

How to cut infrastructure deficit, free funds for social investments, by Atiku

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has reacted to observations of the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) to his agenda relating to the development of critical infrastructure needed to unleash the full potentials of the nation's economy.

The workers had dismissed Atiku's manifesto on the sector.

But the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in a statement by Mr. Paul Ibe, his Media Adviser, said: "First of all, we wish to appreciate that Atiku Abubakar's policy prescriptions contained in 'My

Covenant With Nigerians" are getting due attention. Our objective is to have Nigerians, who will be the beneficiaries of the policy framework to interrogate it.

"Having said that, it is important to emphasise that actively promoting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



www.thetrumpet.ng

The Trumpet

PATRIOTIC VOICE

@TheTrumpetNig @thetrumpetng @thetrumpetngr

JUNE 15-16, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 058 N200



**Yobe APC
senatorial
ticket holder
declines
stepping down
for Lawan**

→ 10

EDITORIAL
**President
Buhari's
successor plea**

→ 12

CHANGE OF NAME
**DO CHANGE OF NAME,
ADDITION TO NAME,
CONFIRMATION OF NAME
FOR BVN, EMPLOYMENT,
VISA AND OTHER PURPOSES
IN THE TRUMPET**



**Catholic church
announces
date for Owo
massacre mass
burial**

→ 24

48 HOURS TO PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATES SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Nigerians kick against delegates system, Muslim-Muslim, Christian-Christian tickets

■ Tinubu faces dilemma

■ Why Atiku picked Wike

→ 2



Obi



Tinubu



Atiku

Nigerians kick against delegates system, Muslim-Muslim, Christian-Christian tickets

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**,
Politics Editor

Nigerians are up in arms against the delegates system of recruiting candidates for various electoral positions. They say the system is endangering the country's democracy because it is corrupt and does not encourage merit to trump mediocrity.

They affirmed that it allows moneybags to hijack politics in general. They called for electoral reforms to overcome the challenge.

Another worrisome issue is religious balance in the electoral candidate recruitment process. Most Nigerians want it upheld for national unity, justice and stability but others say it should be ignored.

Their concerns arose over perceived moves in some quarters to ignore religious balance in picking presidential and

governorship running mates.

For example, the die is cast as the presidential candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is set to name his running mate.

The search for a credible vice presidential candidate started in earnest immediately after the June 8 election of the former governor of Lagos State as APC standard bearer.

Some of Tinubu's staunch backers were contracted to comb the nooks and crannies of the north, the region where it was sure the candidate will come from, to get someone whose acceptability will cut across all religions.

Two factors instantly emerged as determinant for the emergence of the vice presidential slot. These are micro-zoning and religion.

In a similar trend with the MKO Abiola and Babagana Kingibe's South West / North East combination, the APC unarguably have settled for a North East vice presidential



Wike

candidate.

Considering socio-cultural, tribal and religious factors, it is expected that Tinubu, being a Muslim from South West will pick a Christian running mate.

However, different arguments have surfaced on the possibility of Tinubu picking a Muslim running mate.

Proponents of this position remain adamant that a Muslim / Muslim ticket should not dim the

chances of APC winning in 2023.

They alluded to the fact that Nigerians did not reject the Abiola / Kingibe joint ticket in 1993 and so it should not be an issue in 2023.

Beyond the expectation of the proponents, this proposition was not only faulted but has generated serious concern in the polity. There have been dissenting voices for and against Muslim/Muslim and Christian-Christian tickets.

One of Tinubu's foot soldiers during processes leading to the party's national convention, Kashim Shettima, was the first to castigate the option as not only "undemocratic but insensitive to the ethnic and religious diversity of the nation".

The former governor of Borno State who incidentally is one of those being tipped as possible running mates to Tinubu warned the APC candidate to discard the idea of a Muslim vice president.

The former Secretary-General of Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Mr. Anthony Sani, warned not only Tinubu but APC against a Muslim-Muslim ticket stressing that it will deepen the nation's religious divides.

At a media interaction in Jos, Plateau State, Sani pleaded that to promote justice and fairness, it is natural and logical for the APC to pick a northern Christian vice-presidential candidate.

To him, a Muslim-Muslim ticket for the presidential election would negate the principle of federal character as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution as amended.

"I don't think the choice of a running mate for the APC presidential candidate should be a problem because the constitution is clear about the principle of federal character that no group should dominate because such will not promote unity.

"So, for fairness and justice, since Sen. Bola Tinubu, the presidential candidate of APC is a Muslim from the southern part should pick a Christian from the northern part of the country as his running mate.

"A Muslim-Muslim ticket will not augur well for the unity of the country because the Christians in the northern part may feel marginalised and it is also not good for our democracy".

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) sent warning signal to all the parties particularly the leading ones to avoid presenting candidates of same religion

National Secretary of CAN, Barrister Joseph Bade Daramola at a press conference in Abuja said, "CAN urges that a balance of both religious practitioners be considered in the choice of running mates of the presidential candidates. We do not subscribe to Christian/Christian ticket or Muslim/Muslim ticket.

"Politicians can talk politics but we have stated our view long before now. Any party that tries same religion ticket will fail. This is not 1993. Even when we have joint Muslim/Christian ticket, the church still goes through hell.

"Imagine how bad it will be if we have two Muslims in power? The extant Nigerian constitution promotes religious balance. So, if any political party wants to try Muslim/Muslim ticket, it is at its own peril. CAN is only forewarning, but will make a categorical statement in the event our warning is not heeded."

He urged that Tinubu's running mate should be a Christian from the North; Atiku's running mate should be a Christian from the South while Obi should choose a Muslim from the North. Atiku has picked Rivers State Christian governor.

He said, "anything contrary to the above

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

How to cut infrastructure deficit, free funds for social investments, by Atiku

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

private sector participation in infrastructure development will be beneficial to the economy. It is also inevitable that we incentivize the private sector to take risk and invest in the economy for the following reasons.

There is no telling that Nigeria's huge infrastructure deficit is making businesses uncompetitive and stunting economic growth. The supply of efficient infrastructure, including roads and rail transportation, communication, adequate power etcetera is extremely important for the economy to grow and create much-needed jobs.

Therefore, to build the economy of our dreams, we must increase the stock and improve the quality of our infrastructure. Inadequate infrastructure has been identified as the most problematic factor for doing business in Nigeria.

In terms of actual spending, Nigeria currently spends less than 1% of its annual GDP on infrastructure as against the required levels of between 3%-5% of annual GDP. This shortfall has created a deficit, estimated at USD 3 Trillion over the next 30 years. Our overwhelmed public sector does not have the resources or expertise to deliver. While

our financing requirement is approximately 100 billion USD per annum, Nigeria's entire budget is only USD 30 billion. The National Development Plan envisages that 80% of all investments will come from the private sector.

Regrettably, Nigeria's core infrastructure sectors are not operating efficiently. Almost all the infrastructure sectors from roads, railways, housing, power, and energy are operating below potential. Over the years, we have observed how these enterprises consume huge public resources while offering poor quality services. Many of these State-owned Enterprises have become a source for political patronage, corruption, and rent seeking to the detriment of Nigeria's long-term economic growth.

For example, Nigeria's refining infrastructure remains poor despite the perennial injection of unending public resources for turnaround maintenance. The country's refining capacity per capita is 0.002 bpd/capita compared to Libya's 0.06 bpd/capita and South Africa's 0.01 bpd/capita. As of today, Nigeria imports over 80% of its refined products to meet its current needs and is said to be the largest importer

of PMS in the world, with significant balance of trade implications.

Sadly, the fiscal cost of maintaining these State-Owned Enterprises is enormous, and it comes with even greater opportunity costs. By holding unto these underperforming enterprises, Nigeria is sacrificing investments in critical areas, including education, health, water, sanitation, and rural infrastructure. For example, the first phase in the rehabilitation of Nigeria's refineries is expected to gulp US\$1.55 billion! With its current precarious fiscal position and daunting development challenges, Nigeria cannot afford to forego productivity enhancing investments in human capital development and channel scarce resources to moribund enterprises.

We need to stress that the vision of Atiku Abubakar as encapsulated in "My Covenant With Nigeria" is to drive private investment to shift Nigeria from being a "net importer" to a "net exporter" of petroleum products and become the refining hub of the entire West Africa region. We cannot hope to achieve this without extensive reforms to restore investor confidence which is currently at its

lowest ebb. The active participation of the private sector in the downstream sector will help drive efficiency and healthy competition in the oil and gas sector.

According to the Bureau of Public Enterprises 67% of the 142 privatized firms are performing. It must be noted that several firms, not just liberalised enterprises, are facing business environment challenges in Nigeria. Many have closed and or been forced to relocate to neighbouring countries because of the poor business environment.

There is no denying the fact that Nigeria has derived enormous benefits from the creation of a liberal environment to facilitate private sector participation in key sectors of the economy. Today, the IT sector is undeniably the fastest growing services sector in the Nigerian economy. We need to replicate these efforts by extending the reform initiatives to other sectors.

Of course, different countries have implemented liberalisation programmes with varied outcomes and over time and space just as other policies. But it is easier to point to success stories around the world: from Vietnam to Mexico; from Indonesia

to South Africa and Egypt etcetera than outright failures. For the avoidance of doubt, liberalisation and deregulation programmes have supported the private sector to unleash its growth potentials and enabled these governments focus on investing in education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, water and sanitation with such proceeds.

Every reform measure has the potential to create difficulties especially in the short-term, but with a positive impact on incomes, employment, and poverty, over the medium and long-term. Liberalised firms may face difficulties as they transit from the old culture of rent seeking and dependence on government for survival, to a new business culture that is driven by efficiency and competition. But Atiku Abubakar will ensure that his economic reform measures are accompanied by a series of mutually supportive activities aimed at easing these difficulties and making the reform measures impactful.

Finally, we shall not hold brief for the BPE, as they are best suited to answer some of the questions raised by NURE for example, who bought the companies and what process was followed etcetera"



Elomaz Hotels ultra-modern complex is strategically located in the tranquil environment of Maryland, with easy access to Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way and Ikorodu road, the main artery to Lagos Island, and 15 Minutes drive to/from the local and international airports at Ikeja. It is the ideal place to stay when you are in Lagos for business or pleasure.

Restaurant & Rooftop Bar,
Conference Room, Banquet Hall,
Cybercafé, Gym, Car Hire,
Laundry, WIFI



Elomaz Hotels

Address: 3/5 Emmanuel St, Maryland Lagos

Tel: 0802 318 2295, 07053339183, 08141161113



I'm moving for Isoko youths development, empowerment, says APC Reps candidate

By **KELVIN OHOROR**

Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) Isoko Federal Constituency, Dr. Sylvester Onoyona, has said that he wants to go to the House of Representatives for youths development and empowerment in the area.

He made this known during interactive session with newsmen in Emede, Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State. He stated that youths are the foundation of a society while their energies, inventiveness, character and orientation define the pace of development and security of a nation.

According to him, "The youths through their creative talents and labour power, a nation and make giant strides in economic

development and socio-political attainments."

He said this was why he set up an NGO called Delta Youths of Today Association, through which he has

effectively reached out to his people in the core areas of empowerment, community development, and education. He affirmed that, amidst the supposed challenges of

youth unemployment and under-employment, social vices, moral decadence and delinquency, their development is a sustainable panacea to

surmount the problems.

He promised that if given the mandate to represent Isoko Federal Constituency, he will create a model with a coordinated, progressive

series of activities and experiences which will help the youths to become socially, morally, economically, physically and cognitively competent.

'How to improve access to quality care for persons with albinism'

By **ISAAC OLAMIKAN**

Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki has said the ongoing decentralisation of the healthcare system and other reforms in the sector will enhance access to quality, efficient and affordable healthcare to vulnerable persons in the state including people with albinism.

In a message to commemorate International Albinism Awareness Day, marked on June 13, each year,

urged stakeholders to support the government in providing the needed support for people with albinism.

He said, "In commemoration of the International Albinism Awareness Day, we restate our government's commitment to the health and wellbeing of all residents, especially vulnerable persons, which include people with albinism. We are strengthening our healthcare system and are confident that the

ongoing decentralization of the healthcare system and the implementation of programmes and reforms in the sector will help people with albinism access quality, efficient and affordable care.

"We urge people living with albinism and other vulnerable persons especially in rural areas to take advantage of the opportunities of the Edo Health Insurance Scheme and telemedicine programme by the government to access

better and quality care in Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the state so as to address their peculiar health challenge.

"Rights groups and other stakeholders should support the government in increasing awareness campaign and advocacy programmes that will lead to attitudinal change towards people with albinism, including myths, false beliefs and actions that sideline, stigmatise and threaten the existence of people with albinism."



Obaseki

Nigerians kick against delegates system, Muslim-Muslim, Christian-Christian tickets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

means that the leadership of these political parties do not bother about the unity of Nigeria. Those who are planning Muslim/Muslim ticket should also find out what was the outcome of MKO Abiola and Kingibe ticket in 1993. If they try Muslim/Muslim ticket this time around, the outcome will be worse because our fault lines are very visible."

However, others have advanced reason why Tinubu can go ahead with the Muslim / Muslim ticket.

Femi Fani Kayode while addressing the issue on Channels TV, defended the APC flag bearer, Tinubu, if he settles for a Muslim as his running mate.

The former Aviation minister said the Muslim-Muslim ticket is an issue and it has to be defended to the populace if that is the choice.

He said, "It's an issue and we will have to explain and defend to the wider population of the Nigerian people if we choose to go that way. I am not saying I'm against it. If that's what the candidate wants, we will stand by him and defend him."

"However, we need to defend it. We can't just say religion has no place in the politics of today. It certainly does, especially where 50 Christians were slaughtered in a Church in Owo the other day. In Southern Kaduna

the other day, a number of 34 Christians were slaughtered."

Referring to Tinubu over his choice of running mate, he said, "Let's just hope he reasons it out carefully and chooses the right candidate to run with him"

Backing the choice but warning APC not to ride on religious, ethnic sentiments, the former Director General, Progressives' Governors' Forum, (PGF) of the APC, Salihu Lukman noted that for the unity of the country, same religious sentiments will not be acceptable in the 2023 Presidential election in the country.

Lukman said debates on sentimental considerations of ethnicity and religion must be discarded pointing that there will be no ethnicity sentiments or religion as a mark in choosing running mate for its Presidential flag-bearer, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which he said had stalled development and divided the people.

Lukman in a statement titled "Issues for APC 2023 Presidential Campaign" warned against these primordial considerations as the standard-bearer of the ruling party, picking its running mate ahead of 17th June deadline by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He said: "If Nigeria is to move forward, 2023 Presidential campaigns must not reduce important debates

of sentimental considerations, ethnicity and religion. If the truth is to be told, both Islam and Christianity, as well as all our ethnic factors have been used in equal measure to hold Nigeria at a standstill.

"Addressing challenges facing the country requires political leaders not allowed to ride on cheap sentiments of religion and ethnicity to opportunistically win elections.

"If Nigeria politics is to overcome adversities of these so-called religious and ethnic leaders, religious and ethnic backgrounds of leaders must be subordinated to experiential attributes of persons being considered for leadership."

He argued that whatever is the final choice of Asiwaju and APC leaders concerning who emerges as the running mate, the 2023 Presidential election will be keenly contested, irrespective of religious and ethnic identity of both Asiwaju Tinubu and whoever the running mate may be admonishing that APC leaders should acknowledge the fact that the 2023 elections present another golden opportunity for the APC to reinvent itself.

Lukman said "against strong sentiments and dominant ethnic and religious politics, which weigh heavily against Asiwaju, both within the APC, but perhaps more promoted by a very sectarian and conservative strategy

of winning cheap votes of Nigerians by the Peoples Democratic Party, (APDP) and their sympathisers, which led to the emergence of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as the PDP Presidential candidate for the 2023 elections, Asiwaju Tinubu emerged as the Presidential candidate of the APC.

