Coast vs Algeria - 5pm

Group F:

Gambia vs Tunisia - 8pm

Mali vs Mauritania - 8pm

Cristiano Ronaldo Holds Manchester United Crisis Talks About Future

Cristiano Ronaldo’s agent, Jorge Mendes, has flown in for a crisis meeting with the Portugal star. The Manchester United star is considering a move amid the club’s disastrous behind-the-scenes issues.

Ronaldo’s tenure at United could be cut short just months after joining due to the club’s current difficulties. As Ralf Rangnick’s situation worsens, his agent has rushed into the country to consult with him about his future.

The German coach has had a tumultuous first few

months in command, with 17 players reportedly wishing to go.

It’s been revealed that there’s widespread dissatisfaction with Rangnick’s training techniques, and his tactics haven’t gone over well with the team. And it appears that this has reached Ronaldo, who is doubtful about his dream return to Old Trafford.

The five-time Ballon d’Or winner is beginning to believe that returning to the club he joined as an 18-year-old was a mistake

It was gathered that, Ronaldo is frustrated and disillusioned with United’s style of play and with life under Rangnick and was worry that it will be difficult for team to win trophies with such style

As the Premier League title has become a fiction in recent months, even a top-four finish appears unachievable, with Arsenal and Tottenham both improving their form while the Red Devils remain stagnant.



Survival Scary

won the game.”
her games, West Ham beat
2-0 in the day’s only third-
match featuring two Premier
teams and Wolves saw off
onship side Sheffield United

es beat Sheffield United
7 of two goals from Daniel
e and one from Nelson
o while Premier League
ers Norwich saw off third-tier
n 1-0.

Nottingham Forest Grabban’s Late Strike Dump Arsenal Out Of FA Cup



Lewis Grabban’s late strike stunned Arsenal as Nottingham Forest dumped 14-time winners Gunners out of the FA Cup.

The substitute sealed a 1-0 win for the Championship side to book an East Midlands derby with Leicester in the fourth round.

Arsenal, 14-time winners, produced a disjointed performance which got what it deserved, with Forest more than matching the visitors to continue their upward curve under Steve Cooper.

Speaking after the disappointing Game, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, said: “We were not good enough and we have to apologize for it.

“I don’t want to use excuses, I expect the team I put out to do better and when you aren’t in the cup you are out.

“Today showed we were not capable of winning against Forest away from home and didn’t put in the level to win the game. It’s a collective issue and today we have not done it.”

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Manyan hafsoshin soji a bikin tunawa da ranar tunawa da sojojin na shekarar 2022 da ke Abuja, jiya.

PHOTO: JOHNSON UDEANI/NAN

‘Yan Bigilante 3 Sun Mutu A Wani Hadarin Mota Da Ya Ritsa Da Su A Bauchi – FRSC

Hukumar Kiyaye Hadurra Ta Kasa FRSC a Bauchi ta tabbatar da cewa wasu ‘yan Baijilanti uku ne suka rasa rayukansu a wani hatsarin mota daya tilo da ya afku a jihar. Kwamandan sashin, Mista Yusuf Abdullahi, wanda ya bayyana hakan a ranar Lahadi a Bauchi, ya ce wasu mutum bakwai sun samu raunuka daban-daban. Abdullahi ya ce hatsarin ya afku ne a kauyen Zadawa da ke kan titin Misau-Azare da misalin karfe 10:30 na safiyar ranar Asabar. Ya ce, sai da jami'an hukumar suka dauki kimanin mintuna 15 kafin su isa wurin domin share wurin, kuma ya dora alhakin aukuwar lamarin kan gudu ba bisa ka'ida ba.

“Hatsarin ya rutsa da ‘yan Baijilanti 10 a yayin da suke tafiya garin Azare, Shelkwat Karamar Hukumar Katagum, domin halartar daurin auren diyar Ministan Ilimi, Malam Adamu Adamu. “Maza uku sun rasa rayukansu yayin da wasu bakwai suka samu raunuka. Duk da haka, ba su cikin ayarin motocin gwamnan. “Sun je gaban gwamna tun da farko kuma ka san duk lokacin da aka yi wani aiki, su kan je su taimaka wajen tabbatar da doka da oda. “Mutum daya ya mutu nan take yayin da wasu biyu suka mutu a Cibiyar Kiwon Lafiya ta Tarayya (FMC), Azare,” in ji shi.

A cewarsa, wadanda suka samu raunukan na ci gaba da karbar magani a asibitin, inda ya ce an ajiye gawarwakin a dakkin ajiye gawa na wannan asibitin.

Cire Tallafi: Dama Ce Ta Amfani Da Kudin Carbon Da Manufar Rarraba Kayayyaki – Kungiya

Wata kungiya mai zaman kanta ta “Citizens’ Climate International,” CCI, ta ce shirin cire tallafin man fetur da Gwamnatin Tarayya za ta yi zai bai wa Nijeriya damar yin amfani da kudin Carbon da manufofin rabon kayayyaki. Ko’odinetan kungiyar na yankin Afirka, Mista Dabid Terunngwa ne ya bayyana haka a karshen mako a Abuja. Terunngwa ya ce CCI wata kungiya ce mai zaman kanta ta Amurka wacce ke da manufa don karfafa masu aikin sa kai na ‘yan kasa su yi amfani da ikon kansu da na siyasa wajen tsara manufofin yanayi mai inganci.

Terunngwa ya bayyana kudin carbon da rabo ko samun kudin shiga a matsayin tsarin da aka tsara don rage hayaki mai gurbata yanayi don magance dumamar yanayi.

Ya ce kudin Carbon da Rarrabawa wani tsari ne na manufofin da CCL ta kirkiira don sanya kudaden iskar gas din da ake kashewa, ya kara da cewa CCL tana ba mutane damar yin aiki tare kan manufofin yanayi. Ko’odinetan na CCL ya ce kamata ya yi gwamnati ta yi la’akari da yadda za a daidaita manufofin da za a hada da kudin Carbon da kuma rabon kudin shiga, inda ya kara da cewa hakan zai sa manufar ta fi dacewa.

Terunngwa ya ce a halin yanzu manufar kudin Carbon da Rarraba tana aiki a Kanada, kuma tana iya taimakawa shirin Gwamnatin Tarayya na fitar da mutane miliyan 100 daga kungin talauci a cikin shekaru 10.

Ya ce manufar kuma za ta taimaka wa Nijeriya ta sake ginuwa bayan cutar Korona. Ko’odinetan ya ba da rahoton cewa Gwamnatin Tarayya ta bakin Ministar Kudi, Kasafin Kudi da Tsare-tsare ta Kasa, Zainab Ahmed, ta bayyana wani shiri na cire tallafin man fetur akan Motar Man Fetur (PMS), a shekarar 2022. “Gwamnatin Tarayya za ta ba da Naira 5,000. zuwa 30 zuwa

Miliyan 40 mafi talauci a Nijeriya don rage mummunan tasirin cire tallafin ga masu rauni a kasa kashi 40 cikin 100 na al’ummar kasar,” in ji shi.

Ya ce manufar ita ce matakin farko na rage yiwuwar sauyin yanayi daga dumamar yanayi tare da karfafa talakawa karfin gwiwa ta hanyar samun kudin shiga na yanayi. Ya kara da cewa manufar tana aiki ne ta hanyar sanya farashi akai-akai akan Carbon Dioxide, CO2, abun ciki na mai.

“Domin shigar da farashin carbon a cikin Nijeriya, za mu iya farawa da farashin farko na Naira 50,000 akan abubuwan CO2 na albarkatun mai. “Haka zuwa Naira 75, 000/ton/duk shekara ana sakawa sama a inda ake hako su kuma ana tarawa idan sun shigo cikin tattalin arzikin. “Kudaden shiga daga kudin carbon zai kuma mayar wa gidaje. Ana gudanar da kudade shiga daga kudin carbon a cikin Asusun Tallafin Kudin Carbon kuma ana mayar da su kai tsaye ga gidaje a matsayin rabon wata-wata,” in ji shi. Terunngwa ya ce, galibin gidaje za su samu fiye da yadda suke biya na karin kudin makamashi, ya kara da cewa hakan zai sa biliyoyin kudi a cikin tattalin arziki da kuma kare kasafin iyali habaka kirkiira da gina jimillar bukatur samfuran karancin carbon a matakin mabukaci.

Jami'in gudanarwa na CCL ya ce baya ga fa'idodin tattalin arziki, Kudin Carbon da Di'idend suna da babban shigo da kayayyaki ga yanayin. Ya ce ana hasashen hauhawar farashin iskar gas a kan hayaki mai gurbata yanayi shi ne hanya mafi inganci ta fuskar tattalin arziki, gaskiya da kuma aiwatar da sauye-sauyen da ake samu zuwa ga karancin iskar gas.

“Wannan ita ce ta hanyar bai wa duk ‘yan kasuwa da daidai mutane kwarin gwiwa don rage sawun carbon din su da haɓaka karancin carbon

da ke akwai. “Bugu da kari, Nijeriya ma tana samun ci gaba ta fuskar shigo da kudade da ake shigo da su daga kasashen waje ba tare da biyan kudin Carbon ba, tare da rangwame ga masana’antun Nijeriya da ke fitar da su kasashen, za su dakile harkokin kasuwanci.

“Zai iya hana irin waɗannan kasuwancin kaura, inda za su iya fitar da karin CO2 tare da zaburar da sauran kasashe su dauki irin wannan manufofin farashin carbon,” in ji shi. Terunngwa ya ce a irin wannan yanayin, kamfanonin da ke neman tserewa daga hauhawar farashin makamashi za a hana su kaura zuwa kasashen da ba su yarda da su ba saboda kayayyakinsu za a biya su kudin shigo da su.

“Mafi mahimmanci, Kudin Carbon da Rarrabawa ba ya kara girman gwamnati kuma yana bukatar sabbin ma'aikatur gwamnati ko kara kudade shiga na gwamnati kai tsaye. “Rabon yana kara samar da kudin shiga na gaske, yana kare yanke shawar kashe kudi kuma zai dauki aiki mai dorewa. “Daga dukkan alamu, farashin carbon ra'ayi ne wanda lokaci ya yi kuma ba za a iya barin Nijeriya ba,” in ji shi.

A cewar Terunngwa, manufar Kudin Carbon da Rarrabawa yana da kyau a cikin sauki, a bayyane yake cikin damarsa ga binciken jama'a, kuma bayyananne a cikin sigina da fa'idodinsa.

“Abin farin ciki ne cewa shirin Gwamnatin Tarayya na cire tallafin man fetur gaba daya kan PMS nan da tsakiyar 2022, ya ba Nijeriya dama mai kyau da ta runguma tare da aiwatar da manufofin kudin Carbon da Raba shi. “A karshe, ra'ayi na ne cewa idan aka yi la'akari da wannan matakin, zai zama nasara ga kasarmu abar kauna,” in ji shi.

Akeredolu Ya Yaba Da Dawowar Sojoji Kurkukun Ondo

Gwamnan Jihar Ondo, Mista Rotimi Akeredolu, ya yaba da komawar hafsoshin sojojin Nijeriya zuwa cibiyoyin gyaran hali a jihar. Hakan na kunshe ne cikin wata sanarwa da Babban Sakataren Yadda Labaransa, Richard Olatunde, wanda ya raba wa manema labarai ranar Lahadi a Akure. Akeredolu, wanda ya bayyana dawowar sojojin a matsayin abin maraba, ya ce rundunar sojin Nijeriya ta bari an yi amfani da kyakyakawan tunani ya yi tasiri domin amfanin jama'a. Ya kara da cewa janyewar sojojin da aka yi a cibiyoyin gyara a Akure, Ondo, Owo da Okitipupa a farkon janyewar da aka yi, wata “barazana ce da rashin tsaro.”

“Mun lura da dawowar sojoji cibiyoyin gyaran halin a matsayin hadin gwiwa. Tsaron rayuka da dukiyoyin jama'armu ya kasance wani aiki mai wuyar gaske wanda dole ne a yi shi ba tare da jin dadi ba. “Bai kamata a bar cibiyar tarayya kamar cibiyar gyaran hali ba tare da an tabbatar da tsaro ba saboda dalilai da dama, komawar sojojin zuwa wuraren wani ci gaba ne mai kyau.

“Rundunar Sojin Nijeriya da Cibiyoyin Gyaran hali na Gwamnatin Tarayya ne, dole ne a sami ci gaba da aiki tare. “Za mu kuma ci gaba da yin iya kokarinmu don bayar da goyon bayan da ya dace a lokacin da bukatar hakan ta taso,” in ji shi.

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Korona: NCDC Ta Sanar Da Mutuwar Mutum 1, Da Sabbin Wadanda Suka Kamu 766

Cibiyar Kula da Cututtuka ta Nijeriya, NCDC, a ranar Asabar, ta sanar da sabbin wadanda suka kamu da cutar Korona 766 tare da mutuwar mutum daya a cikin jihohi 12 da Babban Birnin Tarayya FCT. A wata sabunta sanarwata a shafinta na intanet da aka tabbatar ranar Lahadi, NCDC ta ce adadin wadanda suka mutu a kasar ya kai 3,071. Hukumar kula da Lafiyar Jama'a ta bayyana cewa wadanda aka tabbatar sun kamu da cutar sun haura 247,775 tare da mutum 26,277 masu aiki.

Ya ce sabon adadin ya haɗa da koma bayan da aka sallama daga jihohin Anambra da Kaduna. "Anambra ta ba da rahoton samun karuwar mutum 208 da a watan Nuwamba da Disamba 2021, da 6 ga Janairu, 2022, yayin da jihar Kaduna ta ba da rahoton karuwar mutum 42 a ranar 7 ga Janairu da 8 ga Janairu, 2022.