"It must be about pushing Nigerians to take all the hard decisions based on respect, equity and fair representation. This is what the Presidential candidature of Asiwaju Tinubu should represent. APC should win the 2023 presidential election based on a convincing promise for national unity."

As the June 17 deadline for submission of names of candidates and running mates by parties closes in, reliable sources had it that Tinubu has settled for a Muslim candidate from the North East.

Tinubu had the option of picking among eminently qualified Christian nominees from the south east such as the current Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, his predecessor in office, Mr. Babachir Lawal and, former Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara but he may have settled for Senator Kashim Shettima, a Muslim.

This was said to be a hard decision for Tinubu and the party.

There was a strong argument that none of the three Christians under consideration could give APC expected votes from the zone. Supporters of the option made Tinubu to see reasons why he cannot do otherwise. He is also believed not to see anything wrong with it.

A source said "obviously there is no way the northern Muslims will accept a Christian candidate. Therefore, the party has to go to the polls with a Muslim running mate.

It was believed that out of the three northern zones, APC will get maximum support from the North East considering the fact that the North West will be a scrambling ground for PDP, APC and the Kwankwaso-led NNPP.

Contrary argument warned the party that religious sentiment may cost the APC chunk votes from the southern part of the country.

There has been awareness by Christians particularly leadership of CAN that they should vote a party with sympathy for their candidate. The southern part of the country is thickly populated by Christians.

Should Christians in both South East and South South heed the call, then Tinubu's chances may be affected although not significantly in his Yoruba ethnic nationality.

However, he would need votes of Christians to make a considerable impact in his South West base.

Those upholding the Muslim/ Muslim ticket argued that in 1979, Obafemi Awolowo (SAN) picked Philip Umeadi (SAN) as running mate under UPN.

"That was not just a Christian-Christian ticket, it was a south-south ticket. It was even a lawyer-lawyer ticket and SAN-SAN ticket. It took a court ruling to deny them their win," one said.

"In 2022 people are all over the place making inflammatory comments as if Nigeria is about to die.

"Anyway, those who won't vote for Tinubu won't, even if he picks Paul also known as Saul.

"They will use anything no matter how childish to complain.

"And I think the cacophony about Muslim-Muslim or whatever ticket is gross and childish.

"Parties are in contest to win elections. They are not out to count the number of heaven and paradise bound members".

Others are asking whether the north that rejected Awolowo would accept a Christian-Christian ticket today.

One said: I am a Christian but I don't support a Christian-Christian ticket for equity, peace, unity and stability."

'Delta yet to access N150bn bridging finance'

Delta State Government is yet to access the N150 billion bridging finance, according to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa.

He said that the funds had not reached the state because the Federal Government was yet to commence remittances to Delta, contrary to the agreement.

Dr. Okowa disclosed this while speaking to newsmen shortly after inspecting ongoing works at the Koka flyover bridge and interchange in Asaba.

He said that the bridge was one of the projects that the bridging finance was meant to cover, adding that "when the money is available, we will be able to use it to upscale these projects."

"The bridging finance is actually a finance that we already have a source of repayment and rather than allow the depreciation of the Naira or the extension of time at work create a cost escalation for us, our intention was to take a bridging finance and then pay back from the monies that the Federal Government owes us."

"But as at today, we have not even accessed the bridging finance because the repayment plan from the Federal Government, which is supposed to have started by January has not commenced; they have not made any remittances to the state."

"Some states have taken a part of their own bridging finance

because we are not the only state involved. But for us, we intend to wait until the refund process starts before accessing the bridging finance."

"So, we have not yet accessed that bridging finance at the moment but we have got the approval of the House of Assembly."

"I hear that some of our brothers who don't even understand governance, have tried to critique the situation but unfortunately, when some people don't understand what is in government and how you can save funds for the people, they could talk politics and criticise."

"But I am very confident that whatever we are about to do, we are doing it in the best interest of the state; we are trying to save money for the state, we are trying to save situations where you have cost overrun and cost escalations."

"We do hope that as soon as the first set of refunds come from the Federal Government, we would be able to access the bridging finance to be able to scale up the speed of the major projects that we have as listed before the House of Assembly and utilise the money for some other sources."

"But as at today, we are still coping and we hope that very soon the Federal Government will start the process of refund and we will be in a position to ensure that we speed up all the

projects we have."

Okowa explained that a slow-down and depreciation of the naira could be a major disaster because the bridging finance was meant to be a cost saving measure for the state.

On the Koka flyover project, he expressed optimism that the project would be completed in December, 2022.

"I can actually see that work is on schedule and they have gone very far from the briefing that I received from the Commissioner for Works."

"You know that when we came in last, they told me that they would try and finish it in February, next year, but I put a lot of pressure and insisted that we wanted it completed this year."

"The information I received is that they are still working very hard to ensure that they finish the project by the middle of December."

"From what we can see, the super structure of the bridge is already on and a lot of work is being done and by October, it is expected that this would have finished completely."

"And, the work to provide the full interchange with the road network under would also be started in due course. They have promised that they are right on time and that they would be finishing before that end of the year."

"I am quite excited at this because it's quite important



Gov. Okowa

to us. More so, when we are anticipating that the sector C2 of the Ughelli-Asaba road would be completed about the same time."

"If there is free flow of traffic coming from Ogwashi-uku end to this place on a dual carriage way, it is important that we also have this completed about the same time."

"So that we don't have a clogging of traffic and it appears everything is going on as planned so I am quite happy with the pace of work," he said.

NBM donates N2m to Owo terror attack victims

Victims of June 5, 2022 terror attack on St. Francis Church, Owo, Ondo State have received N2 million from Neo Black Movement (NBM) of Africa.

President of NBM Worldwide, Olorogun Ese Kakor, made the donation when the Pan-Africanist group visited the scene of the attack and palace of the Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III.

High Chief Kakor said it was unimaginable that gunmen could kill people inside the sanctuary of God.

He described the NBM as a pan-African organisation that promotes the culture of the Black Race and engaged in humanitarian services.

He insisted that the NBM was not part of the dreaded Black Axe confraternity.

He remarked: "We came to sympathise with the church on this attack. We come to share in their grief and sympathize with the people of Owo."

"Intelligence matters a lot. Security agents have to up their game. It is getting worse. Nigerians have to report suspicious movements around them."

"NBM has nothing to do with Black Axe which is a criminal organisation. We are a humanitarian organisation."

Parish Priest of the church, Fr. Vincent Amadin, said the number of injured persons has risen because those who went home after the incident didn't know they had internal injuries.

He said: "You cannot say this is the actual figure because more than half of the church were affected. There are various forms of injuries. Some just went home with minor injuries but they are complaining now. A woman that didn't know she had internal injuries called me yesterday after she fell."

Oba Ogunoye III said it was unfortunate that terrorists defiled the House of God and attempted to shatter the peace enjoyed in Owo.

He added: "It is an unfortunate incident that we never expected. Nigeria has been experiencing terrorist attack but we are concerned that this incident could come to our area. We are experiencing it now. We are all challenged by what really happened. They have turned this land into a land of violence. Our humanity is challenged."

"The FG should focus on protecting lives and property. We should get prepared to defend ourselves. The perpetrators are looking for soft spots. We must protect ourselves. Nobody has the right to take life."

3000 frustrated trainees of Ibom Project threaten protest

By ISAAC JOB, UYO

Trainees of the 3000 Project by Akwa Ibom State Government, said to be abandoned, have threatened to stage a protest, The Trumpet has gathered.

The government through the Ministry of Trade and Investment had last year commenced training of 3,000 youths in a scheme meant to identify, train, mentor, empower and build capacity of existing Medium and Small Enterprises, (SMEs) and startups across the 31 local councils of the state. The Trumpet gathered that the scheme, was meant to run in three phases with each phase having 1000 trainees who would focus on three areas of choice which include oil and gas, agrobusiness as well as ICT and SMEs to enable them secure gainful employment. However, the beneficiaries of the project who have successfully concluded their trainings in April 2021 have expressed worry that they have neither gotten the certification nor startups as promised by government over one year after the exercise. It was gathered that the graduation exercise was stalled following the resignation of the then Commissioner, Mr Prince Akpabio, in pursuit of his political ambition.

A trainee, who identified himself as Mfon, narrated to

our correspondent that, after the exit of Mr Akpabio, the new Commissioner, Engr. Camillus Essien Umoh, invited them to the state secretariat for a graduation ceremony but later dismissed them promising to fix another date for the exercise as he was very new in office. Mfon, who lamented that nothing has been done yet, urged the state government to fulfill its promise by giving them the startups so



Engr. Camillus Essien Umoh

as to put what they learnt into practice adding that they are wasting away."

Another trainee, who did not want her name mentioned for fear of victimisation, regretted that despite the stress they passed through and the monies spent on transportation from her local government, Ikono, to the state secretariat in Uyo which was their rallying point, she is yet to receive the startups from government. She said, "the stress was too much. We would go to the Ministry and the car they made available will convey members to different designated training centres around the local government."

"By 4:00pm they will convey you back to the Secretariat from where you go back to your destination. It was not easy for some people from far distance, to transport themselves to the state Secretariat, some people from Ini, Ibeno really suffered because they paid their way to Uyo. the government told us that at the end of the training they will empower us, but nothing is being done."

Also, another trainee, identified as Joseph, disclosed that they felt abandoned by the state government noting that plans are underway to embark on a protest.

"Upon all the promises by the

state government to us during the training, nothing has been done, no empowerment, nothing, and they will be telling us come today, come tomorrow. We are planning a day to go out for protest, because we are not happy at all," he said.

However, a source in the Ministry of Trade and Investment, who also pleaded anonymity, explained that the graduation ceremony would have taken place in April but following the resignation of then Commissioner (Akpabio) to contest for the House of Assembly the ceremony was stalled. He attributed the delay to rise in exchange rate, as the laptops that were supposed to be given to those in ICT was estimated at about N150,000 each but has risen to N550,000 now. He said the state government was doing something about that.

According to the source, "from the market survey we conducted so far, the estimated price for laptops have gone up. Another memo has been sent to the governor on the variation so that the items can be purchased."

"They should be more patient. If they are given money equivalent they may lavish the money and that may not make meaning to them. The graduation ceremony would be done at same time."

S'West govs donate N75m to Owo church attack victims

•Akeredolu warns against visiting Southwest with war

Southwest governors led by Lagos State's Babajide Sanwo-Olu have donated N75 million to Owo people affected by the recent gunmen attack. It claimed the lives of scores of worshippers at St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State.

Sanwo-Olu announced the donation during a condolence visit to Ondo State Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN) at State House, Akure.

Sanwo-Olu visited his Ondo counterpart in the company of Governors Dapo Abiodun (Ogun) and Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq (Kwara) to sympathise with Akeredolu and the people of Owo and the state in general.

Speaking for the governors, Abiodun announced a donation of N25 million each, totaling N75 million on behalf of the three states to the people of Owo.

The governors also sympathised with Akeredolu and the people of Owo and Ondo State in general as well as families and victims of the Sunday, June 5 terrorist attack in Owo.

He said: "We find the attack, not just an attack on the good people of Owo and Ondo State but the entire people of the South-West.

"My brothers and I, have decided to support the good people of Owo with a token sum of N25 million each, totaling N75

million. We indeed pray that such incidents like this will never recur."

Speaking to journalists during the condolence visit, Governor Sanwo-Olu said South-West states will continue to strengthen internal collaboration and security within the region.

"We had South-West Governors meeting last week and few steps have been taken. First is that we have agreed to have three days mourning period and flags are being flown at half-mast. We have taken steps to strengthen and further reinforce the security architecture in the South-West; of course including things around transportation.

"Indeed all of us have condemned the unfortunate, totally unwarranted killings. It is a completely dehumanising incident that should not be happening in the modern age. The act is condemnable and we condemn it in the strongest terms.

"We offer prayers and condolences to families that the incident affected and the entire people of Owo and indeed by extension Ondo State," Sanwo-Olu said.

Akeredolu appreciated them for the condolence visit, noting that his brother governors in South-West and other parts of the country have been in touch with him and sympathised with the people of Ondo State on many occasions

since the dastardly incident.

Akeredolu, who is the Chairman of the South-West Governors' Forum, also reiterated their commitment to the lives and security of the geo-political zone.

Akeredolu warned that the people of the Southwest will not tolerate another unprovoked attack on the region under any guise because they have always come to the country in peace and unity.

Members of the cabinet led by the Secretary to the State Government, Princess Oladunni Odu joined the

governor to receive the visitors.

Akeredolu, who described the Owo attack as one too many, noted that the people of the Southwest region have always maintained peace and unity of the country.

He thanked the governors for their solidarity while describing their visit as not just symbolic but important.

"We are part of this country and we have always come to this country in peace and we have maintained peace. We have been trying everytime

to maintain Nigeria because we believe in Nigeria. Let someone point to an incident in which we left our enclave or we left this peaceful environment and went to cause problems in other places. Let them tell us. We have come to this country in peace, and now people want to visit us with war. You want to maim and kill us; it is not easy.

"It is a dreadful assault. I said to people that if we were at war and we were armed and faced ourselves, in one day 40 people would not die from our side. But this is not war, we were not at war.

"This is an assault on us, on our psyche. We cannot

continue this way. We believe in this place, we believe in South-Western region, we believe in Yoruba. Is Yoruba part of the Nigeria we believe in? Yes.

"But I thank you for your solidarity. You have come all the time and we have always worked together, all of us.

"If you get to the scene, I'm sure it will bring tears out of your eyes. These criminals, these animals in human skin, what they did was horrendous. They did not come to kidnap, they did not come to steal, they took no dime. They went into the church and shot at everything within their sight", the Governor lamented.



L-R: Senator Iyiola Omisore; members of Lagos Governor's Advisory Council, Hon. Wale Edun and Alhaji Mutiu Are; Governors Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq (Kwara State), Dapo Abiodun (Ogun) and Rotimi Akeredolu (Ondo); National Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu; Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Senator Ibikunle Amosun, during a condolence visit to Akure over the recent terror attack in Owo.

31 Lagos varsity courses get National Universities Commission accreditation

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**

Out of 37 courses presented by Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo for accreditation, National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved 31.

The 31 courses have achieved 96 per cent accreditation success.

A statement signed by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Education, Mr Tokunbo Wahab, commended the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for bringing sustainable reforms to the state education sector, saying they were yielding positive results.

Wahab, who was full of gratitude to governor Sanwo-Olu for changing the face of education in

the state, noted that the current administration's T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda is the fastest and most effective strategies in achieving transformational governance in the current democratic experience.

He emphasized that the state government's huge investment in education as the third pillar of the Sanwo-Olu THEMES' development agenda has repositioned the state education to become the model for the country.

"Out of the 37 courses of the Lagos State University (LASU) presented by the University Authority for accreditation before NUC during the October/November 2021 NUC Academic Programmes Accreditation Exercise

for Nigerian Universities, 31 of those courses got NUC's full accreditation status", Wahab stated.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, said such an excellent feat is unprecedented in the University's 40 years of existence, adding that the letter of notification of results from NUC stated that 31 out of the 37 courses presented before the Commission by LASU received an excellent grade of 96.0%, while four courses are still under interim accreditation status.

LASU's courses that had NUC full accreditation are Accounting, Banking and Finance, Business Administration,

Local Government and Development Studies

In the Faculty of Arts, six courses of the University that gained NUC full accreditation are Arabic Studies, Christian Religious Studies (CRS), English Language, Islamic Studies, Yoruba Language and Music

Other fully accredited courses are Nursing Science, Psychology, Pharmacology, and all the 14 courses in the Faculty of Education, Law, Mathematics, and Physics.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, four courses with NUC interim accreditation status are Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering, Common and Islamic

Law, Theatre Arts, and Philosophy.

Prof. Olatunji-Bello commented that the University had witnessed progressive development since the inception of the Sanwo-Olu administration, pointing out that LASU programs run smoothly without any interruption because the Governor adequately funds the growth of education while also prioritizing the welfare of staff and students in policy formulation.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of the Special Adviser on Education, Mr. Adeniran Kasali, urged the management of LASU to reciprocate the State Government's continued funding of the University

by working harder and ensuring that the institution maintains its status as the best State University in the country and one of the first five hundred in the world.

In his remarks, President elect of LASU Students' Union Government, Adeoye Moses, a 300 Level Student in the Theatre Arts Department, attributed the success of the accreditation to the state government continued funding of tertiary education and the appointment of a hardworking educationist as the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University, Ibiyemi Bello.

Moses also advised the students to shun vices capable of denting the image of the university.

Best Western Plus Elomaz Hotel, Asaba.

Address: Plot 22 A/B -27 Core Area, DBS Road,
GRA, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

Tel: +2348038193264



Foundation supports farmers with weed control chemicals

By KELVIN OHOROR

A non-governmental organization, Engineer Mike Ekpoh Foundation, has empowered 83 farmers from Aviara communities, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State with N20,000 each to purchase weed control chemicals.

Speaking during the event held at his residence in Ewhokpaka, the president of the foundation, Engr. Mike Ekpoh said: "Last year July when I was coming home, I saw old men and women harvesting and carrying cassava I saw how much they were suffering.

"I decided to come up with this foundation, it is written charity begins at home, I must show love to the less privilege from my home. Hence, the reason why I am doing what God has led me to do today.

"I have received testimony from people among the 17 persons I have empowered earlier on, one of them said he has seen manifestation in his crops. This is what motivated me that, the next step of empowerment I must do it quickly so that the others who will share the testimony will have the privilege to share it.

"I do things not because I am wealthy, I do things because I am rich and the riches are from God Almighty. The peace of God I have is the riches of God I have in my life.

"When I see young men and women suffering I weep in my heart because we have leaders who do not reach out to the poor, as an aspiring leader I feel the hours has come for the narrative to change.

"We have to help our people, we must make life meaning to them, we must make sure that wealth is distributed among our people

"I am not gathering the people because of politics, what I have or what I am is of God. And what I will be God will make



Bishop of Oleh Diocese Anglican Communion, Rt. Revd John Usiwoma Aruakpor presenting cash to one of the beneficiaries of the Engr. Mike Ekpoh Foundation.

it tomorrow. But it is my duty as a man who have the love of God to reach to the less privilege to liberate them from poverty."

He stressed that the foundation is extending the membership to his mother's Uzere community and Otor- Aviara with 40 members each from the two communities.

He said that by next year the foundation shall come out with two programmes to boost farming and cropping in Uzere and Aviara respectively. The programmes shall include early introduction of pesticides and fertilizers to their cassava and crops so that the crops can yield well from the beginning of the planting season to the end.

He also assured fish farmers in the foundation of empowerment in the provision of nets to boost their fishing

activities.

He spoke further: "We will work hard to train the enlarge members of the foundation in collaboration with the Presidents General of Uzere and Aviara communities with our representative of the area in government to ensure we send fertilizers to our people"

Meanwhile the Bishop of Oleh Diocese, Anglican Communion, Rt. Revd. John Usiwoma Aruakpor, who graced the event said that "God created us to become a blessing and helper to the less privileged. You must not have the whole world before you can help the poor."

He thanked the foundation for the kind gesture to the recipients and urged it to organize seminar for them on how they can learn different methods of farming

and trade.

Bishop Aruakpor also admonished the recipients to make judicious use of the token they have received from the foundation.

Mr. Charles Arugba and Hon. Brooklyn Essi, the Presidents General of Aviara and Uzere communities, stated that Ekpoh did not have the whole world before doing good.

He added : "WE have people who have held government position but they could not do what Engr. Mike Ekpoh is doing today. And that is even government money."

A highlight of the event was the over one million naira cash donations to support the good gesture of Ekpoh by friends and well wishers.

Lab scientists protest against colleague's murder in Ebonyi

By CHARLES ONYEKWERE,
SOUTH-EAST CORRESPONDENT

Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria, AMLSN, Ebonyi State chapter, has protested the gruesome murder of one of their colleagues, Casmir Afamefuna Ani, by unknown gunmen.

Investigation revealed that Ani who is a father of four was murdered on Friday night at Oji-Owere Street in the Abakaliki

metropolis.

The association's members protested to the Ebonyi State Police Command, Abakaliki, carrying placards with following inscriptions such as: "AMLSN demands thorough investigation", "We demand for culprits to be brought to book", "Police please fish out the perpetrators, the death of Casmir is one death too many", "These senseless killings must stop in Ebonyi," "Justice must be given to this family and

association", "Government must wake up to their responsibility of protecting lives," etc.

The association in a letter signed by its chairman and secretary; Clement Alobu and Godwin Nwibo respectively, which was submitted to the Commissioner of Police, Aliyu Garba, tasked the security operatives to fish out the perpetrators.

They asked the commissioner to seek justice for Ani for the sake of the wife and

four kids, as well as their union, AMLSN.

The letter reads in part: "It is with deep emotional pain and bleeding hearts that we, the members of the above-named Association write to inform your office of the gruesome murder of Mr. Casmir Afamefuna Ani who was our member and professional colleague, on the night of Friday, June 10, 2022, around Ojeowere street, Brackenbury street area in Abakaliki.

"With this ugly development, we no longer feel safe to even do our jobs since one of us could be murdered so easily without any intervention by the law enforcement agents or even the state vigilante outfit, alias Ebube-Agu."

Garba said he is aware of the killing of Ani and vowed to bring to book the perpetrators.

He, represented by the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department, DCP Robert Clement, further called for the collaboration of the association and the public to get to the root of the matter.

"We are aware of that matter and we are on it, we will do everything to ensure that the people responsible will be brought to book and justice, but we need your cooperation, we can't do it alone, give us information, give us tips and by the grace of God, we will get to the bottom of it," he stated.

Senate to honour brave tanker driver for averting fire disaster

By KELVIN OHOROR

Following a motion moved by Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central) and co-sponsored by Senator James Manager (PDP, Delta South) and Senator Peter Nwaoboshi (APC, Delta North) at Tuesday's plenary, the upper legislative chamber is preparing to honour a brave tanker driver, Ejiro Otarigho, for averting fire disaster in the state.

Ejiro, in a rare act of bravery, had last week driven a burning tanker from a populated area to avert what could have been a tragic fire disaster.

The incident happened last Friday when he drove the truck for 25 minutes from a densely populated area to Agbarho River where the tanker was completely razed by the

inferno. The act was captured by onlookers and had gone viral.

Rising under Order 45 and 52 of the Senate Standing Order 2021 (as amended), Senator Omo-Agege stressed that but for Ejiro Otarigho's courage, a major fire disaster which would have claimed several lives and property could have happened in his senatorial district.

The Delta Central lawmaker noted that Ejiro's "extraordinary display of courage, reflex application of special driving skills, and huge risk to his own life, prevented a huge national tragedy and catastrophe by driving a burning tanker loaded with inflammable petroleum products from residential areas to safety so that thousands of our people may not die in an inferno that would also have consumed so much property in Agbarho,

Delta State on Friday, June 10, 2022."

The driver's audacious act of heroism, he stressed, saved the nation from national tragedy and mourning.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

"invite Mr. Ejiro Otarigho to the chamber of the Senate for public commendation by the President of the Senate, Most Distinguished Senator (Dr.) Ibrahim Lawan.

"Recommend Mr. Ejiro Otarigho to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, for a befitting National Honour as Mr. President may deem fit for his extraordinary act of bravery, courage and skill that prevented the loss of human lives and property on a massive scale."

Lawan, who presided over plenary, hailed the driver for risking his life to save lives.



Leader of June 12 plane hijackers, Ogunderu bedridden

• Father calls for assistance • How 4 teenagers attempted to revalidate Abiola's mandate

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Politics Editor

Twenty nine years ago, four brave Nigerian youths, The young Nigerians, Richard Ogunderu 19, Kabir Adenuga 18, Benneth Oluwadaisi 20 and Kenny Rasaan Lawal 18 placed their lives on the line in an attempt to protect Nigeria's nascent democracy by restoring the mandate freely given to the late Chief Moshood Kashimawo Abiola as elected president of the Federal Republic during the June 12, 1993 general election.

The four daring youths on October 25, 1993, stunned the entire nation and the international community as they in a commando-like strike hijacked a Nigerian Airways Lagos - Abuja bound airbus A310 and diverted it to Niger Republic.

Their grouse, was that they wanted the annulled June 12 presidential election result reversed, the Ernest Shonekan - led Interim National Government disbanded and the winner of the election, Bashorun MKO Abiola sworn - in as President-elect.

Though they made a statement, the hijack attempt was foiled, the four alleged "terrorists" were arrested and languished in prison in Niamey, Niger Republic for nine years.

Since then, nothing was heard about them again as the heroes of democracy were left unsung and regretted sticking their necks out for what they think was "for the survival and unity" of the country.

Today, the arrow head of that revolutionary quartet, Richard Ogunderu, is bed-ridden.

It was gathered that Ogunderu was, in April this year, attacked by some youths in the French School area of Badagry, Lagos State, after an argument.

He sustained injury which left him infirmed with little or no medical attention. His medical condition then becomes the burden of his family.

His father, Mr Yemi Ogunderu who confirmed Richard's ill-health said the family needs financial assistance to help him out of his predicament.

The father bemoaned political leaders and activists for abandoning the Richard and three others who made a major sacrifice for democracy.

"He needs the assistance of whoever can help to get better treatment. His knee-cap was broken by the attackers. We have exhausted all we have, but his condition is still bad."

"It is true that the step they took was in the extreme. That must have been a product of exuberance. What is also bad is that those who backed them and the larger pro-democracy community and beneficiaries of democracy ought not to have abandoned them,"

"The action of the four boys, now men, was 'meaningfully desperate,'" said Mr Yemi Ogunderu.

Richard Ogunderu told reporters who visited him on his sick bed that they were "dissatisfied by the annulment of June 12 elections by the military Head



Richard Ogunderu, Kabir Adenuga, Benneth Oluwadaisi and Kenny Rasaan Lawal,

of States, Gen Ibrahim Babangida."

The Revolutionary Account as it was told.

On October 25, 1993. Four dissatisfied Nigerian teenagers hijacked a Nigerian Airways airbus A310 that was flying from Lagos to Abuja and diverted the plane to Niamey, Niger Republic.

They all unassumingly boarded the flight at MMA alongside other passengers. About 16mins before landing, they waited until the pilot announced that passengers should fasten their seat belts and prepare for landing. Next thing the passengers heard was:

"Ladies and gentlemen, this plane has been taken over by the Movement for the Advancement of Democracy. Remain calm, we will not harm you. You will be told where the plane will land you. You do not move or you die".

The leader of the hijackers, Richard Ogunderu a 19 was said to have walked into the cockpit and seized the process, and then one other followed. Two remained to watch over the passengers. When he got to the cockpit, the pilot knew immediately this was an attack, so he had to obey instructions given to him.

Ogunderu then asked the pilot to divert the aircraft straight to Germany. The pilot convinced him the plane did not carry sufficiently fuel to crossover the Atlantic and then suggested they

divert to a nearby country, Niger or they will crash and everybody dies.

The two hijackers told the pilot what they wanted was where they could give publicity to their reason for the hijack. They told him they wanted Germany, because they could have a good press coverage that would support their democratic cause for Nigeria. But that couldn't happen because of the fuel shortage.

They agreed to land in Niamey, Niger Republic. Upon landing the hijackers found themselves surrounded by hundreds of armed Nigeriène soldiers at the airport. They had earlier distributed their demands in a pamphlets among the passengers calling on the Nigerian government to overturn the annulment of the June 12 election. They gave the government 72 hours to meet their demands or else they would set the plane ablaze.

To show they were not ready to kill anyone so long govt listen to them, they released 34 of the 193 passengers, among whom were top Nigerian government officials.

The leader of the hijackers spoke to a BBC correspondent. The correspondent asked what they were fighting for, and he told him, they wanted to actualize the mandate given by the Nigerian people to M.K.O Abiola.

Nigerian government sent 24 delegates to come and talk to the hijackers, but

none of them entered the aircraft to talk to them, instead they were in the hotel, asking them to come down.

The Nigeriène soldiers did not storm the plane because..the hijackers claimed to have rigged the plane with explosives, and so began negotiations, keeping the remaining passengers hostage. For three days, the hijackers and the passengers fed on coffee & biscuits.

At some point, they ran out of water for coffee, one passengers demanded for water. Under the guise of bringing them water and food, the Nigeriène soldiers eventually realised the hijackers were not armed, and under the cover of darkness, they stormed the plane.

The four teenagers were arrested, cuffed hands behind their backs and taken straight to a prison cell. The hijackers spoke neither Hausa nor French and nobody made any attempt to question them in English. They were denied food for days.

The hijackers were remanded in a Niamey prison for 9 years before they were released in 2001. The Nigerian government didn't even bother requesting for them to be extradited.

They wanted them away from Nigerian soil, to prevent them becoming a symbol of resistance to Nigeria's youths.

As the country marked the 29th anniversary of the June 12 election annulment, these patriots remained unsung.

Yobe APC senatorial ticket holder declines stepping down for Lawan

•Machina vows not to surrender mandate

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

Hope of Senate President Ahmad Lawan to return to the Red Chamber in 2023 after losing his presidential ambition, may have crashed.

Lawan may be ending his 20 years parliamentary stay next year unless the leadership of All Progressives Congress (APC), quickly prevails on the winner of the Yobe North senatorial primaries of his party, Sheriff Bashir Machina, to step down for the Senate President.

Lawan did not contest the Yobe North senatorial ticket because of his presidential bid which he lost to Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

It was gathered that the Senate President has since started mounting pressure on the presidency and the national leadership of APC to get back his senatorial ticket.

Reports had it that all efforts by the Senate President's cronies to convince Machina to step down for Senator Lawan failed as the senatorial candidate insisted that he would not step down, though a source said Lawan, in concert with the APC National Vice Chairman, North East, Mustapha Salihu, is trying to 'forcefully take over' the ticket.

But Salihu denied this allegation saying, "I don't interfere with local party arrangement in states. Yobe has its own unique way of primaries, which is a general consensus.

"All aspirants who obtained the party's nomination forms nationwide have filled the withdrawal forms, which is a clear consent to withdraw in case of any superior interest, and with the consent of the party stakeholders in the state.

"I'm aware that it is a national party policy for aspirants who lost the presidential ticket to return to their seats in the Senate. You can see Godswill Akpabio has already reclaimed his senatorial ticket".

Vowing to resist any attempt to force him to step down for Lawan, Machina,

said, "As far as I'm concerned, I contested for the Yobe North senatorial ticket and I won the election. I was confirmed elected because there were other contestants but I was the one that was qualified. I happened to be unopposed.

"I am still the candidate; I have not withdrawn and I will not withdraw for anybody. I am being approached by some persons but I will not withdraw, Insha Allah."

In the APC primaries in Yobe North, Bashir Machina, who was the sole candidate, got 289 votes and declared winner.

Senate in disarray over defections, resignations of principal officers

•Majority, Minority Leaders involved

•PDP's position vacant, says Lawan

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

The Senate Chamber has been thrown into disarray as two major principal officers, the majority leader, Senator Abdullahi Yahaya and minority leader, Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe, have resigned their parliamentary positions having defected from the parties that gave them positions in the upper legislative chamber.

Another senator and former Kebbi State governor, Adamu Aliero, also defected from the All Progressives Congress (APC) to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Senate President Lawan started by informing the chamber of Abaribe's resignation and defection.

Praising Abaribe, Lawan said the former minority leader gave considerable leadership in the

opposition and he was greatly appreciated for his contribution to the unity in the 9th Senate.

The Senate President thanked Abaribe on behalf the Senate for his qualitative leadership and wished him good luck in his new party, the APGA.

Speaking, the Minority Whip and Senator representing Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Sen. Phillip Aduda said Abaribe did not discuss his decision to leave PDP with its caucus.