"Yayin da Kaduna ta ba da rahoton sallamar mutane 210 a ranar 7 ga Janairu da 8 ga Janairu, Anambra ta ba da rahoton karuwar mutuwar 27 a ranar 6 ga Janairu," in ji ta. Hukumar ta bayyana cewa Jihar Legas, cibiyar kula da cutar a kasar, ita ce ta jagoranci sabbin masu dauke da cutar a ranar Asabar mai dauke da mutum 261; Ribas - 159, Gombe - 25, da FCT - 20.

Hakar Ma'adanai Ba Bisa Ka'ida Ba: Jami'an Cibil Defence Sun Cake Mutum 4 A Edo

Rundunar 'Yansandan Farin Kaya ta NSCDC Reshen Jihar Edo ta kama wasu mutum huɗu da ake zargin masu hakar zinare ba bisa ka'ida ba a Jihar Edo. Kwamandan rundunar a Edo, Mista Aniekan Udoeyop, ne ya bayyana hakan a lokacin da yake zantawa da manema labarai a ofishinsa da ke Benin ranar Asabar. Udoeyop ya bayyana cewa, an kama wadanda ake zargin wadanda suka fito daga Kogi, Kebbi, Taraba da kuma Babban Birnin Tarayya a ranar 7 ga watan Disamba. Karamar Hukumar jihar.

Kwamandan ya ce wadanda ake zargin sun sabawa dokar gwamnatin Edo da ta haramta hakar ma'adanai.

A cewarsa, wadanda ake zargin za su fuskanci fushin doka, domin su zama izna ga wasu, wadanda za su so su shiga irin wannan harka. Ya bayyana cewa gwamnatin Edo ta hana hakar ma'adanai a yankin Damgbala, biyo bayan yadda ya bayyana a matsayin kwararowar baki cikin al'umma da kuma abubuwan da suka shafi rashin tsaro a cikin al'umma.



Ministar Harkokin Mata da Ci gaban zamantakewa, Pauline Tallen (R); Babban Sakatare, Ma'aikatar Mata da Cigaban Jama'a ta Tarayya, Olufunso Adebisi (R. ta biyu) da sauran su, a lokacin bikin godiyar karrama Ministar da Babban Sakatare na Ma'aikatar a wani bangare na gudanar da bikin zagayowar ranar haihuwarsu a Abuja a karshen mako. **HOTO: JIMAH SULEMAN/NAN**

Daliban Kano 80,000 Ne Suka Samu Maki 9 A Jarrabawar NECO - Kwamishina

Gwamnatin Jihar Kano ta ce jihar ta samu nasarar kashi 95 cikin 100 a jarabawar hukumar jarabawar NECO a shekarar 2021, inda sama da dalibai 80,000 suka sami maki tara. Kwamishinan Ilimi na jihar, Alhaji Sanusi Sa'idu-Kiru ne ya bayyana hakan a wani taron manema labarai kan nasarorin da ma'aikatar ta samu a shekarar 2021. Ya ce jihar ce ta fi yawan 'yan takarar da suka zana jarrabawar kammala Sakandare, SSCE, a kasar.

"Muna da 'yan takara 89,000, wadanda suka zana NECO a shekarar 2021; A cikin wannan adadi, kimanin 80,000 ne suka samu kiredit tara." A cewar kwamishinan, gwamnati ta kashe Naira miliyan 235 wajen biyan kufade jarrabawar wasu daga cikin daliban. Ya ce kananan

hukumomi 44 da ke jihar, 'yan majalisar dokokin jihar da na majalisar dokoki ta kasa da kuma masu hannu da shuni su ma sun kashe kimanin Naira miliyan 500 wajen biyan kufade jarabawar. Sa'idu-Kiru ya bayyana cewa jihar tana da makarantun firamare sama da 7,000 da kuma makarantun sakandire 1,517 a fadin kananan hukumomin jihar 44.

Ya ce hakan ne ya sa gwamnati ta kara daraktocin shiyya na manyan makarantun sakandire daga 14 zuwa 23, SUBEB daga 10 zuwa 15, sai kuma hukumar kula da ilimin jama'a, daga 10 zuwa 15. "Na masu zaman kansu da na sa kai, bakwai aka kafa, hukumar kula da karatu. Makarantun Kimiyya da Fasaha sun samu uku. Don haka, yanzu muna da ofisoshin

shiyya 66 a duk faɗin MDAs da ke karkashin ma'aikatar. "An amince da Naira 100,000 ga kowace shiyya a matsayin kudin gudanar da ayyukan sa ido da kula da makarantun," in ji shi. Kwamishinan ya bayyana cewa gwamnati ta iya kiran ma'aikata 5,700 da suka cancanci ilimi daga ma'aikatu da ma'aikatu da hukumomi (MDAs) zuwa koyar da ajujuwa a makarantun gwamnati a jihar.

Sa'idu-Kiru ya ce gwamnati ta kashe miliyoyin naira wajen siyan litattafai miliyan daya. Ya ce gwamnati za ta ci gaba da samar da tsare-tsare da kayayyakin koyarwa a makarantun domin inganta koyo da koyarwa. A cewarsa, hakan zai sa iyaye da dama su tura 'ya'yansu makarantun gwamnati.

Filin Jirgin Saman Anambra Ya Tattara bayanana Jiragen 142, Fasinjoji 3,865 Cikin Wata 1

Sabon filin tashi da saukar jiragen sama na Anambra Cargo da aka faddamar ya yi jigilar jirage 142 tare da fasinjoji 3,865 da suka sauka da tashi daga filin jirgin bayan wata daya da buɗe ginin. An buɗe filin jirgin don ayyukan kasuwanci a ranar 7 ga Disambar bara. Kwamishinan ayyuka na Anambra, Mista Marcel Ifejiyor, ne ya bayyana hakan a wani jawabi da ya yi ranar Lahadi a Umueri, kusa da Awka, inda filin jirgin yake. Ya lura cewa duk da cewa alkaluman tashin jirgin da fasinja sun zarce hasashen idan aka kwatanta da na zamanin filin jirgin, da ya fi yawa, idan da yawan kamfanonin jiragen sama suna amfani da filin jirgin.

Ya zuwa yanzu dai Air Peace

da United Nigeria Airlines ne kadai ke sauka da tashi a filin jirgin Anambra. Ifejiyor, wanda kuma shi ne Shugaban Kwamitin Ayyukan Filin Jirgin Sama na Jihar Anambra, ya ce filin jirgin ya ba da gudunmawa sosai wajen saukaka zirga-zirgar fasinjoji a lokacin Bukukuwan Kirsimeti.

Ya ce fasinjojin da za su sauka a filayen jirgin saman Asaba da Enugu sun tashi kai tsaye zuwa filin jirgin Anambra. "Filin jirgin saman Anambra cibiya ce, babu wurin da ba za ka iya zuwa Nijeriya daga jihar Anambra ba. Mu dai muna tafe ne ta fuskar ayyukan da za a yi a nan."

Shi ma da yake jawabi, Mista Martin Nwafor, Manajan Daraktan Hukumar Kula da Filin Jiragen Sama na Anambra, ya

ce ingancin aikin a filin jirgin ya ci gaba da inganta. Nwafor ya ce yanzu haka dukkanin hukumomin da ke kula da harkokin sufurin jiragen sama da suka haɗa da hukumar kula da zirga-zirgar jiragen sama ta Nijeriya, hukumar kula da yanayi ta Nijeriya, hukumar kula da filayen tashi da saukar jiragen sama ta Nijeriya da dai sauransu, yanzu haka suna zaune a filin jirgin.

Ya ce tun lokacin da aka buɗe filin jirgin ba a samu wata matsala ba, don haka mahukuntan filin jirgin a shirye suke su magance matsalolin da suka taso. Nwafor ya ce an horar da ma'aikatan da aka tura filin jirgin, kuma an ba su isassun dabarun gudanar da ayyukansu.

'Yansanda Sun Kama Wani Mai Otel A Osun

Rundunar 'yan sandan Jihar Osun ta cafke babban manajan otal na Western Sun, Ede, Mista Samuel Owolawi, bisa zargin yunkurin kwace filaye, cin zarafi da kuma barna da dukiya. Wakilinmu ya tattaro cewa an kai Owolawi zuwa gidan yari a Ede ranar Asabar bayan da ya jagoranci 'yan daba dauke da makamai suka ruguza wani gini da ake yi tare da korar ma'aikata a wani wuri bayan otal din.

Wani Magini da ke wurin, Mutiu Tijani, ya bayyana a wata sanarwa da ya aikewa 'yan sanda cewa, 'yan dabar Owolawi sun kuma ruguza ginin bisa umarnin Kamal Ishola Yusuf, wani Manjo Janar na Sojojin Nijeriya kuma Shugaban Otal din Western Sun. A cewarsa, 'yan dabaar sun kuma lakaɗa wa ma'aikatan duka tare da yi wa mutanen barazanar cewa ba za su sake komawa wurin ba, inda suka ce a kwanan baya Janar din ya sayi kadarorin daga Karamar Hukumar Ede ta Arewa.

"A yayin da masu aikin bulo ke aiki a wurin, sai na ba ni mamaki, babban Manajan Otal din Western Sun, Samuel Owolawi, ya bukaci ma'aikatan da su bar wurin bisa umarnin Janar Yusuf.

"Hakika, sun ruguza dukkan ayyukan da muka yi, sun lalata kayayyakin - bulo, yashi, siminti, dole ne mu gudu don ceto rayukan mu," in ji maginin a cikin sanarwar da ya bayar a ofishin 'yan sanda na Oke Iresi, Ede. Dan jaridar ya samu labarin cewa rundunar 'yan sandan ta kuma gayyaci shugaban Karamar Hukumar Ede ta Arewa mai ci Mista Adeyemi Elliot domin amsa tambayoyi domin ya bayyana rawar da ya taka wajen "taimakawa" Janar a badaƙalar filaye.

Da aka tuntubi kakakin rundunar 'yan sandan Jihar Osun, SP Yemisi Opolola game da lamarin, ya tabbatar da cewa an samu rahoton barna a ofishin 'yan sanda na Ede. Opolola ya ce lamarin rikicin mallakar filaye ne kuma ya yi kira ga bangarorin da abin ya shafa da su wanzar da zaman lafiya yayin da 'yan sanda za su ci gaba da bincike kan lamarin.

A halin da ake ciki, Mista Adeyemi Giwa, lauyan mai gidan, Prince Akinwale Ojetimi, ya sha alwashin kara gurfanar da Janar mai ci, da jami'ansa da wasu jami'an karamar hukumar bisa rawar da suka taka wajen yin katsalanda. "Duk wadanda ke da hannu a cikin wannan daukar doka a hannu za su fuskanci cikakken hukuncin na doka kuma za su biya kuɗi mai yawa. "Ba shi yiwuwa mutum komai girmansa, ya yi ta' adi ga dukiyyar abokin cinikim. "Wannan lokacin ya wuce, da daɗewa," in ji lauyan.

A cewarsa, filin da ake magana a kai wani shiri ne na kananan hukumomi wanda majalisar ta ware wa Ojetimi bisa ka'ida tun shekarar 2004. Ya ce abubuwan da ake ta tafkawa, da ake zargin sun fito ne daga majalisar, "wata barna ne da ba za a iya misaltawa ba da kuma zamba mai girma wanda dole ne ya kasance. nan da nan aka dakatar da shi."

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كبار الضباط العسكريين في الاحتفال بيوم ذكرى القوات المسلحة ٢٠٢٢ خدمة الكنيسة بين الطوائف في أبوجا ، أمس.

الدفاع المدني يعتقل
٤ من عمال المناجم
غير القانونيين في إيدو

اعتقلت قيادة ولاية إيدو التابعة لفيلق الأمن والدفاع المدني النيجيري NSCDC أربعة من عمال المناجم غير القانونيين المشتبه بهم في إيدو. وكشف أودويوب أن المشتبه بهم الذين يندردون من كوجي وكبي وتارابا وإقليم العاصمة الفيدرالية قد تم اعتقالهم في ٧ ديسمبر. وقال إن المشتبه بهم تم القبض عليهم من قبل عملاء NSCDC بالتعاون مع مجموعات البقطة المحلية في مجتمع دامغبالا في أكوو- منطقة إيدو لوكال الحكومية بالولاية ، قال القائد إن المشتبه بهم خالفوا قانون حكومة إيدو الذي يحظر التعدين. ووفقاً له ، فإن المشتبه بهم سيواجهون غضب القانون الكامل ، ليكونوا رادعاً للآخرين ، الذين قد يرغبون في الانخراط في مشاريع مماثلة وأوضح أن حكومة إيدو حظرت التعدين في مجتمع دمغبالا ، بعد ما وصفه بتدقيق الأجانب إلى المجتمع وحوادث تقترب من انعدام الأمن في المنطقة. وشدد على أن NSCDC ستستمر في حماية البنية التحتية الوطنية الحيوية ولن تتنازل عن ولايتها ، وقال المشتبه بهم ، الذين اعترفوا بجرائمهم ، للصالحين إنهم أسفرون لأفعالهم ، وكشفوا عن أن لديهم دائماً مشترين جاهزين الذين يبيعون منتجاتهم إليه في بلدة أوجيرام ، وهي منطقة.