But he was punctured by Lawan who said Aduda did not discuss the issue with him as required by the Order 42 which the former cited in his intervention.

Sen. George Sekibo said until minutes ago, Abaribe was still the leader of the opposition but he ought to have met and discussed officially his defection with members of the minority caucus.

Sekibo said Abaribe was also supposed to have submitted some letters to that effect.

Sen. Gabriel Suswam said Lawan should have read the letter before making such pronouncement on the floor of the Senate. He said this is necessary for posterity sake.

He was cut short by Lawan who said Abaribe left the PDP about two weeks ago and transmitted a letter to him. He, therefore, admitted that the fault was on his part, saying he ought to have read the letter.

Lawan then promised to read the letter the following legislative day (Wednesday).

However, Lawan read the defection letter written by Aliero who blamed his defection to absence of democratic processes in Kebbi State APC chapter. He alleged the high-handedness of Kebbi State governor, Atiku Bagudu.

He thereafter, read a letter

by Abdullahi Yahaya notifying the Senate of his resignation of his position as Majority Leader, having defected from APC to the PDP.

Yahaya appreciated his colleagues in the Senate and APC for good relationship that existed while his tenure lasted.

Lawan said every member irrespective of party leanings will never forget the unifying leadership quality in the past three years. He praised Yahaya's sense of patriotism who always took national issues on the floor of the Senate with great passion.

The Senate President expressed a personal sense of loss from Yahaya's departure to PDP. He urged him to keep the personal relationship built since 2003 intact.

Attempt by both senators Betty Afiapi and Sabi Abdulkahi to further dwell on the defection issue was overruled by Lawan.



L-R: Kano State Governor, Abdulahi Umar Ganduje; Ekiti State APC Governorship Candidate, Mr Biodun Abayomi Oyebo; APC Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu; Ekiti State Governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi; APC Chieftain Chief Pius Akinyelure; and Alhaji Kashim Imam; during a visit to Asiwaju Tinubu at his Abuja residence.

S'East to wait for 16 yrs outside power corridors, says Nnamani

Believes PDP may ride to power on APC abysmal performance

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

A former governor of Enugu State, Senator Chimaroke Nnamani, has expressed fear that the South East geopolitical zone may not have the opportunity of occupying any position in the corridors of power should the zone fail to secure an appreciable political post in 2023.

He lamented the fact that the zone has for long been neglected in the political power equation in the country.

The Senator representing Enugu East senatorial district also warned that the abysmal performance of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in governance may pave the way for an easy ride of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to power through the ballot in the 2023 general election.

Answering questions on Arise

Television news programme anchored from Abuja, Nnamani lamented that successive administrations at the centre have ignored and jettisoned power equation which traditionally recognized the South East Zone as one of the legs of the tripod in the power equation of the country.

In an emotion laden tone, he said that it is becoming obvious that South East region is unwanted in the Nigerian union due to the continued neglect of the zone in the power equation.

Going down memory lane on the power equation, he said "since Commodore Ebitu Ukiwe (Rtd) was eased out of number two position under Military President Ibrahim Babangida, no South Easterner has been considered for either the President or Vice President in Nigeria.

"This is the dilemma of the Igbo man. We have been

shortchanged in the leadership of Nigeria. This is not the nation our progenitors negotiated for. It is against the spirit of a Nigerian union where tribes and tongues may differ but in brotherhood we stand".

The former governor lamented that the Igbo in spite of their spread across the length and breadth of Nigeria and beyond are now pseudo minority on account of the tragic circumstances including but not limited to military incursion into government.

Senator Nnamani queried, "How can we (Ndigbo) be proud to belong to a Union where we cannot aspire or be considered for top positions.

"If 2023 passes without the South East being accommodated in the power arrangements, we would have to wait for the next 16 years and will be out of power reckoning for 40 years from 1999."

He said the PDP has a window of opportunity to correct the imbalance against the South East affirming that the zone has kept a clean slate and maintained political fidelity since 1999.

Also, the senator criticised the APC over what he called the abysmal performance of the ruling party since it came to power in 2015.

He submitted that the failure of the ruling party is enough to pass a vote of no confidence on them and asked the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to take a bow and return to government in 2023.

"If we were under a parliamentary system of government, the APC would have received a vote of no confidence and be sacked for non performance while the PDP should take a bow and be elected to govern Nigeria", Senator Nnamani stated.

ICPC tasks anti-corruption on values

By PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR, ABUJA

Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has urged members of the Students Anti-Corruption Club to uphold positive values in their daily activities.

Mr Michael Atodo of the Public Enlightenment & Education Department of the ICPC gave the charge when some members of the Club, who are students of Government Secondary School, Lugbe, Abuja, paid an educational visit to the headquarters of the anti-graft agency.

Atodo explained that corruption erodes the ethical base of the society,

and causes economic retardation which leads to infrastructural decay and a lack of basic amenities which were meant to be rendered.

He then urged the students to uphold diligence, excellence, honesty, merit, and integrity in all their dealings.

"ICPC has identified twelve (12) positive values that needed to be taught to every child and it is important that you abide by them all. These values include honesty, discipline, justice, the right attitude to work, citizen's rights & duties, national consciousness, contentment, courage, concern for others, family values, religious values & traditional values," he stated.

According to him, the Commission

has been reducing corruption through its enforcement, prevention, and public enlightenment mandates, and has also achieved a lot through the passing and implementation of policies to mitigate the scourge of corruption not only amongst students but the society at large.

He said, "The ICPC has achieved a lot of successes in reducing corruption - it has reduced impunity, it has instilled fear of punishment in Nigerians, inaugurated Anti-Corruption Clubs in secondary schools so I am urging you all to imbibe the virtue of integrity as change begins with you; report corrupt practices to ICPC and educate people around you on the ills of corruption and the need to cultivate those core

values."

Earlier in his address, Mr Kalu Collins, a senior officer of the Commission and representative of the Head of Public Enlightenment and Education Department, charged the students to shun corruption in any form because it is evil.

"It was about six months ago that we inaugurated you (Students Anti-Corruption Club) and you have deemed it fit to visit us today to know more about ICPC," he said.

The students were conducted on a tour around the Commission's detention facility, which was recently upgraded as part of the ongoing construction and renovation works at the headquarters.

EFCC nabs 25 internet fraud suspects in Benue

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Officials of the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have arrested about 25 internet fraud suspects.

A statement confirming the arrest by EFCC spokesperson, Wilson Uwujaren, on Tuesday said the suspects were arrested in a sting operation in various parts of Benue State.

Uwujaren further stated that the suspects have made valid statements and will be arraigned in Court as soon as the investigation is concluded.

He said, "Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Command of the EFCC have arrested 25 suspected internet fraudsters (aka Yahoo Boys). The suspects were arrested in the early hours of Monday, June 13, 2022,

in a sting operation at various locations in Otukpo, Benue State

"The Twenty-Five (25) suspects who were smoked out of their hideouts following actionable intelligence on their alleged internet fraud-related activities include E. Francis, A. Emmanuel, M. Wakili, C. Francis, I. Emmanuel, J. Williams, P. Idoko, M. Itodo, S. Abah, O. Ameh,

O. Samson, O. Amuta, and O. Precious. "Others are O. Solomon, N. Alex, O. Emmanuel, E. Godwin, O. Ochigbo, E. Chukwu, W. Godwin, Y. Elijah, V. Godwin, L. Owoicho, A. Augustine, and O. Moses.

"Items recovered from them include different brands of mobile phones and computers. The suspects have made useful statements and will be arraigned in Court as soon as the investigation is concluded.

Money Laundering: Mompha's trial recommences June 16

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, has adjourned the trial of Ismaila Mustapha, also known as Mompha to June 16, 2022, for further trial in the case. The case was adjourned on Friday, 10th June 2022.

Mompha, alongside his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, was arraigned by the Lagos Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on January 12, 2022, on eight counts bordering on conspiracy to launder funds obtained through unlawful activity, retention of proceeds of criminal conduct, laundering of funds obtained through unlawful activity, failure to disclose assets and property, possession of documents containing false pretence and use of property derived from unlawful activity.

One of the counts reads, "Ismaila Mustapha, Ahmadu Mohammed (at large), and Ismalob Global Investment Limited, sometime in 2016, in Lagos,

within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired amongst yourselves to conduct financial transactions to the tune of N5,998,884,653.18 (Five Billion Nine Hundred and Ninety-eight Million Eight Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-three Naira Eighteen Kobo) with the intent of promoting the carrying on of specified unlawful activities to wit: Obtaining by false pretence."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

At today's sitting, which was fixed by the Court for a "definite final report" on the plea bargain being explored by both parties, the prosecuting counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, informed the Court that an agreement was drafted and sent to the defence.

He said, "The defendant informed us that they needed five days to enable them execute the terms, and we thought that they were working with utmost sincerity of heart.

"Apparently from their disposition, it appears that the decision of the defendant is for us to go head-on with the prosecution of this matter."

Acknowledging that the prosecution sent a draft plea bargain to the defence, the defence counsel, Gboyega Oyewole, SAN, said, "the day before we took the last date, the prosecution sent us a draft plea bargain on the very day.

"At the last date, my Lord, a day before coming before your lordship was when they sent the draft to us.

"It is extremely important for me to state that a man will not, because of peace, plead guilty to what he has not done. I have always cooperated with the prosecution, and I am not averse to accelerated hearing."

Responding, however, Oyedepo stressed that the prosecution was not "desperate for anything" and was not interested in putting pressure on the defendant to agree to any plea bargain.

Oyedepo added that the EFCC was not the only agency "on this matter".

He noted that though the defendant was granted bail, investigations showed that he had another passport apart from the one he submitted to the court as part of his bail conditions, thereby not fully complying with the court's order.

He said, "We have it on good authority that the defendant has a passport issued in Abuja on the 4th July 2021 to expire on the 30th June 2031.

"Armed with this passport, the information we have from our partners is that, on the 11th of April, 2022 via Emirates Airlines, the defendant flew from Ghana to Dubai.

"That passport was not the one that was submitted to this Honourable Court."

Oyewole, however, responded that such facts ought to be presented on oath.

Justice Dada, upon seeing the soft copy of the data page of the said passport, held that the name, photo, and signature of the defendant on it were the same as the ones on the passport submitted to the court for the bail and also noted that it was "a serious issue".

The defendant, who was shown the soft copy in open court, however, denied it was his passport.

Consequently, Justice Dada held that "the bail of the defendant is temporarily revoked until the issue of the passport is resolved."

Oyewole, however, pleaded with the Court for one week for him to investigate it, noting that it was the Immigration Service that could speak to the existence of the passport in a case where another passport existed.

Justice Dada granted the prayer of the defence and also released the defendant to the defence counsel.

The case was adjourned till Thursday, June 16, 2022, for further trial.

Oyedepo says Buhari govt most corrupt

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Bishop David Oyedepo, founder and president of Living Faith Church Worldwide aka Winners' Chapel, has lambasted President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, tagging it as the most corrupt and wicked government in Nigeria's existence.

Oyedepo who spoke during a church programme tagged 'Special Prayer for The Nation', lamented the level of hardship imposed on Nigerians through what he described as corruption under the Buhari government.

According to the Bishop, the Federal Government claimed to be fighting corruption but the officials are also corrupt.

He said the N80 billion allegedly stolen by the Accountant-General of the Federation,

Ahmed Idris, would be enough to meet the demands of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which led to the shutting down of schools since April 14.

"Many children are out of school, there is nothing to pay to get them back to school. We saw some folks in Covenant University that we had to help out to graduate. First-class students can't get N30,000 to pay under this wicked government, selfish, self-centered.

"What a fight against corruption? You were all deceived, you can't be in corruption and be fighting corruption. This is the most corrupt regime in the history of Nigeria.

"You heard of Auditor General who stole N80 billion, all they need to get the university up and running is less than the N80 billion but they are not interested because their children are not there," Oyedepo said.



President Buhari



Oyedepo

President Buhari's successor plea

In days preceding the last Special Convention of the ruling APC, President Muhammadu Burai made a plea to the Party's stakeholders that he should be allowed to choose his successor. Events which followed suggests that the APC Governors' Forum and indeed other critical stakeholders in APC did not agree with the President.

Democracy is about free choice. It is about giving people opportunities to choose their leaders without hindrance. By asking other key stakeholders to allow him to anoint a successor President Buhari attempted to take away the educative value of democracy to the citizens. There is no better way of educating citizens than giving them the opportunity to participate directly in the selection of their representatives. It is believed that a credible election of leaders remains a salient indicator of democratic consolidation and peaceful means of changing governments.

Public office is not the property of the incumbent. It belongs to the citizens who should be able to reclaim it in an orderly and peaceful way. Selections of flag bearers play a significant role in deepening democracy; it enables the governed to decide who governs them. If Mr President was allowed to produce his successor, he would have disenfranchised thousands of party members.

The gumption behind Mr President's request was eloquently expressed by President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda when he said: 'I'm not ready to hand over power to people or groups of people who have no ability to manage a nation...why should I sentence Ugandans to suicide by handing over power to people we fought and defeated? This viewpoint is a direct onslaught on democracy as it seeks to undermine the national Constitution. This might be why most African democracies are perceived as civil rule not democracies.

Without mincing words, the request

of Mr President is undemocratic and an antithesis to enshrining and strengthening democracy in the country. Therefore, the refusal of the key stakeholders to grant him this request is a commendable gesture. We also commend the APC Governors for pushing for power shift to the South. Their insistence on the conduct of primary election has fortified the Party's internal democracy by allowing party members to select the flag bearer. Mr President, too despite the error of judgement in his quest for support to appoint a successor, must be commended for capitulating.

Sadly, avoidable damage has been inflicted on the personal integrity of the President and the unity within the party. First, the assertion by Mr President that he belongs to

no one and belongs to all is now seriously being questioned despite his denial that he had no preferred candidate. The question is if he had no preferred candidate why did he ask for permission to anoint a one 48 hours to the Convention? Was he planning to scan the horizon and come up with one within 24 hours? We do not know who Mr President's preferred successor was. If it was not Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the path ahead could be turbulent for the Party's cohesiveness. The thinking of Tinubu followers will be that their leader emerged despite an attempt to exclude him. Such a mindset could affect the campaign and the personal relationship between Tinubu and Mr President.

At the Party level, the allegation that the Party Chairman Senator Abdullahi Adamu unilaterally announced a consensus candidate will leave a sore in the relationship between the party echelon, the candidate, and his followers. It is on record that Senator Adamu was the immediate Chair of the APC Reconciliation Committee and Tinubu refused to meet with his team despite several efforts during that assignment leading to gossip within the party that there was no love lost between the two of them. It is now time for all stakeholders to unite and reduce tension within the Party that usually spills into other spheres of our national life.

To conclude we need to remind our political leadership that a democratic system must involve the following: regular elections, open decision-making process, right to vote and be voted for, respect for basic human rights, presence of a vibrant civil society, open competition for political power through viable political parties, freedom of association, separation of power, and the rule of law. A well-established democratic system must consist of the above elements. The strength of the idea of democracy lies in the principle of people's participation in governance.



THE TRUMPET

PUBLISHER/CHAIRMAN: JOEL-ONOWAKPO THOMAS

GMD/VICE CHAIRMAN: GLORIA JOEL-ONOWAKPO

EDITOR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: OMOKIOJA JJK ETO

WEEKEND EDITOR/DEIC: OBAH SYLVA

ELOMAZ COMMUNICATIONS LTD

DIRECTOR: NDUBISI FRANCES

MANAGING DIRECTOR: ENDURANCE EDAFEWOTU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: CHIEF JOHN ARAKA

ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN: PROF. HOPE EGHAGHA

MALLAM LAWAL MOHAMMED HAMIDU

DR. PROMISE ADIELE

DR. KAYODE EESUOLA

ASSOC. PROF. SAMSON ALHAJI SHAIBU

DR. RALIA MAIJAMA'A ABDULLAHI

PROF. OGHENEKARO OGBINAKA

EMAIL US @: trumpetng@gmail.com



Stolen future: Time for recovery

The title of Chris Anyokwu's play, *Stolen Future*, is an apt metaphor that describes the future of Nigerian youths perfectly tucked away in the dark chambers of a remorseless demagogue. Pushed to the wall by a social space stripped of responsible leadership, empty promises of employment by those in positions of authority, a victim of abysmal lack of infrastructure during her national youth service, frustrated endlessly by ebbing youthful life, and confronted with an urgent need for survival, the beautiful Agbon, unfortunately, embraces prostitution to remain relevant under emasculating social conditions. Agbon, in the play, represents millions of Nigerian youths whose future has been stolen and pulverized by successive, corrupt, rapacious leadership. Faced with hollow existence, these youths embrace various vices for different reasons – some out of the need to survive and some simply to get back at society in a retaliatory affirmation of the law of retributive justice. In Nigeria, the reality of a stolen future now carries with it ominous reminiscences of a pervasive past which are currently provoking a revolution, unrestrained anger and rebellion to recover that future. While growing up, our puerile sensibilities were patronized by such platitudes as "youths are the leaders of tomorrow". Of course, we had no reason to doubt that declaration which we tenaciously held unto. It became a motivating factor for many of us. But unfortunately, as we grew and meandered through the vicissitudes of life, the superfluity and deception of that declaration stared us in the face – there was no future. It became obvious that


those who occupied the present had little regard for the future of Nigerian youths except for their immediate families and those of their cronies. To be sure, some Nigerian youths, through resilience and a dogged determination to succeed, pull through but the greater percentage still wallow in unpropitious, backward conditions. Right from 1960, when Nigeria achieved self-rule, the country's leadership has remained in the hands of those that never had any regard or care for the country. First it was about ethnic loyalty and the need to enrich private pockets. These two vices became a culture in our country promoted and sustained by successive leadership. Then stealing and siphoning of public funds became the order of the day. Corruption in high places perpetrated by politicians, public officers, military regime, and an inconsiderate capitalist class all combined to stymie the future of young people. The Nigerian exchequer has been serially purloined. NNPC became a private estate. Nigerian universities bled from neglect. Hospitals, roads, and other social amenities stewed in the juice of abandonment while leaders maintained a steady economic interest in various countries abroad. Electricity in Nigeria collapsed. Companies fled from the country due to the harsh business climate. Unemployment rose to abnormal proportions and youths wallowed in the labyrinth of deprivation. Our local currency suffered severe pummeling due to economic ignorance by power potentates. Any new dispensation was immediately hijacked by the same people responsible for youths'

collective misery. They ferried billions abroad, spent dollars with reckless abandon and encouraged a government of the old and for the old. Our leadership corridors brimmed with recycled old men who have benefitted from the political industry for many years. Nigerian young graduates roamed the streets empty. When they tried to exercise their ingenuity, the police harassed them. Innocent boys and girls were detained, arrested or killed by law enforcement officers. Criminal public officers that embezzled humongous amounts of public funds walked free while Nigerian youths became the target of the law. Then, many of the youths sought livelihood abroad where they wash corpses, sweep the streets, and are involved in different subhuman indulgences because their future is daily stolen back home. When Nigerian youths try to rise and reclaim their future, their tormentors drew the knife of religion and ethnicity to cut them apart. That ploy has been effective over time. You are Hausa/Fulani. He is Igbo. They are Yoruba, North, South-West, South-South, South-East, this and that...all became mechanized instruments for dividing Nigerian youths. Those guilty of stealing the future of Nigerian youths are not foreigners, they are with us and we know them. In this category, you find those that became billionaires after a short stint in government. They are those whose only claim to fame and wealth is in politics and governance. As former governors, they have their former states in their pockets and earn almost half of the internally generated revenue. As former Presidents and Vice-Presidents, they have many

Promise ADIELE

08037197590

e-mail:
promee01@yahoo.com



companies, estates and other multi-billion dollar investments abroad. As former DGs, Senior Civil Servants, they embezzled colossal amounts of funds meant for the development of the country. All of these people spend dollars and not naira. While the country is suffocating under the stranglehold of poverty, some of them spent millions of dollars to bribe delegates to emerge as their party flag-bearers in next year's election, yet they are willing to spend more billions of dollars to emerge as the next occupant of Aso Rock. They never quit government because it is their private estate. They are always happy to use disoriented Nigerian youths as thugs to advance their nefarious ends. At last, Nigerian youths have woken up from their slumber in the most determined way. They have risen to say NO MORE. They have realised the dubiety and chicanery of the recycled ruling class. The current youth revolution in Nigeria is real. Of course, the enemies realize this fact and are afraid. To be sure, not all Nigerian youths have come to the present realization - this radical awakening sweeping across the land. There are some Nigerian youths whose heads are still buried in the sands of ignorance, grovelling drudgery, peonage, and servitude. They are still consumed

by lack and deprivation, possessed by amnesiac conditions which make them see criminals as saints. They suffer from a curious lapse of attentiveness, therefore are not aware of the extent to which their existence has been mutilated. Their psychology is corroded from many years of economic hardship therefore, they can't recognize a change. They prefer to remain bound by the same taskmasters. But there is hope. It is a good thing that the youths of Nigeria have risen to reclaim their stolen future. The youths are ready to reject the divisive instruments of ethnicity and religion. The delegates have been bought but will the millions of youths across Nigeria be bought too. The long-awaited legal revolution is here and it will never be business as usual. Although many leftists do not believe in the current revolution, it does not matter. The truth is that the youths of Nigeria are ready to collapse all the old structures of poverty, backwardness, suffering, decay, and corruption that have held them down. It is not an easy task but it must be achieved. Arise, all Nigerian youths. 2023 is the time, polling booths are the arena. Get your PVC.
•Dr Promise Adiele is a member of The Trumpet Editorial Board
Promee01@yahoo.com

Time to heal: Asiwaju's approach

John MAYAKI



In his victory speech as the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu declared the stiff completion over, ushering the party into a new phase, that of reconciliation, fence-mending and unity against the real 'enemy', the Poverty Development Party, as he rechristened the opposition

party. "The competition is now over. Those who did not support me, you have nothing to fear. I hold no grudges. Let us join hands to beat the PDP and beat back their retrogressive understanding of Nigeria," he said. Almost a week after his victory, he has made good his vow, displaying the large-hearted,

generous, and mature brand of politics responsible for his extensive structure and popular support in all regions of the country. He was at the residence of the Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, one of his main challengers for the ticket whose ambition caused the ripples and generated heated debate, given the circumstances of his rise and the role of Tinubu in it. Many had expected Tinubu, having prevailed, to extract a pound of flesh and conclusively put "the disciple who tried to outshine his master" in his place for good. But he took the high road, extending a handshake of peace and collaboration to the Vice President, personally inviting him to join his push to keep the APC in Aso Rock beyond 2023. To him, Vice President Osinbajo's run, in spite of popular opinion, was a legitimate choice

in a democracy and he holds no grudges. The party must turn the corner, it must heal. Asiwaju Tinubu also extended the olive branch to the man who came a distant second at the primary, former Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi. He had mounted a serious challenge for the ticket, beginning with a theatrical sprint, but ultimately fell short. Other aspirants such as Ibikunle Amosun, Godswill Akpabio, and Governor Kayode Fayemi, three heroes on the night whose announcement of a step down for Asiwaju Tinubu began a momentum that indicated his march to victory, also received the candidate and paid audience to his rallying call – even though it could be argued that they require no further convincing; Asiwaju preached to the choir! Governors Yahaya Bello and David Umahi, Senate President Ahmad Lawan also took him as

a guest. Governor Bello donated his campaign office in a clear demonstration of support. Asiwaju can place Kogi in the "secure" column. Jack Rich and Rochas Okorocho, two aspirants whose appeal didn't quite move the delegates, were not overlooked; Asiwaju reached out to them in true leader fashion. All hands are required on deck. With the deftness and maturity of a veteran, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has begun the work of healing the divides and uniting the party behind the agenda that matters the most – bringing the APC over the finish line and preventing a reversal set to occur if the Poverty Development Party, as he calls them, is allowed to seize power.
•Mayaki is a journalist, historian, diplomat, archivist, documentalist, communication, culture and media expert and consultant.

Court jails Kyari's two co-defendants

By **PAUL MICHAEL**,
Defence Editor, Abuja

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, on Tuesday, sentenced two drug traffickers, Chibunna Patrick Umeibe and Emeka Alphonsus Ezenwanne, who were linked to embattled and suspended Deputy Commissioner of Police, DCP Abba Kyari, to six years imprisonment.

According to a judgment that was delivered by trial Judge, Justice Emeka Nite, the convicts, Umeibe and Ezenwanne, were convicted on counts 5, 6, and 7 of the drug trafficking charge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) preferred against them.

The duo, arrested at Akanu Ibiam International Airport in Enugu while attempting to smuggle cocaine into the country, were on March 7 arraigned before the court alongside

Kyari and four other police officers - ACP Sunday J. Ubia, Insp. Simon Agirigba, Insp. John Nuhu, and ASP Bawa

James.

Both Umeibe and Ezenwanne had upon their arraignment, pleaded guilty to the drug trafficking charge against them while Kyari and the other police officers pleaded not guilty.

Though Justice Nwite initially adjourned to review the facts of the case against them, however, at the resumed proceedings on Tuesday, the NDLEA, through the Director of its Legal Department, Mr Sunday Joseph, informed the court that it has entered into a plea bargain agreement with the two defendants.

Joseph, therefore, persuaded the court to adopt the terms of the plea bargain deal as its judgment against the defendants.

Consequently, Justice Nwite, in his judgment, convicted and sentenced the two defendants to two years jail term on each of the three-count charges against them.

However, the court, which noted that the two defendants were remorseful, held that the sentence would run concurrently, commencing from the date they were arrested.



Kyari

More so, the court, held that the defendants should forfeit their international passports in accordance with section 30 of the NDLEA Act, Cap M30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

In line with the plea bargain agreement, the court, okayed Umeibe and Ezenwanne to testify as witnesses in the trial of DCP Kyari and the other accused police officers, even as it ordered the NDLEA to ensure their safety in any Correctional facility of their choice.

The court further directed

the NDLEA to constantly monitor the two defendants to ensure that they do not engage in any drug-related criminal activity while serving their jail terms.

Justice Nwite subsequently fixed July 18, 19, and 20 for the full-blown trial of DCP Kyari and his men, as well as for hearing of their fresh application for bail.

The NDLEA had in the charge marked FHC/ABJ/57/2022, alleged that Kyari, who hitherto headed the Police Intelligence Response Team (IRT), and his men, unlawfully tampered with

21.25 kilograms worth of cocaine that they seized from the two apprehended drug traffickers, even as it also accused them of dealing in cocaine worth 17.55kg. It alleged that the police officers committed the offence between January 19 and 25, 2022, at the office of Inspector-General of Police (IGP) IRT, Abuja, in connivance with one ASP John Umoru (now at large), contrary to section 14(b) of the NDLEA Act, CAP N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

Kyari was also said to have attempted to bribe a senior officer of the NDLEA with \$61, 400. 00 at a restaurant in Abuja to prevent the testing of part of the cocaine that was seized from the two arrested drug pushers.

On the other hand, NDLEA alleged that Umeibe and Ezenwanne, conspired with one IK that is currently at large, to import 21.35kg of cocaine into the country without lawful authority and knowingly possessed same, and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 11(d) of the NDLEA Act, CAP N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

Gunmen kill residents, raze houses in Benue

By **PAUL MICHAEL**,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Unknown gunmen have reportedly invaded Igama community in the Okpokwu LGA of Benue State, killing several residents and razing down many houses.

Catherine Anene, Benue police spokesperson, confirmed the attack which took place on Sunday, adding that police officers were deployed to restore peace in the community.

However, Anene, did not give the number of casualties and houses razed,

saying there was no official report on that yet.

She said, "A team was sent to manage that incident. I have not received details of it, but I'm aware that there was an attack in Okpokwu. I want to get an official report from officers on the ground before I can talk on casualties."

On razed properties, she said "I don't have that detail. They only confirmed to me that there is an attack and that they are moving in. I'm still expecting reports from them."

Contrary to the police statement, however, the Federal Lawmaker representing Ado, Ogbadibu and Okpokwu Federal Constituency, Francis Agbo Otta, in a statement said no fewer than thirty persons were killed during the attack on Igama Community of Ojogo Ward.

He said, "Growing up in Utonkon District of Ado LGA, I knew Igama in Ojogo Ward of Okpokwu LGA as one of the most peaceful communities in Benue South until recently when terrorists turned it into a cesspool of blood."

"I, therefore, condemn the killing of 30 innocent people, and still counting... I have contacted security agents who have responded appropriately."

This is coming a few months after similar attacks in other parts of the state.

Recall that in march scores of persons were killed in Guma, Kwande and Gwer west LGAs of the state, when gunmen invaded communities in the areas.

MNJTF neutralizes terrorists in Lake Chad axis

By **PAUL MICHAEL**,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Troops of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) operating in the Lake Chad region have neutralised scores of Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists during clearance operations.

According to the spokesperson of the MNJTF, Lieutenant Colonel Kamarudeen Adegoke, the troops conducted a series of operations to clear terrorists from Kangarwa village in Kukawa Local Government

Area of Borno State, as well as the surrounding localities of Metele and Dogon Chuku.

Adegoke disclosed that the Nigerian and Chadian troops of Operation Lake Sanity who have continued their onslaught against the insurgents in the Lake Chad Basin Islands recorded the feat.

He explained that the troops engaged members of Boko Haram/ISWAP in the general area of Dogon Chuku and after a fierce exchange of fire, they neutralised several terrorists while others withdrew off balance with their casualties.

He added that during the

onslaught, the troops recovered several arms and ammunition, including a gun truck, one 81 MM Mortar, one Dushka gun, and several logistics items.

In a similar operation, troops of MNJTF comprising personnel of Sector 3 continued to dominate their firm base in the northern part of the Tumbuns where they conducted clearance operations to Tunbun Fulani and the general areas South of Arege.

Adegoke said a decomposing corpse and a Dushka gun of a suspected terrorist who had been

neutralised during a previous encounter in the vicinity were recovered.

He added that troops of Sector 4 MNJTF deployed at Chettimari in Niger Republic conducted a cordon and search operation West of Gororop village and its general area.

"The search operation followed information from an arrested ISWAP fighter who confessed to being an active member of the terrorist group," Adegoke stated.

He said several weapons, including one RPG tube, one AK 47 rifle, 182 rounds of

ammunition, and nine AK 47 magazines were recovered from the hideout.

Meanwhile, the MNJTF has dismissed the claim by the terrorists that they killed a sizeable number of Chadian troops, saying it was an exaggeration to boost their capacity and hoodwink their fighters who were already showing signs of giving up.

However, Adegoke said that the only attack carried out by the terrorists was an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which resulted in the injury of five Chadian soldiers, without no death recorded.

NSCDC busts illegal refineries, arrests two

By **PAUL MICHAEL**,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Commandant General's Special Anti-Vandal Monitoring Unit (SAVMU) of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has busted five illegal refineries and arrested two suspected vandals during the operation at Obodo community Creek in Warri North, Delta State.

This was disclosed by the Director of Public Relations of NSCDC, DCC Olusola Odumosu, who added that illegal refineries usually produce and distribute adulterated petroleum products to unsuspecting users, thereby placing the public at risk.

Odumosu further stated that the operation followed credible intelligence on the illegal activities of the vandals and oil thieves in the area.

According to him, the Squad Commander, DCC Brah Umoru Samson, who led the operation, has assured Nigerians that the SAVMU will hunt down saboteurs and vandals while adding that the arrested suspects would be dealt with according to the law.

"The Commandant General's Special Anti-Vandal Monitoring Unit (SAVMU) dislodged 5 illegal refineries at Obodo community Creek in Warri North, Delta State, where adulterated petroleum products were produced and

distributed to unsuspecting users across the country.