إزالة الدعم: فرصة ذهبية لاعتماد سياسة رسوم الكربون وتوزيعات الأرباح - مجموعة

سيضخ المليارات في الاقتصاد ويحمي ميزانيات الأسرة ، مضيفاً أن السياسة ستسمح أيضاً بتعويض على الأسر اتخاذ خيارات مستقلة بشأن استخدام الطاقة ، وتحفيز الابتكار وبناء الطلب الكلي على المنتجات منخفضة الكربون على مستوى المستهلك. قال منسق سي سي آل أنه بصرف النظر عن الفوائد الاقتصادية ، فإن رسوم الكربون وأرباح الأسهم تبقى وقال إن رسوم الكربون المتزايدة المتوقعة على انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري هي الآلية الاقتصادية الأكثر كفاءة وشفافية وقابلة للتنفيذ لدفع الانتقال إلى اقتصاد منخفض الكربون. هذا من خلال منح جميع الشركات والأفراد حافزاً قوياً لتقليل البصمة الكربونية وتطوير بدائل منخفضة الكربون متاحة. "بالإضافة إلى ذلك ، فإن نيجيريا ستكسب أيضاً بمعنى أن رسوم الاستيراد على المنتجات المستوردة من البلدان التي لا تفرض رسوماً على الكربون ، جنباً إلى جنب مع التخفيضات على الصناعات النيجيرية المصدرة إلى تلك البلدان ، سيثبت الشركات. يمكن أن يثني مثل هذه الشركات عن الانتقال ، حيث يمكنها انبعاث المزيد من ثاني أكسيد الكربون وتحفيز البلدان الأخرى على اعتماد سياسات مماثلة لتسعير الكربون.

الوقود على وقود المحركات البترولية (PMS) ، في عام ٢٠٢٢. ستمنح الحكومة الفيدرالية ٥٠٠٠ إلى ٣٠ إلى ٤٠ مليون من أفقر النيجيريين للتخفيف من الأثر السلبي المحتمل لإلغاء الدعم على أكثر الفئات ضعفاً في أدنى ٤٠ في المائة من السكان. أفضل خطوة أولى لتقليل احتمالية حدوث تغير مناخي كارثي من جراء الاحتباس الحراري وكذلك تمكين الفقراء من خلال الدخل الأساسي للمناخ ، وأضاف أن السياسة تعمل من خلال وضع رسوم متزايدة بشكل مطرد على ثاني أكسيد الكربون ، وثاني أكسيد الكربون ، ومحتوى الوقود الأحفوري. "لاستيعاب التكلفة الاجتماعية للكربون في نيجيريا ، يمكننا أن نبدأ برسم أولي قدره ٥٠ ألف طن على محتوى ثاني أكسيد الكربون للوقود الأحفوري. التصعيد إلى ٧٥ ألف / طن / تُفرض سنوياً في المنبع عند نقطة الاستخراج ويتم تحصيلها عند الدخول إلى الاقتصاد. "ستعود الإيرادات من رسوم الكربون أيضاً إلى الأسر. يتم الاحتفاظ بالإيرادات من رسوم الكربون في صندوق استئماني لرسوم الكربون وإعادتها مباشرة إلى الأسر المعيشية وقال تيرانجوا إن غالبية الأسر ستلتقي أكثر مما تدفعه مقابل زيادة تكاليف الطاقة ، مضيفاً أن هذا

تقول منظمة المواطنين المناخ الدولي ، سي سي أي ، وهي منظمة غير حكومية ، إن إلغاء دعم الوقود المقترح من قبل الحكومة الفيدرالية سيوفر فرصة لنيجيريا لاعتماد سياسة رسوم الكربون والأرباح. قال أبوجا تيرانجوا إن سي سي أي هي منظمة غير ربحية مقرها الولايات المتحدة وتتمثل مهمتها في تمكين المواطنين المتطوعين من ممارسة السلطة الشخصية والسياسية في تشكيل سياسة مناخية فعالة. وقال منسق سي سي آل إن انبعاثات الغازات لمعالجة ظاهرة الاحتباس الحراري ، كانت عبارة عن اقتراح سياسة أنشأته سي سي آل لاستيعاب تكاليف حرق الوقود القائم على الكربون ، مضيفاً أن سي سي آل تمكن الناس من العمل معاً في سياسة المناخ. يجب أن تنتظر الحكومة في تنسيق السياسة لتشمل رسوم الكربون والأرباح ، مضيفاً أن هذا من شأنه أن يجعل السياسة أكثر كفاءة. تيرانجوا إن سياسة رسوم الكربون والأرباح سارية حالياً في كندا ، ويمكن أن تساعد أيضاً خطة الحكومة الفيدرالية لانتشال ١٠٠ مليون شخص من برائن الفقر في ١٠ سنوات. أفاد المنسق أن الحكومة الاتحادية ، من خلال وزيرة المالية والميزانية والتخطيط الوطني ، زينب أحمد ، كشفت عن خطة سياسية لإلغاء دعم

أكيردولو يشيد بعودة الجنود إلى المراكز الإصلاحية في ولاية أونودو

أشاد حاكم ولاية أونودو ، السيد روتيمي أكيردولو ، بعودة ضباط الجيش النيجيري إلى المراكز الإصلاحية في الولاية ، جاء ذلك في بيان صحفي صادر عن كبير السكرتير الصحفي ، ريتشارد أولاتوندي ، للصحفيين يوم الأحد في أكوري. وقال أكيردولو ، الذي وصف عودة الجنود بأنها تطور مرحب به ، إن الجيش النيجيري سمح للمنطق الحيد بأن يسود لصالح الشعب ، مشيراً إلى أن الانسحاب الأولي للجنود الملحقين بالمراكز الإصلاحية في أكوري وأونودو وأوو كان أوكيتيوبا "انحرافاً وخطراً أمنياً لا داعي له. نلاحظ عودة الجنود إلى المراكز الإصلاحية على أنها عملية تنسيق. يظل أمن أرواح وممتلكات شعبنا مهمة شاقة يجب تنفيذها دون تردد أو عاطفة". لا ينبغي ترك منشأة فدرالية مثل الإصلاحية دون أن تستحق الأمن لأي سبب من الأسباب. ومع ذلك ، فإن عودة الجنود إلى المنشآت يعد تطوراً إيجابياً ". ينتمي كل من الجيش النيجيري والمراكز الإصلاحية إلى الحكومة الفيدرالية. يجب أن يكون هناك تأزر مستمر. وقال "سنواصل أيضاً بذل قصارى جهدنا لتقديم الدعم اللازم عند الحاجة".

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يسجل مطار أنامبرا الجد يد ١٤٢ رحلة و ٣٨٦٥ مسافراً في شهر واحد

كشف في يوم الأحد في أوموري ،
القرب من أوكا ، حيث يقع المطار ،
أشار إلى أنه على الرغم من أن
رقم الرحلات والركاب تجاوزت
توقعات عند مقارنتها مع معاصري
مطار ، إلا أنها كانت ستصبح أكثر
إذا كان هناك المزيد من شركات
طيران.

نانت تستخدم المطار ، وحتى الآن ،
نط إي يس و المتحدة نيجيريا
خطوط الجوية هي التي تهبط وتقلع
في مطار أنامبرا ، وقال إفجينفو ،
هو أيضاً رئيس لجنة مشروع مطار
ولاية أنامبرا ، إن المطار ساهم بشكل
بير في تسهيل حركة المسافرين
نلال قال إن الركاب الذين كانوا
يهبطون في مطاري أسابا وإينوجو
افرو مباشرة إلى مطار أنامبرا.
طار أنامبرا هو محور ، هناك أنا
يس مكان لا يمكنك الذهاب إليه في
جيريا من ولاية أنامبرا. نحن فقط
خدش السطح من حيث الأنشطة التي
نتم هنا.

مقتل ٣ من أعضاء الحر اسة في حادث بوتشي التلقائي - أف أر أس سي

أكد الفيلق الفيدرالي للسلامة على
الطرق ، أف أر أس سي ، في بوتشي
أن ثلاثة من أعضاء الحراسة قد لقوا
مصرعهم في حادث سيارة وحيد في
الولاية ، وقال قائد القطاع ، السيد
يوسف عبد الله ، الذي كشف هذا يوم
الأحد في بوتشي ، إن سبعة آخرين
أصيبوا بعدة طرق.
وقال عبد الله إن الحادث وقع في قرية
زادوا على طول طريق ميساو-
أزاري قرابة الساعة ٣:١٠ من
صباح يوم السبت ، وقال إن الأمر
استغرق حوالي خمس عشرة دقيقة
للوصول إلى مكان الحادث لتطهير
الموقع ، وألقى باللوم على أفراد
الفيلق.

حادث التجاوز غير المشروع. "شمل
الحادث ١٠ أفراد من الحارس أثناء
سفرهم إلى أزاري ، مقر منطقة
كاتاجوم المحلية الحكومية ، لحضور
حفل زفاف ابنة وزير التعليم ، ملام
أدامو أدامو. "فقد ثلاثة ذكور بالغين
حياتهم أثناء أصيب سبعة آخرون
بجروح.

ومع ذلك ، لم يكونوا في موكب
المحافظ. "لقد ذهبوا قبل ذلك أمام
الحاكم وأنت تعلم أنه كلما كانت هناك
وظيفة ، يذهبون دائماً للمساعدة في
الحفاظ على القانون وقال: "توفي
شخص على الفور بينما توفي اثنان
آخرون في وقت لاحق في المركز
الطبي الفيدرالي (FMC) ، أزاري.



وزيرة شؤون المرأة والتنمية الاجتماعية ، بولين تالين (يمين) ؛ السكرتيرة الدائمة ، الوزارة الاتحادية لشؤون المرأة والتنمية الاجتماعية ، أولوفونسو أديبي (٢ يمين) وآخرين ، خلال حفل شكر على شرف الوزير والأمين الدائم للوزارة كجزء من الأنشطة للاحتفال بعيد ميلادهم في أبوجا في عطلة نهاية الأسبوع .

80.000 طالب كانوا يحصلون على ٩ ساعات معتمدة في مفوض امتحانات نيكو

وكشف المفوض أن الحكومة تمكنت
من استدعاء ٥٧٠٠ موظف مؤهل
تعليمياً من مختلف الوزارات
والإدارات والوكالات (MDAs) إلى
التدريس في الفصول الدراسية .
كما تم استدعاء ٦،٩٩٥ مدرساً
إضافياً ، ممن كانوا على كشوف
رواتب حكومية ولكنهم كانوا يقومون
بالتدريس في المدارس الخاصة
والمجتمعية ، للتدريس في المدارس
الحكومية في الولاية. د أن الحكومة
أنفقت ملايين النيرة على شراء مليون
كتاب مدرسي ، وقال إن الحكومة
ستستمر في إنشاء الهياكل والمواد
التعليمية في المدارس لتحسين
التدريس والتعلم ، وهو ما سيجعل
العديد من الآباء يرسلونهم. أطفالهم في
المدارس العامة.

حوالي ٥٠٠ مليون نروبي على دفع
رسوم الامتحانات للمرشحين.
أكثر من ٧٠٠٠ مدرسة ابتدائية و
١٥١٧ مدرسة ثانوية في ٤٤ منطقة
حكومية محلية في الولاية ، وقال إن
هذا هو سبب زيادة الحكومة
لمدريات المناطق للمدارس الثانوية
من ١٤ إلى ٢٣ ، و SUBEB من
١٠ إلى ١٥ ووكالة للتعليم الشامل ،
من ١٠ إلى ١٥ .
بالنسبة للمؤسسات الخاصة
والتطوعية ، تم إنشاء سبعة ، ومجلس
المكتبات والمدارس العلمية والفنية
حصلت على ثلاثة. لذلك ، لدينا الآن
٦٦ مكتباً في جميع مناطق MDA
تحت إشراف الوزارة.
تمت الموافقة على مائة ألف نايرا

تقول حكومة ولاية كانو إن الولاية
سجلت نجاحاً بنسبة ٩٥ في المائة في
امتحانات المجلس الوطني للامتحانات
، نيكو ، في عام ٢٠٢١ ، حيث
حصل أكثر من ٨٠ ألف طالب على
تسعة اعتمادات.
مؤتمر صحفي حول الإنجازات التي
سجلتها الوزارة في عام ٢٠٢١. وقال
إن الدولة لديها أكبر عدد من
المرشحين لامتحانات شهادة الثانوية
العامة ، ، SSCE في الدولة. ٢٠٢١
؛ من هذا العدد ، حصل حوالي ٨٠
ألفاً على تسعة أرصدة .
وبحسب المفوض ، أنفقت الحكومة
٢٣٥ مليون نيرة على دفع رسوم
الامتحانات لبعض المرشحين. كما
أنفق مجلس النواب في الولاية
والجمعية الوطنية وكذلك فاعلو الخير

اعتراض أن سي أس القنب الهندي ، ١٥٠ برميلاً من البنزين في كيب

أحد الأزرق كارينا إي برقم التسجيل
UBT 674 MQ ورقم الهيكل
SB1645BK10E009725 محملة
بالقنب ساتيفا ، المعروف شعبياً باسم
قنب هندي. "كشف الفحص البدني
للمركبة أنه تم تحميلها بـ ٣٨٩ طرداً
من كيلو غرام واحد لكل قنب ساتيفا
بقيمة "N15.560.000
وبالمثل ، بناءً على الاعتماد تمكنت
المخابرات والضباط والرجال من
قيادة منطقة كيب ليلة الجمعة ، ٧
يناير ٢٠٢٢ ، من إفشال أنشطة
مهربى الشياطين الجريئين من
بريميوم موتور سبيريت (PMS) في
الممر المائي منخفض الساحل في

اعترضت دائرة الجمارك النيجيرية
، أن سي أس ، قيادة منطقة كيب ،
١٥٠ برميلاً من البنزين و ٣٨٩ كجم
من القنب الهندي (قنب هندي) بقيمة
٢١,١ مليون نيرة في هجومها
المستمر وقال مسؤول العلاقات
العامة للجمارك في القيادة ، دي أس
سي ناسيرو مانغا ، في بيان أتيح
للصحفيين في بيرنين كيب ، الأحد ،
إن الضبطيات سُجلت في موقعين
منفصلين خلال أسبوع واحد على
أساس تقرير استخباراتي موثوق به.
"اعتراض عملاء القيادة أثناء دورية
المعلومات الأربعاء ٥ يناير ٢٠٢٢
على طول طريق كيانغوي-كامبا ،

لا يمكن تصور أي شخص ، بغض
النظر عن مكانته العالية ، أن يريد
خلسة مصادرة ممتلكات عميلنا منه."
لقد انتهى عصر الإفلات من العقاب
قال المحامي. "بحسب قوله ، الأرض
المعنية هي مخطط حكومي محلي تم
تخصيصه بشكل شرعي من قبل
المجلس لأوجيتيمي منذ عام ٢٠٠٤ .
وقال إن التطورات البيغضة المتغيرة
، التي يُزعم أنها قادمة من المجلس
، "هي خدعة لا يمكن تصورها
والاحتيال الضخم الذي يجب أن
يتوقف فوراً. "وكان جيوا قد طلب في
عريضة بتاريخ ٧ ديسمبر ٢٠٢١ ،
من المجلس تحذير الجنرال يوسف
وفنادق ويسترن ووكلائه من التعدي
على الممتلكات.

world news



Mali Crisis

West African Leaders To Discuss Mali Crisis In Key Summit

West African leaders gathered yesterday to discuss Mali's political crisis, with the military junta submitting a new timeframe for a transition back to civilian rule at the last minute after its first proposal was rejected.