"The operation was carried out successfully following a tip off from the nefarious activities of vandals and oil thieves operating a very big camp with about 5 illegal refineries in the area.

"Two (2) suspects were nabbed during the operation while other collaborators remained at large. The intelligence report however, revealed that the site belongs to three individuals which consist of one woman and 2 other men currently in NSCDC custody and are volunteering information to assist in carrying out further investigation.

"The Squad Commander,

DCC Brah Umoru Samson, who led the operation, assured Nigerians that the SAVMU will not condone any act of sabotage to the economy and therefore warned all illegal operators to engage in legitimate business that will not contravene the law or compromise the safety of Critical National Assets and Infrastructure in the country.

"He reiterated that the arrested suspects will be prosecuted according to extant law and the Squad will ensure a total manhunt for those currently on the run. According to him, the illegal refineries and other equipment used for the illicit business has been destroyed,

while investigation will be carried out with due diligence to unravel the other criminals connected to the crime for possible prosecution," Odumosu said.



DCC Olusola Odumosu



ADVERT RATES

SERIES DISCOUNT
5-10 Insertions - 2.5% Extra
10-15 Insertions - 5% Extra
15-20 Insertions - 7.5% Extra
21 Insertions and above - 10% Extra

All materials saved in CD or Flash Drive
CorelDraw with All Fonts Curved.
Colour - JPEG or PDF in CMYK
Black and White - JPEG or PDF in Grayscale
Proof must be attached with CD or Flash Drive
All materials to reach us maximum 24hrs before publication

For Advert booking, pls call: Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368 09155587787

COLOR RATE			PUBLIC NOTICE			CORPORATE NOTICE			PRODUCT, COMPULIFE AND PROPERTY		
SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	<i>Obituary, Goodwill Message, Annual Reports & AGMS, Financial Statements</i>			SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	6,135.10	6,595.23	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	1 x 1	4,587.47	4,931.53	1 x 1	3,786.98	4,071.00
1 x 2	12,448.80	13,382.46	1 x 1	5,664.59	6,089.43	1 x 2	9,174.94	9,863.07	1 x 2	7,573.97	8,142.02
2 x 2	24,941.96	26,812.61	1 x 2	11,294.45	12,141.54	2 x 2	18,349.89	19,716.64	2 x 2	15,147.94	16,284.03
3 x 2	37,413.09	40,219.07	2 x 2	22,588.91	24,283.09	3 x 2	27,524.84	29,589.20	3 x 2	22,721.91	24,426.05
4 x 2	49,884.02	53,625.42	3 x 2	33,987.48	36,622.04	4 x 2	36,700.09	39,452.60	4 x 2	30,295.53	32,657.70
5 x 2	62,355.15	67,031.71	4 x 2	45,177.83	48,566.17	5 x 2	45,866.19	49,315.34	5 x 2	37,863.00	40,710.09
6 x 2	76,142.50	81,853.18	5 x 2	56,472.29	60,707.71	6 x 2	55,049.68	59,178.41	6 x 2	45,443.82	48,852.10
7 x 2	87,297.21	93,844.50	6 x 2	67,975.12	73,073.25	6 x 3	54,074.55	61,200.90	7 x 2	53,017.79	56,993.61
7 x 3	166,172.00	179,229.37	6 x 3	101,962.78	109,609.99	6.5 x 3	89,455.78	96,164.94	8 x 2	60,591.76	65,136.14
7 x 4	197,125.00	211,909.37	6.5 x 3	110,459.64	118,744.11	7 x 2	64,224.63	69,041.48	9 x 2	80,454.83	86,488.95
8 x 2	99,768.24	107,250.85	7 x 2	79,304.29	85,252.11	7 x 3	96,336.94	103,562.21	10 x 2	86,147.92	92,609.02
9 x 2	112,183.69	120,597.47	7 x 3	128,456.43	138,090.67	7 x 4	145,965.10	156,912.48	14.5 x 2	124,915.92	134,284.61
9 x 3	168,358.90	180,985.39	7 x 4	158,608.73	170,504.38	7 x 5	182,500.19	196,187.71	5 x 3	56,804.77	61,065.13
10 x 3	187,065.45	201,095.35	7 x 5	198,260.25	213,129.77	8 x 2	73,399.58	78,904.54	6 x 3	68,170.86	73,283.67
14.5 x 2	260,395.00	279,924.62	8 x 2	90,633.42	97,430.92	8 x 3	125,871.78	134,674.05	7 x 3	79,526.68	85,491.18
8 x 4	199,536.48	214,501.71	8 x 3	135,950.22	146,146.48	8 x 4	167,043.40	179,022.80	8 x 3	103,375.58	111,130.80
9 x 4	224,478.54	241,314.43	8 x 4	181,266.93	194,841.95	8 x 5	208,805.79	224,469.23	6 x 4	100,634.10	110,944.41
10 x 4	299,302.72	321,752.57	8 x 5	226,238.74	254,477.52	8 x 6	250,284.32	269,111.09	7 x 4	120,404.56	129,434.90
14.5 x 4	520,790.19	559,849.45	8 x 6	271,900.48	292,008.02	9 x 2	93,773.60	100,872.44	8 x 4	137,692.17	148,019.082
7 x 5	218,243.02	234,629.74	9 x 2	101,962.78	109,609.99	9 x 3	141,108.54	151,691.68	10 x 4	172,301.37	185,224.22
8 x 5	299,304.72	321,752.57	9 x 3	152,944.01	164,414.81	9 x 4	187,921.52	202,015.71	14.5 x 3	187,057.43	201,086.73
8 x 6	359,165.65	386,103.08	9 x 4	203,925.29	219,219.69	9 x 5	281,288.07	303,022.10	14.5 x 4	249,838.03	268,575.88
9 x 5	404,061.37	434,365.97	9 x 5	305,373.04	328,276.02	9 x 6	337,805.68	363,141.11	7 x 5	141,001.98	161,793.93
10 x 5	448,957.08	482,628.86	9 x 6	367,065.92	394,595.86	10 x 3	156,602.81	168,348.02	8 x 5	172,116.65	185,025.40
11 x 5	493,852.78	530,891.74	10 x 3	169,651.36	182,375.21	10 x 4	208,808.58	224,469.23	9 x 6	278,649.91	299,548.66
9 x 6	484,873.39	521,239.16	10 x 4	226,258.00	243,176.28	10 x 5	325,815.11	349,966.25	11 x 5	295,636.20	317,808.91
10 x 6	538,748.49	579,154.53	10 x 5	354,037.54	380,590.16	10 x 6	390,978.13	420,320.48	11 x 6	340,573.10	340,466.08
11 x 6	592,622.16	637,068.82	10 x 6	424,845.04	456,708.42	11 x 5	358,396.62	385,276.37	HP7.25 X 6	218,226.87	234,593.89
HP 7.25 x 6	317,178.40	340,337.5	11 x 5	389,441.887	418,650.01	11 x 6	412,916.45	443,885.19	FP14.5 X 6	379,943.00	408,438.72
FP 14.5 x 6	560,500.00	602,537.50	11 x 6	447,303.49	480,851.24	14.5 x 2	151,178.45	162,516.84			
			14.5 X 2	197,128.09	211,912.70	14.5 x 4	362,827.71	390,039.79			
			14.5 X 4	394,256.19	423,825.40	HP7.25 X 6	246,131.63	264,591.50			
			14.5 X 5	472,286.06	507,707.52	14.5 X 5	431,525.39	463,889.79			
			HP7.25 X 6	269,191.05	289,380.38	FP14.5 X 5	423,373.39	455,126.39			
			FP 14.5 X 6	460,275.00	594,225.62	Double Spread Half Page	832,371.68	894,805.68			
						Double Spread Full Page	1,334,669.15	1,434,769.344			

SPECIAL POSITIONS

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Earpiece Front Page 1x2	201,875.00	217,015.62	Page 8 (Full Page)	750,000.00	806,787.50
Earpiece Front Page 2x2	403,750.00	434,031.25	Page 9 (Full Page)	674,500.00	725,087.00
Earpiece Front Page 3x2	593,750.00	638,281.25	Wrap around 1 Front Strip 1 Back Strip 4 Full Page Pull Out	25,650,000.00	27,573,750.00
Earpiece Back Page 2x2	409,687.50	440,414.06	4x6 Front Page	5,187,000.00	5,576,025.00
Earpiece Back Page 3x2	628,187.50	675,301.56	6x6 Front Page	6,982,500.00	7,506,187.50
Inside Earpiece 2x2	199,500.00	214,462.50	7x6 Front Page	9,975,000.00	10,723,220.00
Inside Earpiece 3x2	285,000.00	307,325.00	10x6 Front Page	14,250,000.00	15,318,750.00
Centre Spread	1,795,500.00	1,930,162.50	FP (Strip) 2x6	641,891.25	690,033.09
Double Spread	1,558,000.00	1,674,850.00	BP (Strip) 2x6	625,452.64	670,319.08
Centre Spread (HP)	1,017,063.80	1,093,343.59	Back Page 10x6	5,320,000.00	5,782,750.00
Double Spread (HP)	741,000.00	796,575.00	ROP 2x12	771,400.00	829,255.00
Page 2 (Full Page)	1,420,250.00	1,526,768.75	ROP (Strip) 2x6 Colour	266,000.00	285,950.00
Page 3 (Full Page)	1,311,000.00	1,409,325.00	ROP (Strip) 2.6 (B/W)	717,000.00	783,825.00
Page 4 (Full Page)	1,187,500.00	1,276,562.50	3x6 Front Page	1,140,000.00	1,225,500.00
Page 5 (Full Page)	1,064,000.00	1,143,800.00	2x6 Under Mast Head	3,990,000.00	4,289,250.00
Page 6 (Full Page)	940,500.00	993,937.50	12x2 Front Page	4,788,000.00	5,147,100.00
Page 7 (Full Page)	817,000.00	878,275.00			

LOOSE INSERT ADVERTS

Handling Charge	95,000.00
RATE PER 1,000 COPIES	
SINGLE	19,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	38,000.00
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS	
Technical Data	
Number of Columns	- Six (06)
Full Page Depth	- 14.5 inches
Full Page Width	- 10 3/8 inches
Print Process	- Web Offset Litho
OPTIONS FOR ADVERT MATERIAL	
COPY DATE	
WITHIN ABUJA	- 5 Days prior to publication
OUTSIDE ABUJA	- 7 Days prior to publication
CANCELLATION	
Cancellation will only be accepted stated in writing at least five working days before publication.	
Note: Late Cancellation of Advert will Attract 40% Penalty	
For more information, contact: The Advertisement Department, THE TRUMPET Head Office: 506 Oladipo Diya Street, Abuja, FCT. www.thetrumpet.ng, Email: info@elomazmedia.com Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368	



FAO, WHO task Nigeria on hygienic food, agric sector

Stories by **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) have called for the need to improve hygienic practices in the food and agriculture sector of the country's economy.

Head of Mission and Representative of WHO in Nigeria, Dr. Walter Mulombo, who made this known at the commemoration of the 2022 World Food Safety Day in Abuja recently with the theme: Safety Food, Better Health, said the effects of food safety incidents were capable of inducing global negative effect

on public health, trade and the economy of nations.

Mulombo, who was represented by the Deputy Country Representative of WHO, Alexander Chimber, canvassed the need to encourage positive practices that would reduce the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance on the food chain.

"There is no food security without food safety and in a world where the food supply chain has become more complex, the effect of food safety incident may have global negative effects on public health, trade and the economy.

"Nigeria needs to continually

improve its food supply chains to prevent infectious and toxic hazards, microbial pathogens, chemical residues bio-toxins and other toxic substances from getting into our food," he said.

He, however, said the WHO would continue to support Nigeria in ensuring operationalisation of National Food Safety Policy and Implementation of guidelines working with FAO and other United Nation's (UN) agencies.

In his remarks, FAO Representative for Nigeria and the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero, said effective food safety was imperative.



Dr. Walter Mulombo

PenCom tasks employers on prompt remittance of employee contributions

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

National Pension Commission (PenCom) has charged employers to ensure timely remittance of employees' contributions to attain a smarter pension industry.

Director-General of PenCom, Aisha Dahir-Umar, stated this at the 2022 Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers Employers' Forum with the theme: *Pension Smart: Equipping Employees For a Better Future* held in Lagos.

The PenCom boss, who was represented by at the event by the Head, South West Zonal Office of PenCom, Babatunde Alayande, said for pensions to be smart and equip employees for a better future, employers were expected to ensure the remittance of pension contributions of employees into their Retirement Savings Account (RSAs) within seven days of payment of salaries.

"The Pension Reform Act (PRA 2014), stipulates that pension contributions are expected to be remitted into the RSAs of employees within seven days of salary payment," he said.

According to him, for pension to be smart employers, are also expected to open nominal retirement savings account for employees, who failed to open their retirement savings accounts and once the nominal RSA is opened on behalf of such employees, the employer should start remitting pension contribution into that nominal RSA until such employees open their RSAs.

"Pension will be smart if the employers also provide a Group Life Insurance cover for all its employees to take care of any risk that may arise especially following the demise of any worker. Pension can only be smart if an employer, who does not open or makes provision for Group Life Insurance cover, can also make an alternative arrangement by which insurance claims can be paid, this is also allowable," he explained.

Speaking further, Alayande said: "For the proper administration of this pension system to be smarter, there were provisions in the PRA 2014 that makes it mandatory for pension laws in Nigeria to be repealed periodically in order to accommodate the major dynamics in the operating environment.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers, Olumide Oyetan, urged employers to put in place a robust retirement benefits scheme for their employees.

He said having a robust retirement benefits scheme in an organization, demonstrates the employer's commitment to the future of its employees and this, in turn, improves employees' loyalty and productivity.

NDIC restates commitment to financial stability banking sector



Bello Hassan

Managing Director of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Bello Hassan, has declared that the corporation will continue to monitor the banking sector to address the challenges being faced in the financial sector.

Hassan stated this at a retreat for members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other financial institutions with the NDIC at the weekend.

At the event with the theme: *Deposit Insurance In Nigeria: Re-Strategising For Tomorrow*, held in Lagos, Hassan, who was represented by the corporation's Executive Director in charge of Operations, Mustapha Ibrahim, stressed that effective risk-based management remained a crucial issue in the banking sector.

"The NDIC and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have a robust supervisory framework

under the risk-based approach is actually proactive. For the most part, we try to anticipate all these risks, macro, micro, domestically and globally to continuously address them.

"So, it is so dynamic that we also are constantly on a real-time basis, monitoring the industry continuously and fine-tuning both onsite and off-site supervisory tools to mitigate some of the challenges the banks may be facing," he stressed.

He further stated that he was happy that the Nigerian banking industry was at the moment quite resilient to most of the changes, particularly external shocks, which the corporation could not do anything about, adding: "We have tried to immunise the system to withstand shocks that may be impacting on the economy and the financial systems."

Speaking, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions, Uba Sani, said the retreat demonstrated the progress made in forging a sustainable and workable relationship in the overall interest of the country.

"The National Assembly and the NDIC are key institutions critical to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy. While we provide the legal and institutional frameworks, NDIC carries out its regulatory or supervisory responsibilities in order to safeguard the Nigerian banking sector.

"Engagements of this nature provide us the platform to deeply look into our activities and responsibilities and also examine how far we have gone in carrying out our mandate as required," he said.

NLC urges FG to compel Abia, Cross River, others to implement new minimum wage

Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has appealed to the Federal Government to compel the governors of Abia, Cross River, Zamfara and Taraba states owing the national minimum wage, to implement the scheme for their workers without further delay.

President of NLC, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, made the appeal at the recently concluded 110th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wabba stated this while giving an update on issues affecting the Nigerian workers to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) committee of experts on the application of conventions and recommendations.

The Trumpet learnt that once a country ratified an ILO convention, it is required to report regularly on measures taken towards its implementation, pointing out that four of the 36 states of the federation have yet to commence or implement the national minimum wage since

2019 when the Federal Government began implementation of the wage in the country.

He insisted that the minimum wage was a covenant and convention, which the Nigerian government had ratified, adding: "In 2019, the minimum wage was enacted, but as I speak, four states have not implemented it. The states are Taraba, Abia, Zamfara and Cross River.

"They have not commenced the implementation of the minimum wage and this is an infraction on the law. So, under the convention, the Federal Government has the obligation to

compel those states to implement this very important convention because we have ratified it," he said.

Wabba added that the ILO constitution required that Nigeria as a country must report progress made on the important convention as a result of the committee of experts, noting that the four states had violated the law and the convention.

"The Federal Government needs to call the four states to order and ask them to implement the national minimum wage for workers in their states without further delay," he said.



Comrade Ayuba Wabba

Nigeria Customs Service intercepts N1.48b goods

Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Seme Border Command, has intercepted 139 cartons of expired soft drinks and other contraband goods valued at N1.48 billion from smugglers.

The Command also seized 315, 950 litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), popularly known as petrol, being

smuggled to Benin Republic from Nigeria.

Area Controller of the command, Mohammed Jibo, said the suspected smugglers were arrested in connection with some of the interceptions, noting that the seized petroleum

products would be auctioned in line with the standard operating procedure of perishable items.

Jibo said that the service impounded 100 cartons of Tramadol, 120 milligrams, 2.8 kilograms and 306 parcels of cannabis sativa and 132 packets of Tramadol capsules.

NEPC, First Bank empower 80 women entrepreneurs in Sokoto on exports

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) in collaboration with First Bank of Nigeria Limited has commenced the training of 80 women entrepreneurs in modern export skills in Sokoto State.

Head, Trade Promotion Advisor of NEPC, Sokoto Office, Ahmed Yahaya, who disclosed this at the inauguration of the training exercise in Sokoto, urged women entrepreneurs to register with the council to

stand the chance of benefiting from the available opportunities.

On his part, representative of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Limited, Ahmed Sule, said the bank would provide soft loans for women entrepreneurs, particularly those keen on pursuing export businesses.

He said the NEPC has finalised agreement to facilitate a deal with his bank to encourage businesses in the North West to present their products for export, provided they meet the standards and criteria set out by the council and the

National Agency for Food, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

He noted that the council in partnership with First Bank would assist in promoting goods at international markets for proper marketing, adding that the gesture would accelerate non-oil exports and facilitate sustainable socio-economic development in the country.

An entrepreneur and social development expert, Ambassador Nafisa Abubakar-Zaki, urged the women to maximise and explore their potential, as well

as the abundant human and natural resources in the region.

In her presentation titled: Export Potential For Women, Abubakar-Zaki, said trade enhances opportunities for everyone regardless of gender or background to excel in their businesses.

Abubakar-Zaki, who dwelled extensively on the successes and challenges of her company, Zaki

Germes General Services Limited, urged women to discard social and cultural impediments to enable them to improve their lives.

Also speaking, a Canada-based entrepreneur, Kemi Amusan, urged the participants to concentrate on the training exercise and emulate other successful women in their various chosen business endeavours.

AIICO restates commitment to robust annuity services

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

AIICO Insurance Plc has restated its commitment to providing robust annuity services that will meet customers' expectations and drive the growth of insurance in the country.

Managing Director of AIICO, Babatunde Fajemirokun, stated this at the third edition of AIICO Annual Media Training organised for journalists in Lagos.

Fajemirokun, represented by the Head, Strategic Marketing and Communications, Segun Olalandu, said AIICO Insurance was doing everything possible to deepen annuity business to take advantage of its inherent opportunities.

The AIICO Insurance boss, who described annuity business as a game changer for everybody, said the insurer remained committed to a robust and effective annuity service, noting that a lot still needed to be done to deepen the underwriting business in Nigeria, adding: "We are not there yet, but step by step, we will get there."

While stressing the importance of the collaboration between AIICO Insurance and the National Association of Insurance and Pension Correspondents (NAIPCO), he said: "Our partnership with journalists, especially in respect of today's training on annuity is an indication of our commitment to the growth of this business."

He said AIICO has strategically repositioned the Annuity department for effectiveness and growth.

While thanking NAIPCO members for their supports so far, he charged them to make good use of the training to enrich their knowledge on annuity, share their experiences 'so that when you are reporting on the subject matter, you will be able to tell the stories accurately.'

Speaking on the training with the theme: Understanding Annuity Business, Senior Manager, Business Development at AIICO Insurance, Victor Owotorose stressed the importance and benefits of annuity to clients and the growth of insurance industry.

He explained that annuities are insurance contracts that promise to pay you regular income immediately or in the future.

According to him, a deferred annuity has an accumulation phase followed by a disbursement (annuitisation) phase; while an

immediate annuity converts a lump sum into cash flows from day one.

Owotorose said annuity can be bought with either a lump sum or a series of payments contributed over time, adding that, annuities come in three main varieties-fixed, variable and indexed, each with its own level of risk and payout potentials.

The income received from an annuity, he said, is typically taxed at regular income tax rates which are usually lower unlike when calculated with long-term capital gains rates.

He defined annuity as a contract between you and an insurance company in which you make a lump-sum payment or series of payments and in return, receive regular disbursements, beginning either immediately or at some point in the future. The goal of an annuity is to provide a steady stream of income, typically during retirement.

"Most aspects of an annuity can be tailored to specific needs of the buyer. In addition to choosing between a lump-sum payment or series of payments to the insurer, clients can choose when they want to annuitise their contributions to start receiving payments. An annuity that begins paying out immediately is referred to as an immediate annuity, while one that starts at a predetermined date in the future is called a deferred annuity."

"The duration of the disbursements can also vary, as clients can choose to receive payments for a specific period of time, such as 25 years or for life. Of course, securing a lifetime of payments can lower the amount of each check, but it helps ensure that they don't outlive their assets, which is one of the main selling points of annuities.

"Annuities come in three main varieties: Fixed, variable and indexed. Each type has its own level of risk and payout potential. For any of these, it is often structured as a deferred annuity," he explained.

Earlier in his opening remarks, NAIPCO Chairman, Chuks Udo Okonta, commended AIICO for the continued sponsorship of the training, which he said, was the third in the series.

Chuks, said NAIPCO will maximise the knowledge gained at the training to enrich the content of their reports and articles.



Chairperson, Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) Diversity Sectoral Working Group (SWG), Mrs. Alero Onosode (left); Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, Chairperson, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Senator Margery Chuba-Okadigbo, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Simbi Wabote and a member of NNPC board, Mrs. Lami Ahmed, at the Nigeria Women in Oil and Gas Conference 2022 in Lagos... yesterday.

Nova Merchant Bank to host audit executives of financial institutions

Nova Merchant Bank, a leading Merchant Bank in Nigeria, will host the 52nd quarterly General Meeting of the Association of Chief Audit Executives of Banks (ACAEB) on June 23, 2022 at the Oriental Hotel in Lagos.

The meeting tagged: The Future Of Internal Audit In An Increasingly Digital World, will bring together auditors and other stakeholders in the banking industry, including law enforcement agencies to deepen discussions on the need to create more innovative processes and formulation for internal auditors to succeed in the ever-evolving technology landscape.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Nova Merchant Bank Limited, Math Ude, who is the chief host of the event, said the bank remained committed to supporting initiatives aimed at easing business solutions and promoting digitisation in the country's financial sector.

His words: "I am particularly happy with the theme of the event, as the topic is apt and in line with the global trend of revolutionising the thinking and the future demands that auditors, who are now dealing with more advanced and more technical business processes, require

advanced technical Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills to engender increased value for their execution."

He further stressed that the vulnerability to financial losses and data compromises in the digital space had been a significant concern that required auditors to understand the digital processes and exposures banking businesses face.

Ude stressed the need for a new breed of internal auditors to move organisations forward in the digital world and that businesses, should of necessity, recognise and support the initiative, as auditors remain integral part of the workforce.

Also speaking, Uduak Nelson-Udoh, said the banking industry kept automating the delivery of its services in line with technological advancement and as such, auditors need to re-skill, up-skill and innovate to enable them to face the challenges of the times.

"Globally, banking services has been digitised and that the COVID-9 pandemic exposed and changed a lot of things in the way certain types of jobs are being done. Banks especially are embracing remote work and as such, the need to open new physical branches is beginning

to dwindle and no longer cost-effective.

"The new development has posed a serious challenge to auditors with the attendant risks to businesses," he said.

He added that the topic could not have come at a better time and that it was important that auditors continue to review their methodology in line with emerging issues in the digital space to enable them to carry out their functions effectively.

The Trumpet learnt that auditors were not like by many bank's employees who see their functions as being too overbearing.



Math Ude

Concerns mount over wrecks under sea

Stories by **ADAKU WALTER**

There are growing concerns over 3, 000 identified wrecks and wastes littering the nation's waterways threatening maritime transportation, which seems to have been abandoned after several interventions to remove them from the waters.

Consequences of wrecks and debris have been traced to the several maritime accidents that involved human casualties and businesses, which come with huge costs to the ocean and other water channels.

Other consequences of wreck-ages include danger to navigation of vessels along the channels, damage and degradation from oil leakages of abandoned vessels, which cause additional risks of pollution from chemicals and hazardous materials on-board wrecked ships.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) had mandated coastal states to, as a matter of responsibility, urgently remove the wreckage from its waterways.

It adopted the Nairobi International Convention on Removal of Wreckages 2007, which states, among other things that: "Pursuant to the draft convention, the coastal states will have the powers to order the removal of wrecks outside their territorial waters."

However, Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Jamoh, in one of his articles published a national daily, argued that various efforts to remove such wreckages from the nation's waterways have not been successful over the years and that the challenge has not been thoroughly addressed

He said the situation had remained so because the agencies mandated to carry out the responsibility according to their individual statutes, including NIMASA, the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) have acted alone over time, resulting in lack of coordination of activities in the discharge of the common responsibility.

This followed 10 months after the NIMASA commenced the removal of critical wreckages from Tin Can and Badagry waters in Lagos, but since then, there has not been any other removal of debris in spite of the high expectations that greeted the ceremony.

NIMASA, NPA, NIWA and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) had last year, started the first phase of the National Wreck Removal Exercise to rid the nation's waterways of over 3,000 identified wrecks

and wastes.

Tagged the wreck removal and recycling market exercise, it was estimated at N30 billion and was segmented into four phases namely: The Badagry-Tin-Can Island axis, Western Zone, Eastern Zone with headquarters in Port Harcourt and Central Zone in Warri, Delta State.

Jamoh had also said the agency would issue marine notices to the owners of abandoned vessels on the waterways to evacuate them, noting that failure to do so after the expiration of the timeline, NIMASA would then move in to remove, auction and recycle them.

But as of the time of writing this report, this has not been the case, as several abandoned shipwrecks and barges litter the Lagos waterways and other coastlines across the country, without efforts to remove them.

It was also earlier reported

that most abandoned fishing trawlers and barges were littering the Kirikiri Lighter Terminal (KLT) waterfronts in Lagos, thereby constituting danger for moving craft along the waterways, which is home to a large volume of cargoes from the Lagos Ports Complex (LPC) and Tin Can Island Port Complex (TCIPC).

Investigation also revealed that most of the vessels have been deliberately abandoned for about a decade, while others have been on the same spot for years due to court injunctions. Others were moved there for repairs, maintenance and detention by regulatory authorities.

Sources disclosed that some of the vessels had been left on the same spot and that no organisation or individual had questioned their being abandoned, a situation, they said posed serious danger to aquatic



Dr. Bashir Jamoh

life and navigation of smaller boats, despite the presence of NIMASA on the Kirikiri Lighter Terminals waterways.

It was also discovered that several efforts to contact the government agencies on the need to evacuate some of the critical wrecks along the waterways were ignored.

Another challenge remains the patrol gunboats in the fleet of Global West Vessels Specialists (GWVS), NIMASA/Barugu, which were acquired 10 years ago but sank on April 3, 2022 at the Kirikiri Terminal.

The boats had since remained in the water, as the Assistant Director, Public Relations of NIMASA, Osagie Edward, revealed that it had been a subject of litigation with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), thereby adding to the number of wrecks in the waterways.

'Nigeria's Port Community System project to be completed in 2023'

Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko, has disclosed that the Port Community System, a Single Window Information Technology (IT) platform being developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in collaboration with the NPA has reached its second phase and nearing completion and deployment by 2023.

Bello-Koko stated this when IMO Consultants visited the NPA on an assessment tour at the authority at its Corporate Headquarters in Marina, Lagos.

The IMO consultants have been in the country for over 10 days to understudy the automation platforms at various government agencies, including the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) with a view to harmonising them under a single port community system.

Bello-Koko, commended the IMO team for their painstaking

efforts at reaching out to all designated agencies and stakeholders and understudying their systems in order to ensure a seamless integration into one port community system, which has become the global practice among most maritime nations of the world.

The NPA helmsman, who stated that digitising the port processes was a priority, said the Port Community System is a platform where everyone could plug in to reduce human interface, improve port efficiency and block leakages.

He pointed out that the IMO initiated a regulation that stipulates that every port should be fully automated by 2025, but the NPA has set 2023 as its target to fully automate the Nigerian ports system.

He said the port community

system will not do away with e-Customs or other platforms that stakeholders in the port have, rather it would complement them, adding: "The IMO is funding part of the project and the first phase of the meeting was held virtually. The IMO consultants are in Nigeria and they are currently in Lagos for a 10-day on-the-spot assessment after which they go and come back for the final part."

Bello-Koko, who disclosed that the final part will be funded by the NPA and that on the return of the IMO consultants, they would visit other ports in the country, noted that the system would be a game-changer for the country as it would reduce wastages, waiting time of vessels and make the ports competitive.

"It is something that has been deployed in other parts of the

world but we do not have it in Nigeria. We will do whatever it takes to make provision for it in our 2022 budget," he added.

Providing an insight on how far both organisations have gone with the process, Bello-Koko said the IMO consultants were also visiting the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and other stakeholders to assess the kind of IT deployment at the agencies.

He said by so doing, the IMO will be able to develop a port community system that will be robust, all-encompassing and bring everybody on board, adding: "This may be the foundation that will lead to the setting up of the National Single Window, which is a requirement for modern port operations that enable trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

Customs agents caution against effect of 15% levy on used vehicles

Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) has warned that the effect of the 15 per cent National Automotive Council (NAC) policy on imported used vehicles will begin to manifest in the next quarter of 2022.

Acting President of ANLCA, Kayode Farinto, maintained that the cost of clearing used vehicles has increased in an unprecedented manner and might produce negative consequences.

Speaking during the association's National Executive Council's (NEC) meeting in Lagos, Farinto said although tariff provisions in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) empower member nations to introduce Import Adjustment Tax (IAT), it should be fair, especially for locally made commodities and products.

"The tax is meant to protect local manufacturers. The question yet to be answered is whether the Federal Government is manufacturing used vehicles locally?"

"Act No.6 of 2014 is very clear on the introduction of NAC levy on fully built imported new vehicles. We woke up to see that the Federal Government had migrated to ECOWAS Tariff, which states that for raw materials the rate of duty should be five per cent, semi-finished products 10 per cent, while used vehicles should attract 20 per cent.

"And government realised that it must introduce additional charges on imported used vehicles, now slammed 15 per cent on all used vehicles and tagged it NAC levy. When the government saw that it was obvious that it could not defend its action, it changed

the levy to 15 per cent.

"The spiral effect of the levy is unprecedented, as clearing of used vehicles has skyrocketed and its spiral effect will begin to manifest in the next quarter of 2022," he said.

Farinto maintained that several efforts have been made to resolve the problems, among which are paying visit to the National Assembly and the Federal Ministry of Finance to make the executive arm of government act reasonably on the need to ameliorate the sufferings of Nigerians by reducing the levy to five per cent, if it will not be completely scrapped.