The extraordinary summit of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, bloc in Ghana's capital, Accra is expected to discuss possible sanctions on the Sahel state over potentially delayed elections, among other issues.

The meeting comes after months of increasing tensions over the timetable for restoring civilian rule in Mali after a military takeover in 2020.

In August that year, army officers led by Colonel Assimi Goita toppled the elected president, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita amid street protests against his unpopular rule.

Under threat of sanctions, Goita subsequently promised to restore civilian rule in February 2022 after holding presidential and legislative elections.

But he staged a de facto second coup in May 2021, forcing out an interim civilian government.

The move disrupted the reform timetable, and was met with widespread diplomatic condemnation.

ECOWAS insisted that Mali hold elections in February.

But the government then said it would only set an election date after holding a nationwide conference -- arguing that a peaceful vote was more important than speed.

Swathes of Mali lie outside of state control, with the government struggling to quell a jihadist insurgency that has raged since 2012.

On December 30, after Mali's reform conference ended, the government suggested a transition period of between six months and five years, starting from January 1, 2022.

This would enable the authorities to "carry out structural institutional reforms and, organize, credible, fair

and transparent elections", it said.

But ECOWAS mediator Goodluck Jonathan asked the regime to revise that plan during a visit last week, Mali's foreign minister said.

On Saturday, the junta submitted a new proposed timetable to the bloc's acting president, Malian state

television reported -- without giving any details about its contents.

Meanwhile, the 15-nation ECOWAS has led the push for Mali to uphold its commitment to stage elections early this year.

The return to civilian rule has put the bloc's credibility on the line

as it seeks to uphold fundamental principles of governance and contain regional instability.

At a summit on December 12, its leaders reiterated demands that the elections be held by February 27 as initially planned.

They maintained sanctions such as

asset freezes and travel bans within the ECOWAS region against around 150 junta figures and their families, and threatened further "economic and financial" measures.

The possibility of fresh sanctions is expected to be on the agenda at Sunday's summit.

Mauritania: Ancient Manuscripts Attract Tourists To Historic Desert City

Deep in the Sahara Desert, in the North West African nation of Mauritania, lies the oasis city of Chinguetti.

Founded in the 11th century, the city stood at the cross roads of the old trans-Saharan trade routes.

This desert is famous for its camel caravans, which in their heyday transported goods across North Africa.

Along with commerce, manuscripts from the Arab world were traded here, making Chinguetti a centre of learning.

Cultural and social development took place around this trade, most significantly a large collection of manuscripts originating from Mauritania and across the Middle

East.

Today the trans-Saharan trade routes of old are no more, and the desert is doing its best to reclaim this city.

And the manuscripts, which are part of the town and Mauritania's rich cultural heritage, are under threat from the elements.

Saif Ahmed Mamoud is the proprietor of the Ahmed Mamoud family library.

The collection began in 1699, and comprises over 700 manuscripts today.

This rich literary cultural heritage originates from around the Arab world, the manuscripts covering subjects as diverse as religion, mathematics, literature and

astronomy.

"Chinguetti has many books, many manuscripts, the most important thing about these books is the most religious part of the manuscripts," he explains.

In February 2021, leaders from five West African nations and France agreed to step up the fight against Islamic extremists in the Sahel region, which included Mauritania.

The leaders also vowed to strengthen a regional force known as the G5 Sahel force that was launched in 2017. It is made up of soldiers from Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mauritania who operate in cooperation with French troops.

Mamoud said the threat of terrorism in the past and now COVID

has stemmed the flow of visitors to Chinguetti, but tourists have started to trickle back.

"Chinguetti once was slightly threatened by terrorists, Chinguetti, which is a, corner of wisdom, corner of peace, corner of calm, corner of tranquillity, was threatened by this plague. In 1995, there was a little hope that the city could welcome tourists. But alas terrorism prevented tourists, from coming, and, tourism, stopped for a while. There is COVID-19 and tourism stops again. But this year, there is a small return of tourism, we're optimistic and everyone is happy," he explains.

French tourist, Guillem Youenn says he is keen to learn more about the country.

US Ready To Talk Missiles, Military Exercises With Russia – Official

United States of America is ready to discuss with Russia on missile systems and military exercises, in talks that could begin in Geneva, a senior White House official said on Saturday.

US and Russian diplomats are meeting in Switzerland to try to defuse tensions as Washington and Europe accuse Moscow of preparing a new invasion of its neighbor Ukraine.

"There are some areas... where we think it might be possible to make progress," provided any promises are "reciprocal," the official said, giving some details on a conference call.

"Russia has said it feels threatened by the prospect of offensive missile systems

being placed in Ukraine... The United States has no intention of doing that. So this is one area where we may be able to reach an understanding if Russia is willing to make a reciprocal commitment," said the official, who requested anonymity.

Moscow "has also expressed an interest in discussing the future of certain missile systems in Europe, along the lines of the INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty)" and "we're open to discussing this," the official said.

Finally, Washington was ready to discuss the possibility of reciprocal restrictions on the size and scope of military exercises conducted by Russia as well as by the US and NATO, the source

said.

"We won't know until we get to these conversations starting tomorrow night whether Russia is prepared to negotiate seriously and in good faith," the official warned, saying the Russians and Americans would likely have an "initial conversation" on Sunday night before holding their "main meeting" on Monday.

"We're going into these meetings with a sense of realism, not a sense of optimism," the source said, indicating that they would be "exploratory" and would not lead to firm promises.

"I would not at all be surprised that Russian media begins to report perhaps even while the talks are still underway,

that the US has made all manner of concessions to Russia. This is a deliberate attempt to create division among allies, in part by manipulating all of you", the official told reporters on the conference call.

US Deputy Secretary of State, Wendy Sherman is to meet Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Ryabkov for the Sunday evening talks, according to a State Department spokesperson.

Sherman will be accompanied by Lieutenant-General James Mingu, the Joint Staff Director of Operations, and Ryabkov will attend the talks with Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Colonel-General Aleksandr Fomin.

special report

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How COVID-19 Changed Education Sector's Narrative In 2021

BY FUNMILAYO ADEYEMI

In 2021, COVID-19 brought many changes into the country and the education sector was not left out.

Pupils/students from primary to tertiary institutions were forced to learn from home due to the pandemic as they adopted digital teaching and learning, which changed the narrative for the sector.

This necessitated the federal government to come up with some initiatives that encouraged students at all levels to have access to digital devices such as computers, laptops and some e-learning websites.

The launching of a free e-learning website known as inspire.education.gov.ng for all levels of education to allow for easy learning access by the Federal Ministry of Education is a good example.

A public affairs analyst and social advocate, Mr Carl Umegboro, in evaluating the education sector in 2021, commended some of the innovations adopted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to him, the innovations by the Federal Ministry of Education are capable of changing the narratives in the sector in the future, if consolidated.

The approval of new universities by the National Universities Commission, NUC, to accommodate the growing population of youths seeking to be admitted into tertiary institutions was another high point in 2021.

"This intervention will go a long way to accommodate the high population of people willing to advance their education and this will reduce the usual frustration being faced by prospective undergraduates.

"Frustrated students and parents unfortunately resort to bribery and lobbying for admission because of the difficulties in being admitted into higher institutions", he said.

Another achievement was the call for the harmonization of the Industrial Training Fund, ITF, with the National Directorate of Employment, NDE, for effective skills development in the country.

Stakeholders lauded the move, saying it would enable participants gain better insight into skills acquisition and be able to have the much needed support for their start-ups.

The Minister of State for Education, Mr

Chukuemeka Nwajiuba said the harmonization would not only produce proficient and employable youths, but could also produce youths with capacity to provide employment for others.

"The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Federal Ministry of Education and other federal ministries on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, for quality skill acquisitions that will enhance youth employment is also a remarkable attainment.

"If the policy is robustly promoted and sustained, it will lead to radical national development through accelerated human capital development by providing lifelong learning opportunities for youths as practiced in many developed nations of the world".

In 2021, plans were also underway to begin a Teachers Exchange Programme with the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy to develop the digital literacy capacity of teachers in the country.

Nwajiuba said the Federal Ministry of Education was working out details with the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy to use digital bridge institutes across the six geo-political zones to enhance the computer knowledge of teachers.

In view of this, he said the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria, TRCN, had been mandated to work with the Nigerian Union of Teachers, NUT, to activate the One Teacher, One Computer programme for effective e-teaching and e-learning.

As a result, he said the Federal Ministry of Education was enabling laptop vendors to sell to teachers and put arrangement in place for them to pay in installments within two to four years.

"We are working in collaboration with

the ministry of communication and digital economy to do exchange programmes with teachers to use the digital bridge institutes that had already been built by the Federal Ministry of Communication and we are still working on the details.

"The Federal Ministry of Education will enable laptop vendors to vend to teachers and we will give them a period of two to four years to complete the payment.

"We have finished carrying out interviews for the vendors; we just want the NUT and TRCN to conclude arrangements", he said.

The Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education, NBTE, Professor Idris Bugaje, also commended the harmonization of ITF and NDE for effective skills development in the country.

He said both bodies had duplicating functions that did not allow them to focus on the mandates they were set up for.

He called for an urgent introduction of apprenticeship training under the Nigeria Skills Qualification Framework, NSQF, from technical colleges.

"The ITF and NDE are duplicating functions and are losing focus from their original mandates".

Another issue during the year under review was the way that the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, and the federal government tackled the demands of the union to prevent strikes and this was a positive development.

The National President, National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, Mr Sunday Asefon called on the federal government to intensify actions toward meeting the demands of ASUU without resorting to industrial actions.

Asefon, who said there was the need for a common ground to avoid strikes, pleaded with ASUU to also consider the interest of students at the centre of their negotiations.

"You will recall that the last industrial action embarked upon by ASUU remains the longest in the history of tertiary education in Nigeria.

"Since the inception of this democratic dispensation in 1999, ASUU has gone on accumulated strike for over five years.

"This development is not only worrisome, but portends great danger to the education sector, national development, research, and security in Nigeria", he said.

Another issue that was brought to the front

burner in 2021 was the repositioning and appropriate budgeting for the sector.

Stakeholders decried the paltry 5.6 percent budgeted for the sector in 2021, saying that such a low budget was incapable of repositioning the sector.

However, in 2022, a budget of N1.29 trillion (7.7 percent) was allocated to the sector, again falling short of the expectations of stakeholders.

The National Moderator, Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All, CSACEFA, Mr Babatunde Omole called for stakeholders' partnership with key state actors toward repositioning the education sector.

Omole said it was not only important to clamour for 20 percent allocation to education, but it is paramount to look inward to ensure that the little allocated is used judiciously.

"Education is not something that we converge and talk about extensively without taking it seriously.

"There is no way we can do this if we do not reposition ourselves as key players to move the nation's educational sector forward.

"We are clamouring for 20 percent allocation of the budget to education but we need to look inward on how we are guiding state actors to ensure that the little allocated are extensively used.

"We need to refocus on our outcome and impact positively. It does not matter the huge amount invested into education, what matters is how impactful the amount will be", he said.

Omole said that there is the need to begin to consider the challenges in terms of education resources to meet indicators of global education.

Similarly, the Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria, Mrs Ene Obi, said the future of Nigeria lies in the quality of its education, saying it is a major driver of socio-economic development.

Obi, however, called for increased domestic financing for a strong public, inclusive and resilient education system in Nigeria.

She pleaded with the federal government to rise to the challenge of increased insecurity, especially as it concerns educational institutions across the country.

On infrastructure, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, Ahmed Kaita, reaffirmed the commitment of using legislation with the aim of improving and rejuvenating the deployment of infrastructure in educational institutions.



Since the inception of this democratic dispensation in 1999, ASUU has gone on accumulated strike for over five years

today business



President Buhari flanked by L-R: NNPC CEO Mele Kyari, Minister of State Petroleum Timpre Sylva, NNPC Board Chairman Margery Chuba Okadigbo, NNPC CFO Umar Ajiya, and other members of the board during the inauguration of the Board of Directors of Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) in State House, recently

Buhari Demands Transparency, Accountability From New NNPC Board

STORIES BY CHARLES EBI

President Muhammadu Buhari has urged the Board of the newly incorporated Nigerian National Petroleum Company, NNPC, Limited to ensure strict compliance with Corporate Governance principles that place a premium on doing business with the highest ethical standards, integrity, and transparency.

Inaugurating the Board chaired by Senator Margery Chuba Okadigbo, the President charged them to focus on profitability and operate at par with its industry peers across the world.

I expect the NNPC Limited to be mindful of our commitments to our net carbon zero aspirations and to ensure total alignment with the global energy transition realities", he said.

The President told the Board members that they came on board as a result of the reforms put forward by the Petroleum Industry Act, PIA, 2021, which seeks to reposition the Nigerian petroleum industry to a commercially viable and competitive industry in line with global business dynamics and best practices.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited is mandated to focus on profitability and continuous value creation beyond the simple fulfillment of legal and regulatory requirements.

NNPC Limited is expected to operate at par with its industry peers across the world, while acting as an enabler company that will foster the development of other sectors of our economy.

The inauguration of this Board is a major step in the ongoing transition to a more viable petroleum industry that will attract investment to support our economic growth and generate employment to millions of our people", he said.

President Buhari directed that there should

be full alignment and synergy between NNPC Limited, the Upstream Regulatory Commission and the Midstream & Downstream Regulatory Authority in compliance with the provisions of the law in all respects to deliver the onerous reforms envisaged for the energy industry.

NNPC Limited is expected to operate at par with its industry peers elsewhere in the world, while acting as Enabler Company that will foster the development of other sectors of our Economy."

While thanking the leadership and members of the National Assembly for their seamless support in the journey towards a viable, accountable and transparent energy industry, the President said

he would count on the professional insights and ethical conduct of the Board members to ensure the delivery of his administration's promises to Nigerians.

In his remarks, the Minister of State, Petroleum Resources, Timpre Sylva, said under the present administration a lot has been achieved in the petroleum industry, including the signing of the PIA, the registration of NNPC Limited as a company under CAMA and the inauguration of the Board of the NNPC Limited.

Mr President this is history in the making because this is the first time any president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is inaugurating an independent board of NNPC Limited. This,

however, puts a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of those inaugurated and those of us in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources", he said.

The following Board members were inaugurated: Senator Okadigbo, Chairman, Mele Kolo Kyari, Chief Executive Officer, Umar I. Ajiya, Chief Financial Officer, Dr Tajudeen Umar, North East, Mrs Lami O. Ahmed, North Central, Mallam Mohammed Lawal, North West, Engr. Henry Obih, South East, Barrister Constance Harry Marshal, South South, Chief Pius Akinyelure, South West, Dr Nasir Sani Gwarzoo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources and Aliyu Ahmed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.

Oil Closes The Week Gaining 5% Despite Friday's Price Drop

Black liquid ended the week very bullish despite Friday's dip where longs in the market took some profit after four days of bullish momentum. The week concluded is still a big one for oil bulls due to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, OPEC+, decision to raise output in a market still battling with the impact of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

Other factors weighing in on price are the supply concerns from the unrest in Kazakhstan, the outages in Libya and Friday's U.S. jobs report that missed expectations and its potential impact on Federal Reserve policy.

The global benchmark, the Brent crude oil, ended the week gaining 5.2% to currently trade \$81.75 a barrel, while the U.S. benchmark, the West Texas Intermediate, WTI, crude ended the week gaining 5%, to currently trade \$78.90 a barrel. Both benchmarks are at their highest levels since late November 2021.

In Kazakhstan's main city Almaty, security forces appeared to be in control of the streets and the president stated that constitutional order had mostly been restored, a day after Russia sent troops to put down an uprising.

Production in Libya has dropped to 729,000 barrels per day from a high of 1.3 million bpd last year, partly due to pipeline maintenance work. A barrel of oil for delivery in March was selling at a discount of as much as 70 cents to a barrel for delivery in February, the highest since November.

Another factor affecting oil prices this week is an underwhelming U.S. jobs report for December, with just 199,000 positions being added versus expectations for 450,000. However, the U.S. is near the Federal Reserve's definition of "maximum employment" with a jobless rate just shy of 4%.

As previously mentioned, global producer alliance OPEC+ was also keeping a tight leash on output

despite agreeing to a 400,000-barrel-per-day increase for February, a trend it has kept to since August. Supply additions from the cartel are not keeping up with demand growth, as demand for crude returned to pre-pandemic levels.

OPEC's output in December rose by 70,000 bpd from the previous month, versus the 253,000 bpd increase allowed under the OPEC+ supply deal which restored output slashed in 2020 when demand collapsed under COVID-19 lockdowns.

EIA data reveals that crude inventories in the United States, the world's top consumer, have fallen for six consecutive weeks by the end of the year to their lowest since September. This is expected to decline further as extreme frigid weather in North Dakota and Alberta is expected to hurt production in the region and lead operators to shut the 590,000 bpd Keystone Pipeline for a short period of time earlier in the week.

banking & finance

BY DICKSON PAT AND ASHER ROTIMI

Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC has asked the Federal Government to halt its plans to reintroduce excise tax on locally produced non-alcoholic and carbonated drinks.

This is as the labour union has warned that the beverage sub-sector will be losing sales revenue of about N1.9 trillion as well as Company Income Tax, VAT and Tertiary Education Tax of N197 billion as against the total projected receipts of N81 billion to government.

This disclosure was contained in a statement signed by the NLC President, Mr Ayuba Wabba, on Friday in Abuja, which was made available to newsmen.

NLC, who asked the National Assembly to urgently amend the sections of the Finance Act which re-introduced excise duties on non-alcoholic and carbonated drinks, said that implementing the increased taxes will impose more hardship on Nigerians as well as possibly lead to loss of 1.5 million jobs.

It cautioned the federal government not to allow the current situation to degenerate into a breakdown in industrial relations in the sector and generally in the country, noting that the food and beverage sub-sector has generated the coffers of government N202 billion as VAT in the past 5 years.

The statement from NLC partly reads: "On the 31st of December 2021, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Finance Act. Some of the provisions of the Finance Act include the imposition of excise duties on locally produced non-alcoholic, carbonated, and sugary drinks.

"The reason offered by the government for this decision was to discourage the consumption of sugar by Nigerians as it has led to an upsurge in obesity and diabetes. In a letter dated November 27, 2021, the Nigeria Labour Congress wrote to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR and the leadership of the two chambers of the National Assembly pleading that government should suspend the implementation of the excise duties on non-alcoholic, carbonated and sugary drinks.

"The Congress provided a number of very cogent reasons government should not go ahead with the decision to impose fresh taxes on soft drinks. One of the reasons was that the re-introduction of excise duties on non-alcoholic, carbonated and sugary drinks will impose immense hardship on ordinary Nigerians who easily keep hunger at bay with a bottle of soft drink and maybe a loaf of bread.

"Our concern is the mass hunger that would result from the slightest increase in the retail price of soft drinks owing to the imposition of excise duties as it would be priced beyond the reach of many Nigerians. Congress was also alerted by the complaint of manufacturers of soft drinks in Nigeria that the re-introduction of excise duties would lead to very sharp decline in sales, forced reduction in production capacity, and a certain roll back in investments with the certainty of job losses and possibly shut down of manufacturing plants.



Wabba

NLC, Stakeholders Reject Tax On Carbonated Drinks

● Says FG to lose N197bn in taxes

reasons government should not go ahead with the decision to impose fresh taxes on soft drinks. One of the reasons was that the re-introduction of excise duties on non-alcoholic, carbonated and sugary drinks will impose immense hardship on ordinary Nigerians who easily keep hunger at bay with a bottle of soft drink and maybe a loaf of bread.

"Our concern is the mass hunger that would result from the slightest increase in the retail price of soft drinks owing to the imposition of excise duties as it would be priced beyond the reach of many Nigerians. Congress was also alerted by the complaint of manufacturers of soft drinks in Nigeria that the re-introduction of excise duties would lead to very sharp decline in sales, forced reduction in production capacity, and a certain roll back in investments with the certainty of job losses and possibly shut down of manufacturing plants.

"With 38% of the entire manufacturing output in Nigeria and 22.5% share representation of the entire manufacturing sector in Nigeria, the food and beverage industry is the largest industrial sub-sector in our country. The food and beverage sub-sector has generated to the coffers of government N202 billion as VAT in the past five years,

N7.3 billion as Corporate Social Responsibility and has created 1.5 million decent jobs both directly and indirectly.

"The appeal to rescind the re-introduction of excise duties on non-alcoholic drinks becomes even more compelling when the projected immediate revenue expected from the policy is weighed against the potential long-term loss to both manufacturers and government. The beverage sub-sector will lose 40% of its current sales revenue.

"This translates to a loss of N1.9 trillion. While the government will only make a total projected receipt of N81 billion from the proposed reintroduction of the excise duty. Government also stands to lose N197 billion in VAT, Company Income Tax and Tertiary Education Tax as a consequence of expected downturn in overall industry performance should the excise duties be effected as being planned.

"In light of the foregoing, we ask the National Assembly to quickly amend the sections of the Finance Act that re-introduced excise duties on non-alcoholic and carbonated drinks. We also ask the government to extend COVID-19 palliatives and support incentives to the Food and Beverages industry to cushion the shock and haemorrhage that the industry is trying

to recover from.

"Finally, we demand that the government should engage employers in the subsector and Organized Labour in sincere discussions on other options that can deliver a mutually satisfying win-win solution to this issue. We hope that the current situation will not be allowed to degenerate into a breakdown in industrial relations in the sector and generally in the country".

Recall that a few days ago, during the public presentation and breakdown of the 2022 budget, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, announced the introduction of excise duty of N10 per litre on all non-alcoholic, carbonated and sweetened beverages in the country.

The charge is part of a new policy introduced in the Finance Act which was signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari on December 31, 2021, alongside the 2022 Appropriation Bill.

In a similar move, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria has called on the FG to halt the planned N10 per litre tax on sweetened and non-alcoholic beverages, Sugar Tax, which was proposed by the Finance Minister as part of its recent Domestic Revenue Mobilisation.

This was disclosed

by Segun Ajayi-Kadir, Director-General of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria in an interview with Bloomberg on Friday.

The Finance Minister in her presentation earlier this week stated that the purpose of the new 'Sugar Tax' introduced is to raise excise duties and revenues for health-related and other critical expenditures, in line with the 2022 Budget's priorities.

Ajayi-Kadir said, "The revenue aspirations of the government in introducing the excise may not be justified in the long run". "It will raise production costs, which in turn adversely affect production levels and intimately result in dwindling profits", he added.

The Minister of Finance added that the excise duty of N10/litre imposed on all non-alcoholic, carbonated and sweetened beverages is to "discourage excessive consumption of sugar in beverages which contributes to diabetes, obesity".

Recall that AljahirahNigeria had reported that investors on the Nigerian Stock Exchange are to pay a Capital Gains Tax of 10% on the sale of shares according to provisions of the signed Finance Act 2021. The tax is applicable on the disposal of shares worth N100 million and above.

Buhari Blames Budget Changes By NASS To Constituency Projects

BY YAHAYA UMAR

President Muhammad Buhari has expressed satisfaction with his relationship with the country's legislature despite the strong reservations he expressed about the changes made to the document by the lawmakers.

He said that he is enormously lucky to have his party members as the majority in the parliament, adding that, that alone is enough reason to make him feel comfortable whenever he sends something to them for consideration.

President Buhari said that most changes made were constituency concerns and were made by the legislature to remain relevant in their respective constituencies.

"I think it is understandable that committee leaders insist that their constituencies must see them being effective by taking projects to them at whoever's expense. But we look at things globally. Nigeria for example, we are trying to get the infrastructure; road, rail, and power. Now, if we vote a lot of resources towards them, it will be at the expense of some village roads where people will go to their markets and so on. But what bothers them is their immediate requests, not the national level", the president said.

He advised the legislature to be less constituency-conscious and be national in budget consideration, adding that no part of the country will be denied the necessary infrastructural projects.

economy

Buhari Reaffirms Commitment To Achieving Improved Power Supply

BY CHARLES EBI

President Muhammad has said his administration will work tirelessly to provide consistent power supply to make life easy for Nigerians.

He made the commitment in an interview with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), at the State House Abuja.

The president said no country can achieve sustainable development without power supply and infrastructure.

He said if power is stable, people won't have to buy generators to run viable businesses.

He said he had let the former Minister of Power, Sabo Nanono, go so that a fresh hand can come in and move the sector forward.

The President however commended the Minister of Water Resources, Suleiman Adamu, for rebuilding and repairing malfunctioning dams as a way of boosting power supply.

"Their is a lot of infrastructure that needs to be rehabilitated so that we can make power available. When we make power available there would be less demand for petroleum products and less problems for generators which means there would be less need for foreign exchange to import machines", the President said.

Buhari added that technology has come to the rescue of Nigeria in terms of solar energy efficiency because conventional power is costly and easily sabotaged, referring to the destruction caused by Boko Haram fighters in Borno and other vandals across the country

Appraising AfCFTA One Year After Inauguration

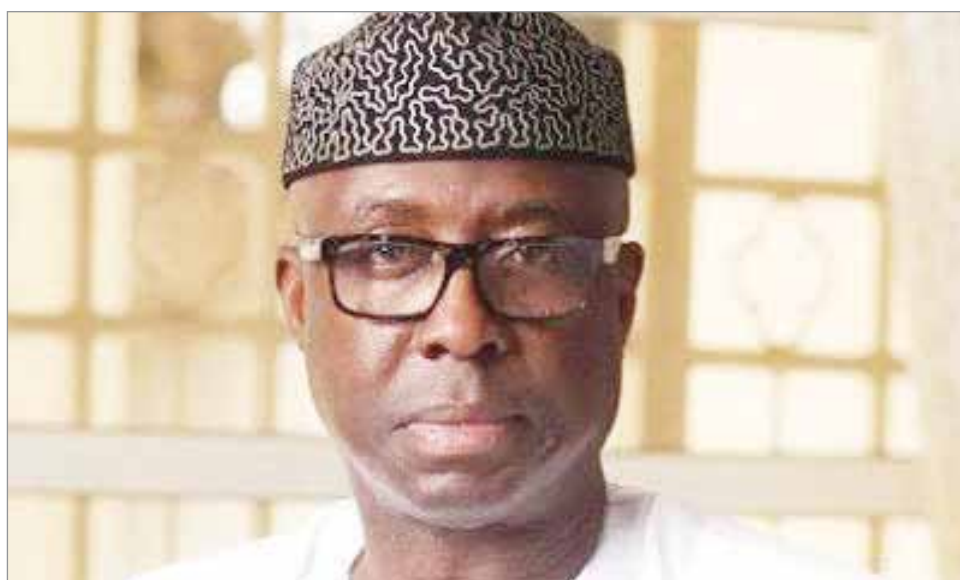
BY MIMIDOOO PATRICK

On the 1st of January 2021, continental trade between African countries took a very significant leap with the official commencement of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA). An initiative that had been in the pipeline since 2012, the efforts towards making it a reality spanned five years of negotiations and other logistics planning.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), was finally formed on March 21, 2018, after 44 African countries signed the pact at an AU extraordinary summit in Kigali, Rwanda. Shortly after, 10 more countries, including Nigeria, added their signatures, and the operational phase of the AfCFTA was marked to kick off by mid-2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a cog in these projections, leading to a delay in starting operations until January 1, 2021, when the AfCFTA officially kicked off.

According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa Report 2021, the total untapped export potential of intra-African trade is around \$21.9 billion, equivalent to 43% of intra-African exports (yearly average for 2015-2019), with an additional \$9.2 billion projected through partial tariff liberalization under the AfCFTA over the next five years. This statistic highlights the ultra-low level of intra-African trade when compared with that of countries in other continents, and in particular reflects Africa's unenviable position as an exporter of raw materials to the rest of the world.

On an individual level, African countries have not been able to scale up their economic activities due to a variety of reasons, hence the need for a deeply integrated and outwardly united front from which to achieve the cohesion needed to boost the scale of economic activity in Africa and in turn



Adebayo

foster development. This considered, the AfCFTA on inception was aimed at creating the world's largest free trade area; one that integrates 1.3 billion people across 54 countries, with the objective of tapping into a combined GDP of over \$3 trillion.

One year after the launch of the AfCFTA, there is the feeling that the initiative has been one large question mark so far, as trade restrictions between African countries still abound. While there has been much speculation about the level of the effects of the pandemic on the AfCFTA's integration goals, the lethargic reactions of African leaders towards opening up their borders and liberalizing trade leaves much to be desired. Broadly, there have been three major bottlenecks working against the success of the AfCFTA since its inauguration:

Unwillingness to ratify all the articles of the agreements and the never-ending negotiations on the rules of origin which is the intersection between trade and possible trade policy. Many African countries are still holding out on ratifying some of the phases of the AfCFTA. These countries, who make most of their revenue from exports to non-African countries, are not convinced of the benefits that the AfCFTA can add to their economy. Lack of information about the AfCFTA

and the ways to take advantage of it by African businesses. With many countries favouring protectionist policies in their African trade outlook, there has been a dearth of information about the AfCFTA and how it can help African trade. For example, a survey of Nigerian businesses conducted by the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), shows that over 60% of Nigeria's businesses are still unaware of the recently signed AfCFTA agreement and the promises it holds for their business. Even with potential benefits for firms, there are information costs reflected in different levels of awareness. Firms that don't know AfCFTA exists are unable to take advantage of the tariff arrangements or even benefit from the policy. Until businesses are aware, the costs of trading under AfCFTA will remain high.

A chronic lack of customs infrastructure and policy to be able to complement the AfCFTA's customs and tariff obligations, only three countries in the AfCFTA so far have the infrastructural and systemic customs capabilities on par with AfCFTA benchmarks, as well as a lack of capacity in the AfCFTA's Secretariat to push the integration agenda, given its launch in the middle of the pandemic.

Therefore, despite the AfCFTA's projection of negotiations for all three phases of ratifying the AfCFTA, trade in goods and services, intellectual property rights, investment and competition policy, and e-commerce, being finalized by the end of 2021, there are still many loopholes in negotiations that have so far not been finalized among member countries. This has thrown a significant cog in the chances of the AfCFTA's success in 2021 as there is still a feeling of uncertainty concerning where countries stand on the agreement, an uncertainty that has affected AfCFTA trading proper.

Private sector involvement in AfCFTA

While member states have dilly-dallied concerning embracing the AfCFTA and its trade freedoms, some private sector players have applied themselves to integrating African trade with gusto. With startups such as Sidebrief managing company formation and compliance across Africa's 54 countries and Norebase creating a single digital infrastructure for every business to start, scale and operate in every African country efficiently being established in 2021 as a direct answer to questions of scale and presence posed by AfCFTA, more traditional companies have not been left out in

seeking to harness the opportunities served up by AfCFTA across Africa.

For example, in July 2021, two of Africa's major logistics companies, Ethiopian Airlines Group and A-E Trade Group, signed a MoU to establish the East African smart logistics and fulfillment hub, committed to the establishment of a business relationship to provide end-to-end logistics solutions across Africa. Also, some AfCFTA-focused organisations like the AfCFTA Young Entrepreneurs Foundation (AfYEF), have been formed. This and many other intra-African private partnerships and agreements show that the private sector has been more enthusiastic about the AfCFTA than African governments so far.

Speaking at a webinar organized to mark the launch of the PAFTRAC CEO Trade Survey Report: Assessing the impact of the AfCFTA on African Trade, Talkmore Chidede, Investment expert at the AfCFTA Secretariat said: "Our main priority is to make sure that significant trade starts to happen across the continent under the AfCFTA regime. For trade to happen we have fundamental issues that we have to finalise. In terms of negotiations we have rules of origin, tariff schedules, trade in services commitments and non-tariff barriers".

This sums up the major stumbling block to the AfCFTA's success in Africa. In one way or the other, Africans have always traded with each other, even with the presence of trade barriers like currency, movement and language.

Therefore, if African governments can get over their individual reservations and collectively provide all the policy-related cooperation needed by AfCFTA, then that is the tinderbox needed for the economic integration promised by the AfCFTA become a reality, and in turn better the economic lot of over 1.3 billion Africans.

stock market

NITDA Says 1,213 Organisations Pass It 2020, 2021 Data Protection List

BY MIMIDOO PATRICK

The National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, had published 1, 213 companies as the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation, NDPR, audit filing compliant organisations' list.

The Head Cooperate Affairs and External Relations of the agency, Mrs Hadiza Umar in a statement issued in Abuja, noted that the list was an authoritative repository of organisations that had prioritised compliance with the NDPR, and become a reference point for global law firms, multinationals, investors, and compliance enthusiasts.

"The list indicates those organisations that have undergone the NDPR Audit process to ascertain their level of compliance, and identify areas for improvement.

"All the listed organisations have engaged a Data Protection Compliance Organization (DPCO) to train their staff, and to implement basic data protection protocols.

"The list comprises 1,213 organizations from 13 sectors that contribute to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product," Umar said.

The sectors included Health, Transport and Logistics, Public Sector, Industrial and Extractive, ICT and Media, Energy and Power, Education, Finance, Commerce, and Consulting.

The organisations also included Crown Flour Mills Ltd, Dangote Flour Mills PLC, Olam Nigeria Ltd, FarmCrowdy Ltd, Julius Berger Companies, and Landmark Africa.

Others are Vitafoam Nigeria PLC, Coca-Cola Nigeria Ltd, JMG Ltd, MAY & BAKER Nigeria PLC, Dufil Prima Foods PLC, OK Foods Ltd, among others.

Umar directed that the comprehensive list was published on NITDA's website and accessible through this link <https://nitda.gov.ng/official-ndpr-audit-list-2021/>.

The NDPR was established on Jan. 25, 2019 in line with NITDA's Act for the protection of citizens' data and privacy, among other requirements

Airtel, Others Push SWOOTs Capitalisation To N305bn

● Insurance records bullish performance to end first week



Stock Market Index

BY YAHAYA UMAR

Combined market capitalization of the stocks worth over one trillion ,SWOOTs, appreciated by 1.97% to close at N15.79 trillion from N15.48 trillion the previous week, reflecting a gain of N305.66 billion. Stocks included in this classification are AIRTELAFRICA, BUA CEMENT, DANGOTE CEMENT, NESTLE and MTNN Plc.

Stock Performance

Airtel Africa Plc - N1,050.50

Airtel Africa Plc's share price closed the week gaining 10.00% to stand at N1,050.50 per share at the end of the trading week with a market capitalization of N3.95 trillion. The price increase took the company's market value up by N358.90 billion.

Airtel's HY 2021 unaudited results for the period ended September 30th, 2021 revealed that Revenue grew by 20.21% from \$965mn in the previous year to \$1.16bn in the current period. In the same vein, Operating profit showed impressive

growth to record a 45% increase from \$262m to \$380m.

Net Profit surged significantly by 118.18% from \$88m to \$192m. Airtel Africa Plc has an Earnings per share of 4.3 cents.

Dangote Cement Plc - N250.00

Dangote Cement Plc share price declined by 2.7% to close at N250.00 at the end of the trading week as the company's market capitalization stood at N4.26 trillion. The company, which is a competitor with BUA Cement Plc and Wapco Plc, has a total Market capitalization of N4.26 trillion.

Dangote Cement Plc is currently the most valued company quoted on the exchange and makes up roughly 30% of the total market capitalization of all stocks worth over one trillion.

The Q3 2021 financial result revealed that revenue grew by 16.53% while net income for the period appreciated by 4.94% from N82.54 billion in Q3 2020 to N86.62 billion in the current period.

BUA Cement Plc - N69.00

BUA Cement Plc's share price grew by 2.9% to close at N69.00 from N67.05, with the market capitalization standing at N2.34 trillion at the end of the trading week.

The company's Q3 2021 financial report released during the week revealed a revenue of N62.63 billion, reflecting a growth of 13.27% from N55.29 billion in 2020. Similarly, net income increased by N3.76 billion, reflecting a 20.07% increase from N18.75 billion recorded in the corresponding period of 2020, to N22.51 billion in the current period.

Nestle Nig Plc - N1,556.50

Nestle Nigeria Plc's share price remained unchanged to close the week at N1,556.50 amidst sell-offs and buy-interests during the trading week. The Fast-Moving Consumer Goods company currently has a market capitalization of N1.23 trillion. Nestle Nigeria Plc is the only company under the NGX Consumer goods Index to be worth over a trillion.

The Q3 2021 financial result revealed a 25.72% growth in revenue from N71.70 billion recorded in Q3 2020 to N90.15 billion. The consumer goods company reported a profit after tax of N11.85 billion, reflecting a growth of 17.2% from N10.11 billion in the corresponding quarter of 2020.

The FMCG announced an interim dividend of N25.00 to be paid to existing shareholders on December 6, 2021.

MTNN Plc - N197.00

MTNN Plc's share price, at the end of the trading week, closed at N197.00 per share, to remain unchanged, taking its market capitalization to N4.01 trillion at the end of the four trading sessions of the week. The communications company, a competitor with Airtel Nig Plc, has a total market capitalization of N4.01 trillion, N62 billion higher than Airtel Africa's current market value.

MTNN Plc is the third-highest in market value on the Nigerian Exchange Limited ,NGX. The company released its

Q3 2021 financial result, reflecting a 22.89% growth in revenue for the period, while profit after tax grew significantly by 58.99% from N49.36 billion in Q3 2020 to N78.48 billion in the current period.

In a related development, the bull ruled over the bear in the Insurance index of the NGX at the end of the first trading week of the year 2022 as the market closed the week on a positive 0.01% benchmark All-Share Index amid sell-offs and buy-interests.

The insurance ASI closed at 196.26 basis points as of January 7, 2022 with the total market cap of the 16 listed insurers at N131.99 billion with performance majorly driven by top insurers with the largest market cap.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian stock exchange market also closed the week on a positive note as the benchmark All-Share Index ,ASI, appreciated by 57 basis points to close at 43,854.42 points, reflecting a growth of 0.57% from the previous trading day and a Year-to-Date ,YTD, return of 2.66%.

Highlight SOF Insurers Performance

AIICO flat at 0.78, CHIPLC down -9.59% to close at 0.66, CORNERST up +10.00% to close at 0.55, LASACO down -1.79% to close at 1.1, LINKASSURE flat at 0.5, SOVERENINS down -7.14% to close at 0.26, UNIVINSURE flat at 0.2, VERITASKAP flat at 0.23, WAPIC flat at 0.51, MANSARD up by +0.88% to close at 2.3, MBENEFIT flat at 0.31, NEM flat at 4.15, PRESTIGE Flat at 0.51, REGALINS down -2.08% to close at 0.47

NGX ASI Top Traded by Volume

AIICO INSURANCE at 3,933,888 Units, SOVEREIGN INSURANCE at 1,428,401 Units, REGALINS at 999,621 Units, MANSARD at 796,130 Units, UNIVINSURE at 617,500 Units

NGX ASI Top Traded by Value

AIICO Insurance at N3,063,715.88, Mansard at N1,830,895.66, Lasaco at N632,531.00, Regalins at N459,829.45, Sovereign insurance at N371,389.26

today

politics

WITH MUYIWA OYINLOLA TEL: 08023647979



Vice President Yemi Osinbajo (M), with other Heads of State, at the Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government to discuss the Political Situation in the Republic of Mali in Accra, Ghana on Sunday. PHOTO: SUMAILA IBRAHIM/JAU/NAN

Buhari To Visit Ogun Thursday

BY OLUMIDE TAIWO

Ogun State Government yesterday announced that President Muhammadu Buhari would undertake a one-day state visit to Ogun on Thursday.

This was disclosed in a statement issued in Abeokuta by Mr Kunle Somorin, the Chief Press Secretary, CPS, to Governor Dapo Abiodun.

According to the statement, Buhari

will, during the visit, inaugurate some of the infrastructural projects executed by Abiodun.

The statement said that Buhari would be welcomed at 10 a.m., at the Gateway City Gate Monument Park at Sagamu Interchange; where he would inaugurate the first project.

The statement listed other projects to be commissioned by the president as including the 527 units low and medium

Kobape Housing Scheme in Abeokuta and the 83 duplexes at Kings Court Estate at Oke Mosan, Abeokuta.

The other project, according to the statement, is the Ijebu-Ode /Mojoda-Epe expressway.

It emphasised that invited guests were expected to be seated by 9.30 a.m. at the City Gate by the Sagamu Interchange, adding that COVID-19 safety protocols would be strictly observed.

Sanusi Charges Electorate On PVC

BY CALEB ISHAYA

Khalifa Muhammad Sanusi II, the President General Jam'iyyatu Ansariddeen, Attijaniyya, Nigeria, has advised eligible voters in Nigeria to register, get their voter card, PVC, and vote competent candidates in all positions.

Sanusi made the call at the weekend in Lokoja, during a three-day Annual Conference of the 4th Nigeria World Maulid Anniversary, in honour of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, with the theme: "The Prophetic Solutions To The Questions of Humanity".

Sanusi, a former Emir of Kano, advised the group to vote for the best person that is most competent in every position irrespective of political party or religious affiliations.

"If our youths get employed, the economy of the entire country will improve.

"Most importantly, we are not a political party but we cannot fold our arms and ignore politics.

"Every member of Attijaniyya from 18 years old and above, male or female, go and get your voter card.

"Allah commands you that you should place trust in the hands of those people who are trustworthy.

"Now, we are at the time where those who appoint leaders are the people, your vote is your power, you have a responsibility.

"I am not saying you must vote only for members of Attijaniyya, Muslim, or for any political party; you are to vote for every position the best person that is most competent", he said.

2023: Ayade Insists On Zoning

BY CALEB ISHAYA

Governor Ben Ayade of Cross River has reiterated his commitment to ensuring that power returns to the Southern Senatorial District of the state come 2023.

Ayade, while addressing some stakeholders of the All Progressive Congress, APC, at the Governor's Lodge yesterday in Calabar, said his decision to return power to the South was based on morality.



Ayade

The governor insisted that the South had credible people with the capacity to be governor.

"During my campaign for second term, I went to the South and asked them to support my second term bid and that when I win, I will support the south to take over from me because by natural process, they are the next senatorial district to produce the governor", he said.

Ayade, who decried the nature of democracy as currently being practiced, noted that there was need to infuse the "sensitivity of the African culture".

"We inherited a brand of democracy which is not Afrocentric, neither does it have the sensitivity of African culture and morality.

"Democracy is so primitively blind that it reduces itself to numbers. "The higher your population, the more you win. So there is nothing like balancing, there is no equity in democracy.

"There is no moral conscience. Democracy is blind to ethnicity, it is blind to religion, it is blind to fairness, it is repugnant to natural

justice", he said.

Ayade, however, dispelled speculations that he is backtracking on his commitment to return power to the South.

"So, to be able to balance that, as governor, I still uphold my declaration that my successor will come from the South and indeed, he will come from the south", he maintained.

The governor, who said that he could not and would not play God by being specific on who his successor will be, added that his role is to be fair.

"The South had taken turns to produce a governor in Donald Duke, the Central had also produced a governor in Sen. Liyel Imoke and the North had produced one in me.

"So, it is common sense that we must go back to the South for equity. Every zone should know that their turn would come one day.

"But to be blind and leave it to crude democracy which was not customised to reflect African sensitivity, that if I have had it, and no matter the circumstance, let another too have it," he added.

politics analysis

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APC: Hurdles Before Ex-Govs Ahead National Convention

Perhaps the current issue in the polity is the date for the national convention of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC. The Caretaker and Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee, CECPC, currently managing the affairs of the party under the leadership of Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni, has not been able to conduct the convention since its assumption of office in June 2020.

The caretaker committee came to power after the sack of former Edo State Governor, Adams Oshiomhole and the committee was given the mandate of conducting the party's national convention and as well reconciles aggrieved party members.

The Buni-led team has had its tenure renewed twice. Under his leadership, the APC has no doubt recorded a number of successes including the harvest of three governors including David Umahi, Ebonyi State; Prof. Ben Ayade, Cross River State and Bello Matawalle, Zamfara State.

The defection of the governors was historic. Both Ebonyi and Cross River had been considered a traditional hold of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. The case of Zamfara was more like a recovery after it was lost to PDP in 2019 due to internal wrangling within the State chapter of the APC. Mattawale, who was the beneficiary of the APC crisis, got to power through court declaration.

However, the refusal of the APC Buni-led committee to hold its national convention within the stipulated six months it was given generated bad blood among members, many of whom called for his resignation.

Issues bothering on his legality to hold such a high position as a sitting governor soon came up but his backing by the presidency has continued to sustain him in office.

Last Friday, five aggrieved chieftains of the party from Zamfara State and the Federal Capital Territory including Suleiman Dimas Usman, Muhammed Shehu, Samaila Isahaka, Idris Isah and Audu Emmanuel, approached the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja for an injunction to stop the party from going ahead to conduct its planned national convention.

Reason: They said the party should not hold the exercise because some states, including Anambra and Zamfara, are without state executives. In an affidavit they attached in support of the suit, the Plaintiffs told the court that the party had on October 16, 2020, conducted congresses in only 34 states for the purpose of electing executive committees for the states.

They told the court that no congress was held in both Zamfara and Anambra States, thereby leaving the two states without party executives.

GLADIATORS IN NATIONAL CHAIRMANSHIP RACE

Despite the challenges surrounding the feasibility of holding the National Congress of the party and the fact that the party has yet to come up with guidelines for the national chairmanship office scores of party faithful, including former governors, have lined up for the elective office.

They include Senator George Akume; Senator Tanko Al-Makura; former Minister of Aviation, Mallam Isa Yuguda; former

Whereas the date for the national convention of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, is still dicey, **MUYIWA OYINLOLA** writes that odds may not favour any of the former governors eyeing the office of its national chairman.



Yari



Akume



Al-makura



Yuguda

governors of Zamfara and Borno States, Abdulaziz Yari and Ali Modu Sherrif, Senator Sani Mohammed Musa; Malam Saliu Mustapha, Sunny Moniedafe, among others.

Only recently, a group operating under the auspices of Youth Progressives Forum, APCYPF, has endorsed a former governor of Nassarawa State and Senator representing Nassarawa North zone, Umar Tanko Almakura, for the position of national chairman.

The forum led by its national chairman, Honourable Ukkasha Hamza Rahama,

announced the endorsement while addressing journalists in Bauchi.

He said Almakura as an experienced politician and peace builder can lead the party to victory in the next 2023 elections.

Buttressing his points, Ukkasha recalled that Almakura was the only governorship candidate that won election in 2011 under the platform of the Congress for Progressives Change, CPC, defeating the then incumbent governor, Akwe Doma, which marked the beginning of regrouping of other political parties to form the present ruling APC.

"As the 2023 election is fast approaching, the ruling APC must take holistic decisions in the overall interest of its members and Nigerians as a whole by supporting the emergence of Umaru Almakura as the next APC national chairman to stop the party from collapsing after the exit of President Buhari.

"The fundamental task before the ruling party is to reconcile its aggrieved members, win elections and sustain President Buhari's policies and programmes after 2023", he said.

Also, a group under the aegis of South-South APC Youth Network, recently endorsed the former Governor of Zamfara State, Abdulaziz Yari, for the Chairmanship position of the party.

One of the leaders of the South South APC youth network, Mr. Ambrosini Sambo while addressing journalists in Abuja said Yari should be made a consensus candidate for the party's Chairmanship position.

The group was of the opinion that the APC needs a national chairman like Yari who can unite the party ahead of the 2023 general election.

Sambo said: "The APC needs Yari now more than he needs the party, the party has reached a level where an experienced administrator is needed to steer its affairs.

"There is no need to have many contestants for the post of the chairman of our great party. Yari should be made the consensus candidate for the good of the party and also to avoid rancour after the election", he said.

"Yari as the APC National chairman, we in the South-south can be rest assured that come 2023 all the states will become APC controlled states".

Sambo also described Yari as a strong political leader, giant among peers in terms of qualities of leadership.

In the same vein, a pro-democracy group, APC Ambassadors of Nigeria, has endorsed former governor of Benue, Sen. George Akume, for the position of National Chairman of the ruling party.

A statement issued recently in Abuja by the National Coordinator of the group, Dr Aliyu Ibrahim, described Akume as a politician with the pedigree to reposition the party.

According to him, this unfolding development is coming ahead of the 2023 Presidential and general elections in which roadmaps are already being laid by party members who understand the dynamics of power-play and balance of power.

"For the APC, sustaining her hold on the political leadership power of government at the three-tiers of governance is the uppermost concern, facing all thought-processes or considerations in the present power equation moves.

"One political leadership figure who understands and applies the principles and laws of political power and deploys the same to good advantage under national group and social dynamics across population sizes, patterns and distributions, is Senator George Akume.

"Ibrahim said that having a strong political personality as Sen. Akume would be a positive gain for the party, given his robust intellectual and administrative experiences.

"His competence, discipline, rich capacity for tolerance and humility in relating with

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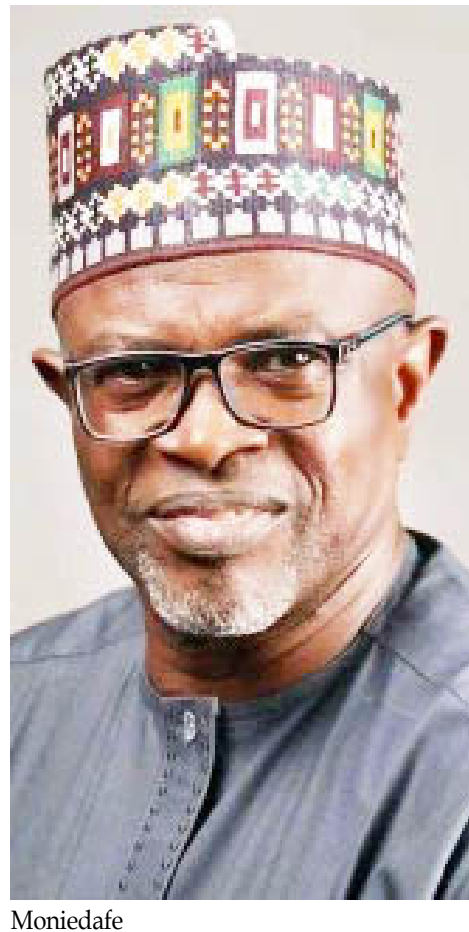
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Musa



Mustapha



Moniedafe

...Ex-Govs Ahead National Convention

FROM PAGE 29

people irrespective of class, race or religion places Akume as the best candidate to lead the APC", Ibrahim said.

Akume, a two-time governor of Benue State is currently Nigeria's Minister of Special Duties & Inter-Governmental Relations.

A DARK HORSE MAY EMERGE

Similarly, a former National Publicity Secretary of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change, CPC, and the senator representing Niger East Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Sani Musa, has also received endorsement from some quarters.

While there is no doubt that the trio of Al-Makura, Yari and Akume are serious contenders for the APC national chairmanship, the odds seem to favour Senator Musa.

Apart from having the backing of his State chapter of the party, the lawmaker's bid has also been endorsed by most of the APC senators, who are rooting for one of their own to assume the leadership of the party. Equally working for Musa is the clamour for the chairmanship of the APC to be zoned to the North Central.

Those rooting for the senator are of the view that the party should avoid handing its leadership to another former governor given what it went through in the hands of Oshiomhole. According to them, what the ruling party needs going into a general election is a team player as the "Buhari factor" is not going to be there again.

They also insisted that Buni's successor must be a party man and not what they described as "fair-weather politicians", who are known for jumping ship at will. For them, besides being a founding member of the APC, Senator Musa is a highly organised, dedicated, passionate and hardworking person with proven integrity in all the places he has served in both public and private sectors from 1986 to date.

The lawmaker is also described as a great mobilizer, a bridge-builder and a master strategist, who is not only passionate about the wholesome development of the nation

but has the capacity required to manage diverse people and interests irrespective of tribe, religion. These, according to them, are what the APC needs going into the 2023 general election.

The belief that Senator Musa, who chairs the Senate Services Committee, is the right for the APC top job, perhaps, explains the various endorsements for his bid.

Just recently, a group under the aegis of APC Stakeholders for 2023 Elections Victory, in declaring support for the senator, said he has experience both at the state, in the business and legislative class to position him well to lead the APC.

Coordinators of the group, Yemi Adeleye and Sabiu Ali, in a statement, described Musa as a grassroots mobilizer and bridge builder, adding: "With the current state of the APC, the party needs to leadership qualities of Senator Musa to continue the reconciliation and peaceful rehabilitation approach that has been entrenched in the party by the Governor Buni-led caretaker committee".

The group said this is the time for the APC to have someone in the capacity of Senator Musa as the APC national chairman to pilot the affairs of the party to victory in 2023 and beyond.



With the current state of the APC, the party needs to leadership qualities of Senator Musa to continue the reconciliation and peaceful rehabilitation approach that has been entrenched in the party by the Governor Buni-led caretaker committee.

can call it an institution.

"If any political historian is here, he will agree with me, looking at the way the narrative is in this country is not different from what has been happening in developing countries like Indonesia where there will be leadership and after just six months of an election, there will be vote of no confidence on that leadership because the leadership cannot attain to given the people their desired aspirations and the dividends of democracy as we call it here and.

"In so doing, if we make our party, an institution where by it will be governed by the books. The trajectory should be that we should have a constitution that will be abided by all. If you're a leader, if you are an aspirant, if you are elected to an office, you should know that there is a book, there is a constitution that we must stand and abide by it. The guidelines of the party are there, the manifesto of the party is there. If you are elected under the platform of this party, there is no way you shouldn't abide by the book that this party has created. Because before you even become a member of this party you must have agreed to the tenets and the ethic of conduct that the party has laid down and this is my aspiration".

He added that he would bring technology to the running of the administration of APC.

"The internal structure needs to be re-engineered. We need to re-engineer APC. We need a leadership that is participatory. We need a leadership that is pace setting, we need people with ideas to come in.

"Today, this country, if you look at the generation we have from 18-27 are the majority. What do you have in a pack for them? Are we going to continue with the status quo and believe that once it is done or if I am anointed to be there I will be the one to dictate the tunes? It cannot work anymore. We need to wake up to what Nigerians need; we need to put food on the tables of Nigerians.

"This present administration has started building an ideology for the political parties we are running, that is the APC. Mr. President, everybody can attest to the fact that he is honest, committed and patriotic to this country. So we need leaders that will follow suit. And the legacies that APC is putting forward should not be allowed to be destroyed by anyone and as such you need a party that is very strong. A leader that will be decisive, a leader that will not compromise the office, a leader that does look at worldly things to think that is the best way to go and that is me for you.

"When I said, I would be adaptive to participatory and affirmative work style, which will usher visionary and perfect leadership of this party. What I mean by that is an APC must be an institution, which is the only antidote to the reckless disabuse of office and ethics which brings about disharmony and wrangling. We must bring reform and that form of reform we are going to bring his true reconciliation, true reorganization and the redirection of our manifesto. We must build a Manifesto that will go in line. We must domesticate our policies", he said.

As the convention draws nearer, indications are rife that the party supporters may look away from former governors who are in the race.

The fear in many quarters is that they would be too powerful to be made to follow the rules.

On June 24, 2018, Oshiomhole emerged unopposed as the national chairman of APC and it was believed that he was working for the presidential aspiration of an individual as against the interest of the party.

He was said to have turned deaf ears to appeals and cautions to put party first.

They noted that Musa is a committed manager of people and resources, using exceptional leadership organization and communication skills to manage high performance across sectional teams.

"He has proven skill in developing consensus at party, committee and legislative levels and has also exhibited qualities that could stand him out as a solid party man that can deliver the APC in all future elections", the group said.

A first-term senator, Musa's political career is just as accomplished and rich with experience as his academic and business pursuits. He was in 2014, an aspirant for the Niger East Senate candidacy and a gubernatorial aspirant in 2007. He was also an ex-officio of the defunct All Nigeria Peoples Party, ANPP.

He developed and promoted electronic voting for the first time in Nigeria. This manifested in the introduction of Card Reader and Permanent Voters Card, PVC, the revolutionary steps that were instrumental to the transformation of election in the country by INEC in 2015 and 2019.

Whereas the dice of who becomes the party's national chairman is still rolling, stakeholders are concerned about sustaining the recent gains the party has made.

While speaking at an event in Abuja recently, Musa reiterated his resolve and commitment to ensure the unity of the party and as well ensure it remains the ruling party beyond 2023.

"And I believe that whatever it takes to rekindle a society, whatever it takes to rejuvenate a generation, I think I represent that generation and I have what it takes to build on what our previous leaders have done to create what the next Generation can rely on.

"You are all living Witnesses in this country that all political structures have been reduced to only platforms where leaders usually use to attain leadership. That trajectory is not good for us, It has not given us what is desired. Previous speakers have spoken and it's in tandem with my aspiration that we need a change of direction. We need to reorganize and reposition our party to the level that we

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Makinde

Oyo Govt Plans To Deploy More Security Strategies

BY CALEB ISHAYA

Oyo State Government says it will deploy more security strategies to secure the State in the New Year. The Governor, Mr Seyi Makinde, made this known yesterday at a Church service, marking the 2022 Armed Forces

Remembrance held at St Peter's Cathedral Church, Aremo in Ibadan, Oyo State capital. Makinde, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs Olubamiwo Adeosun, said that the state government would continue to improve the security of lives and

properties in the State. He said that there was an improvement security-wise across the State. According to him, the cooperation among all the security agencies in the state and the establishment of "Amotekun" to complement the conventional

security agencies has helped. "Going forward, we expect that it will continue at this pace and even get better. There are additional security strategies that are going to be deployed this year. "We will get additional Mobile Police Squadron in Oyo Town and the different security outfits will continue to work together to ensure the state remains safe and secure", the governor said. Makinde reiterated the commitment of his administration to ensure that the welfare of the dependents of the fallen heroes are prioritised. "As a state, we will continue to care for the families of the fallen heroes and ensure that their welfare is guaranteed. "For all of us who live in Oyo State, I think we should all ensure that we always support children, widows and families of our fallen heroes," the governor said.

In his sermon, Provost of the Cathedral, Revd. Wale Adebisi, appreciated all those in charge of the state security architecture for improving security in the state.

Adeniyi commended the state government for allowing peace to reign in all nooks and crannies of the state.

He urged the people to come to the aid of the families of the fallen heroes, so that their efforts would not be in vain.

Alhaja Kafilat Olayiwola, the state Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, other top government functionaries and Heads of Security Agencies in the state attended the church service.

Empowerment: Bauchi Lawmaker Presents Cash To 120 Constituents

BY AHMED KAIGAMA

A member of Bauchi State House of Assembly, Hon Gazali Abubakar, has empowered no fewer than 120 members of his constituency with cash to boost their businesses.

Abubakar, an APC lawmaker, representing Ganjuwa East Constituency in the Assembly, made the donation yesterday in Bauchi.

He said that the financial support would boost the economic status of the beneficiaries.

According to him, the beneficiaries include 74 women who received N10,000 each; 10 ward leaders who were given N50,000, 10 ward chairmen with N100,000 and 30 constituents who went home with N5,000 each.

Abubakar explained that the gesture was part of his earlier plans to empower his people and develop his constituency.

He said that the empowerment would reduce the rate of poverty among the people and afford them the opportunity of engaging in small and medium scale enterprises.

The lawmaker, who called on the beneficiaries to continue praying for him to succeed, said that he had lined up several other constituency outreach programmes that would help alleviate the sufferings of the people.

In his remarks, the APC Chairman in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of the state, Alhaji Sabadeen Zalanga, advised the beneficiaries to spend the money for the purpose it was meant.

He assured those yet to benefit from the gesture to remain calm, assuring that another set of people would soon be empowered.

The lawmaker also appealed to the people of the constituency to continue to support the party.

One of the beneficiaries, Hajiya Altine Soro, appreciated the lawmaker for the gesture, saying that he had demonstrated true leadership.

Soro said that she was overwhelmed by the cash donation, and promised to put it into good use.

"I thank the lawmaker for this demonstration of service to the people and I pray to God to continue to guide him to do more for us", she said.

Sensitise Members On Political Activities, Lalong Advises Church

BY UKANDI ODEY, JOS

Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong, has advised the church to sensitise their members on the need to participate in electoral processes.

Lalong, who gave the advice at the retirement service of Rev. Dachollom Datiri, the outgoing President of the Church Of Christ In Nations, COCIN, yesterday at the church headquarters in Jos, said their participation would ensure there was no room for people of questionable character to take over leadership.

He said preparatory to 2023 political activities, the church should continue to play its role of praying for godly persons to occupy various public offices.

"While we expect the church to maintain its neutrality, it is expected that the church will serve as the moral barometer to highlight some of the negative actions of the political class.

"We expect to have peaceful, transparent and credible elections which will only be possible when we come together to put the interest of our state

and country above personal considerations", he said.

He thanked the outgoing COCIN president for playing a great role in the interface between the church and the government in various programmes which had direct impact on Plateau people.

He explained that church was instrumental during some of the most difficult moments of insecurity in the state.

Lalong thanked the church for its critical role of peace-building, progress and development of the state.

He also prayed for a fruitful tenure for the new president, Rev. Amos Mozho, urging him to find lasting solutions to the suspension of the Karl Kumm University licence owned by the church.

"Government will be available to give you all the support you need to resolve the matter and have that institution take off without further delay", he said.

He urged the new leadership to carry out the work of evangelism, admonition and correction with a greater zeal.

He observed that the church



Lalong

should remain a refuge where every segment of society, including the government could run to for solutions in difficult issues.

In his sermon, the President of the Evangelical Church Winning All, Rev. Stephen Panya, called for unity among churches irrespective of denominations, to intercede for Plateau and the country.

He urged Nigerians to pray for their leaders for God's

guidance in their discharge of duties.

Also speaking at the event, the senator representing Borno South, Sen. Alli Ndume, called for unity from Nigerians for an end to its security challenges.

In his remarks, the outgoing COCIN president thanked the state government, Plateau people and the church for the success for his tenure, calling for similar cooperation with his predecessor.



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Guest
Columnist

Chidi Anselm Odinkalu

Reclaiming Nigeria's Judiciary: An Inconvenient Manifesto

"It is important to move debates about human rights out of courts and legal academies and back to where they belong – in Parliaments and newspapers and among groups of volunteers moved by injustice and cruelty wherever they occur." – Geoffrey Robertson, QC, *Bad People and How to be Rid of Them: A Plan B for Human Rights*, p. xiv, (2021)

Over the past three weeks, I have addressed various aspects of the multi-dimensional crisis of both credibility and mission that afflicts Nigeria's judiciary and legal profession. The first article dealt with the crisis of judicial fixation with "political cases" at the expense of providing access to and timely exit from courts for citizens and court users. The second traced the contours of the high-level judicial assault on accountable government, through whimsical decisions that cynically subvert both principle and long-established precedents. The third describes the mechanics of judicial capture, which now characterises the Nigerian judiciary.

I chose the medium of popular platforms for this series because the subject matter is too serious to be abandoned to the cloistered communities of the wig, the gown, the politicians and academic footnotes.

These pieces have been the subject of gratifying debate. Many readers have contacted me to ask that I propose my own counterpoise. Such requests clearly flatter me and, simultaneously, ignore the considerable body of official literature already in existence on these issues within the portals of government. They also imply that the terminal rot of



Tanko

impunity that afflicts Nigeria's legal and judicial processes at all levels is caused by cognitive limitations, rather than the assurance that whatever happens will attract no consequences.

On December 29, 1993, the government of General Sani Abacha inaugurated the Justice Kayode Eso Judicial Panel for the Reform/ Reorganisation of the Judiciary. After 18 months of work, the panel reported on July 5, 1995 and complained then, nearly 30 years ago, that the military government treated the judiciary as "a mere parastatal of the executive arm of government, a department of the Ministry of Justice", a situation that led them to compromise some judges. The panel recommended 47 judicial officers for termination.

It took another seven years before the report received the attention of the National Judicial Council, NJC, in 2001. The result was the Justice Bolarinwa Babalakin Panel, which built on Kayode Eso Panel's

recommendations. Both panel reports ended in considerable controversy over their recommendations for disciplinary action against certain judges. Only six ever got disciplined in the end.

Four years later, in 2006, the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime, UNODC, with the then Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, Mohammed Lawal Uwais, undertook and issued a report on the integrity and capacity of the justice system in Nigeria. It found that "political influence in the hiring and promotion of judicial officers, prosecutors and court staff was strongly linked to the perceived quality of justice delivery" and concluded that "[b]oth the perceptions and experience of the quality of justice delivery can be improved by reducing the importance of political connections and enhancing meritocracy in recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, retirement and the overall management of staff."

This background should make it clear that fighting this rot does not require new proposals. Proposals have long existed and the applicable rules are clear. What is needed is the will to implement them and relocate the system to a place that improves the odds that there will be both consequences for malefaction and incentives for appropriate behaviour. For this, there is no magic bullet. What is clear is that doing nothing is not an option nor is continuing as normal. The Bar, the courts, Senior Advocates and the NJC must urgently find the will to change.

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