He said the Council for the Regulations of Freight Forwarding (CRFFN) has directed the Registrar to engage the Federal Ministry of Finance on the issue as a matter of urgency to ensure the suspension of the NAC levy.



Mohammed Bello Koko

Colleges of education lecturers begin strike

Stories by **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**
Education Correspondent

A one-month strike, effective Tuesday 14th of June, has been called by National Executive Council of the Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union.

This was contained in a communique signed by COEASU President, Dr. Smart Olugbeko and General Secretary, Dr. Ahmed Bazza Lawan, respectively.

The Union made the decision after a meeting at the Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba, Delta State, on Friday, June 10, where it assessed the level of federal government's response to its requests, following the expiration of the 21-day ultimatum issued to government on the lingering issues of the industrial concerns.

The Union is operating under the umbrella of Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union, COEASU. Like other tertiary institution-based unions, the union had requested that the federal government attend to its demands.

The union said it is disappointed with the continued inaction of the government on the lingering issues despite the union's perseverance since the last strike action was suspended in December 2018.

COEASU hereby called on its members to resume the strike action suspended by the Union in December 2018 for four weeks, adding that the strike action shall include all members of the academic staff in all Colleges of Education both Federal and State.

The union further stated that after the four weeks of strike action, NEC shall reconvene to re-assess the level of the Government's commitment on the issues for an appropriate decision.

Among other things, COEASU is accusing the government of failing to constitute its team, and begin renegotiation of the FGN-COEASU 2010 agreement, Non-release of N15billion approved, out of the N456Billion revitalization fund recommended for both Federal and State Colleges of Education contrary to repeated promises of the government, insistence on Integrated Payroll and Personnel information system (IPPIS) against University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS) and the non-implementation of 2014 Needs assessment report in colleges of education.

Others demands include Non-payment of outstanding promotion arrears from 2016 to date, non-payment of responsibility allowance to Librarian in colleges of education, Non-implementation of the consequential effect of the implementation of CONTISS15 on Lower Cadre (a.k.a. Migration) since 2018.

COEASU strike is also due to poor funding of colleges of education and poor conditions across state-owned colleges of education especially in Ogun, Kwara, Abia, Kogi, Kaduna, Zamfara, Yobe, Oyo, Benue, Edo and Ebonyi states.

Varsity fires two dons over academic fraud

By **GABRIEL ELOZINO**, Asaba

Delta State University of Science and Technology (DSUST), Ozoro, has fired two of its lecturers over alleged sundry academic frauds.

The lecturers' sack was contained in the university's official bulletin dated Friday, June 10, 2022, with the title: "False claims of research drone fabrication, fraudulent Computerised Based Examination (CBE), extortion, embezzlement and falsification of students' results."

It states that the university's

Governing Council approved the sack at its 3rd regular meeting held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

The two lecturers, Dr. Bassy A. Ekanem and Dr. Jacob A. Meye were found guilty based on the recommendations of the staff disciplinary committee of the Council and dismissed with immediate effect. The institution's bulletin reads in part "It would be recalled that they were involved in the fraudulent researched drone fabrication, plagiarism, false claim of ownership of patented

drone, fraudulent failed Computer Base Examination (CBE), money extortion, embezzlement and falsification of student's result.

"Consequently, they were found guilty of gross misconduct, arising from the monumental fraud in the projects indicated above, they have been dismissed from the services of the University.

"The above is for the information of the general public, especially the university community, and it is expected that this would serve as a deterrent to others."



Students playing at the Chess Ground situated within the learning space.

Obaseki rallies stakeholders as Edo develops policy on science, innovation

Governor Godwin Obaseki is desirous of moving Edo State forward in science and innovation.

In this vein, on Tuesday, he brought together stakeholders in the science and technology space to develop the state's policy on science, technology and innovation, in line with the government's Making Edo Great Again (MEGA) Agenda.

The stakeholder's interactive session is expected to take place between Tuesday, June 14, 2022, and Friday, June 17, 2022, with the theme, "Arousing the collective views of all for sustainable Science, Technology and Innovation Policy," at the John Odigie Oyegun Public Service Academy, in Benin City.

Stakeholders at the interactive session include representatives of the Benin branch of the Bank of Industry (BoI) and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); staff and management of the University of Benin (UNIBEN) and University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH); Welders' Union; the management of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC); Science Teachers Association of Nigeria; Mathematical Association of Nigeria; Heads of

Administration of Various Local Government Areas; Permanent Secretaries, and Commissioners, among others.

Declaring the session open, Governor Obaseki said his government is promoting innovation and deploying technology to drive sustainable growth and development.

He expressed confidence that the deliberation with the stakeholders will provide guidelines, insights and valuable inputs to properly position the state for an industrial revolution, driven by science, technology and innovation.

Obaseki said, "Life is science and science is the beginning of our life. Science is about technology and we have used technology to drive our administration.

"In the education sector, we have, through our EdoBEST programme, demonstrated that technology is a catalyst to improve learning for our children. Today, I can monitor the activities of teachers in the state through technology.

"My administration has trained over 15,000 teachers, equipping them with tablets to help improve the learning

of our children," he added.

The governor further noted, "Our goal in Edo is that, within the next five years, we would produce nothing less than 5,000 trained software engineers.

"We are also an electricity hub as we operate the CCETC-Ossimo Power Plant in the state and we will improve on it. If anybody will get it right in Nigeria, it's Edo State.

"The outcome of this deliberation will capture the hopes, aspirations, and yearning of all stakeholders as we pursue our dreams of making Edo State great again," Obaseki said.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Bartholomew Brai, thanked the governor for his commitment to driving industrialization in the state through science, technology and innovation.

"Science, technology and innovation are recognized globally as key drivers of change and development and fuel advancement that move the world forward. The potentials are unquantifiable and if properly harnessed, translate to rapid economic revolution which we are looking forward to in Edo State."

USA Consulate opens engagement space at National Museum, Lagos to promote learning

United States government says it is committed to supporting initiatives that promote learning, provide students the opportunity to share ideas in an engaging environment, and promote cultural preservation efforts.

Consequently, Acting Consul General James Suor and Director-General of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Prof. Abba Tijani launched the U.S. Public Diplomacy Engagement Space at the National Museum Lagos. They were joined by Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Dr. Aina Ayoola.

Suor applauded the opening as another innovative project of the United States government in Nigeria that will facilitate learning in an engaging environment for students.

"This modern educational space will stimulate curiosity in the minds of children, support learning, facilitate reflection and promote common ideals between the United States and Nigeria."

"The space will also promote shared values of democracy and encourage robust people-to-people ties," Suor said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Suor praised Pearl Recycling, a non-profit waste recycling organization founded by Olamide Ayeni-Babajide, an alumna of the U.S. government-sponsored TechWomen program for working with the U.S. Consulate to create the innovative space.

He explained that the U.S. government-funded programs have been of immense benefit to the people of Nigeria, boosting intellectual and cross-cultural capital, and have also become catalysts for professional alumni networks that help address global challenges.

He noted that the recent upgrade of the Old Residency Museum Archive in Calabar with a digital conferencing facility and open space for educational events and the newly opened learning space at the National Museum in Lagos are important additions to the ongoing efforts of the U.S. government to support Nigerian museums and the preservation of Nigerian cultural heritage.

"Since the inception of the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation program, Nigeria has received 10 grants worth \$1 million with projects spread across the country, and these preservation projects benefit both future generations and the growth of the tourism industry," Suor said.

In his remarks, Prof. Abba Tijani applauded the United States government's commitment to empowering young people through innovative learning spaces and preserving Nigeria's cultural heritage. "This space is a world-class space and will provide people the opportunity to engage and learn, and also visit the newly renovated permanent exhibition at the national museum where we keep the cultural artifacts for posterity."

Mimi Orjiekwe: From runway to screen goddess

Light-skin actress, Mimi Orjiekwe, needs no introduction in the industry. For someone who stormed it after appearances in beauty pageants, stardom was no longer new to her as she came into the industry in 2010 and ever since she has featured in countless movies making her one of the most sought after actresses. Mimi, in this chat with OMONIYI ALLI, takes us through her sojourn into modelling, acting and fashion among others.

How was the transition from the runway to television screen?

They are all different forms of entertainment and I have a passion for entertainment. If you love entertainment, you would want to do anything in this field. They are all in the same circle, and they are not really different. I would say that the major difference between the two is that acting is more emotional, you have to express yourself while acting but when it comes to beauty pageantry, you just have to walk pass people, make sure you do not fall and impress them.

How did you find yourself in the world of beauty pageantry?

Being a beautiful girl, a lot of modeling agency approached me to join their agency. A family friend of mine, Temitayo, convinced me to give it a shot. He told me that I could be a part of the beauty pageantry world and I would excel so I pick a form, competed and I won. That was the beginning. After then, I was invited to be a part for some advertising campaign but it was never my turf or what I wanted to do on life.

Since it was fetching you money why didn't you stick to it?

When I was growing up, I never really had a clear cut idea as to what career path I wanted to toe in life. As a matter of fact, I always wanted to be a



lawyer but when modeling and acting came, I dropped that idea. You do not know what God has in plans for you because I was supposed to be studying law but it did not work out for me. I had to offer some acting course and

when I got the opportunity to become an actress I embraced it because I love the limelight.

Has your beauty ever worked against you?

It has opened a lot of doors for me but it can also make people upset at you. If someone thinks you are beautiful and feel you don't have their time or refuse to do their bidding, they get upset and I lose out. It has happened several times. It is one of the challenges of being beautiful. If you need a favour from a man, he would believe it is the right time to make advances at you.

You won the pageant in 2009 but you have not changed much. How have you been able to maintain your physique?

It is hard to stay in shape because as you grow you tend to eat more food and if you do not exercise regularly it would be difficult to keep your shape. Whenever I see any girl who is in shape I always give her kudos because it means she really worked hard. Sometimes I grow bigger and other times I am slimmer but I work out a lot and I watch what I eat. However, I have come to realize that it is not about what you eat but the hormones in you. If you want to remain beautiful and keep fit, you have to work hard. One has to work out daily, watch what you eat, embark on regular diets, and maintain your physique.

You seem not to have any tattoos?

I cannot draw anything on my body. Sometimes I say that my body is like a Ferrari or a Bentley. You will never see anyone write things on such exotic cars.

I keep clean, I don't want any tattoo on my body because I do not need all that. I think if I inscribe something on my body, at a point, I might not want it any more so I don't want to do something I would want to remove later in life.

How about extra body piercing?

I come from a very humble Christian background. It is not like there is anything wrong with extra body piercing but I grew up knowing my mother did not have an extra piercing on her body. She is my role model and I do not want to do anything she did not do. As the only daughter in my family, my mother is the only one I look up to. I learnt how to carve my

eye brows from her. She did not have an extra piercing. I learnt from her. When I grew up and saw that my friends had multiple ears piercing, I liked it at a point but I made a decision not to indulge in it.

What would you never be caught wearing?

I can wear anything but I would never be naked.

Why don't you like using accessories?

I am a very simple person. I like accessories and I use them sometimes but they make you look overdressed. Sometimes you have to know what you are wearing so that you do not over use accessories.

How often do you visit spas?

I do that most times when I travel. I also pamper myself when I see that I am stressed out. It is not an everyday thing.



Relationship

Ingredients to spice up your relationship

By OLIVIA OGBONNA

Seeing what the relationship of this our century is turning into, where we tolerate ourselves then call it love, guys cheat on their girlfriends and vice versa. One could say to himself that we need help and healing, if I am permitted to use that, for a change of perspective about what truly a relationship is and suppose to look like, which drives us to the question of: How many of us are truly really happy in our relationship today? There have been numerous misconceptions about Nigerian relationships, from the men thinking all women are 'nags' and after 'money' to the women believing that all guys are cheats, liars with the list of others going on and on like that. But the truth still remains that though some of this believes/thoughts or misconceptions are true but none of the listed is 100% true, this been because it all depends on who YOU are dealing with and who you claim to be in love with. So today, we took it upon ourselves to highlight key ingredients of a happy Nigerian relationship.

1. Expect down times

The average Nigerian mentality is to stay positive and not realistic in trying times. Which is good; but, we you guys should expect that there would be down times in your relationship that would require you to build skills that would help you manage these difficulties. This is not the same as being paranoid or negative; it's similar to studying for an exam that has no fixed date yet. It just means that, there is time for everything and understand that nothing lasts. The beauty now reflects when, you are able to hold each other up when the down times come. That is where the real beauty is.

2. Honesty

First of all, let us establish the fact that there is nothing like a white lie, it is just a word coined to avoid hurting

people's feelings. A lie is a lie. And it should not be hidden from the light. When you tell a lie to your partner, it doesn't save the day, it postpones the 'truth day'. When in a relationship you need to be 100% truthful even when it hurts, let your yes be 'yes' and your no be 'no'. That is one of the strong relationship our older generation with happy relationships and long lasting relationships have understood. Honesty is a key to a

happier life. Be honest with yourself and your partner. It'll save you from a lot of trouble.

3. Compromise

Remember love brings two people with different ideologies, background, interests, and maybe religion together. The key word here is TOGETHER. It is no longer about 'you' alone or 'me' alone. It has now turned to be about the both of you. When a tough decision that involves the both of you arises, wear your grown up pants and meet each other in the middle and be done with it. Don't be selfish in your relationship. It is hurtful to the other party. They might not show it in the open, but in secret, it hurts. You should let that happen to your relationship.

4. Pay 100% attention

If you are in a serious/long term relationship, you would probably understand the urge to be taken seriously. Not many people do. People love to know that they are being heard, felt and understood. When in a relationship every detail is important, every complaint is 'doubling' important, especially when your significant other is particular about it. Note this there's a thin line between being attentive and being obsessive, you need to know your partner well. For my Fellas, your woman goes to make her hair or get her hair done, compliment her, compliment her dress, or her hair. Let her know that you have seen it

and you like and appreciate her for it. For my ladies, you man goes to get a new haircut, compliment him. Let him know that he looks more handsome. That way, both parties know that their partners are paying attention to them fully. This way, you guys are happier.

5. Never compare your relationship with another

This should be on the 'Never ever do this!' list. You should never compare your relationship to another relationship. Never. Never say "Look at John, he got this for his Sonia or look at Chioma she cooks daily for her boyfriend" Those statements are in all the shades of wrong there is. Comparisons in relationships have a way of making people feel less of themselves, incompetent and stupid; it leads to gradual withdrawal from both parties. When your significant other is not doing what you want or making you happy talk about it instead of nagging them about it. Put it out on the table in an understandable manner so that both of you can deal

it whatever it is.

6. Communication

Communication is a very vital and most important key to a healthy relationship. When issues arise between you and your partner, do not patch it, or make excuses for it or sleep over it; instead 'discuss it'. That you talk and have discussions with your significant other doesn't mean you are communicating. And please don't focus only on what they are saying, but also on what they are not saying. Sometimes the nonverbal signs tell you more than the verbal signs. And then don't forget to pay attention to body language. Whether it is coming from you partner or going out from you. Action they say, speaks louder than words.

I hope we have been helpful to you love birds out there. You should start making a checklist from given list above to be sure you are doing this right. Plus don't forget to share your thoughts to us on via entertainment@thetrumpet.ng





Bayern to launch third bid for Sadio Mane

Stories By **OVIRI KELVIN**,
Sports Editor, Abuja

Bayern Munich are set to turn full attention to sign Senegal star Sadio Mané from Liverpool this week.

The Bundesliga giant's two bids to land the player in Allianz Arena ahead of next season's campaign have been rejected by Liverpool.

Liverpool, rejecting both bids for the player, who has a year left in his contract like Egyptian Mohamed Salah, insisted that the player is worth about £40m.

According to emerging reports, Bayern sporting director, Hasan



Salihamidzic, stressed that within the week the Bundesliga giants will turn full attention to securing the services of Liverpool forward.

Meanwhile, Bild

reported that the Bayern are already preparing a third bid for Sadio Mané though it may not be up to the £40m value pegged by Liverpool on the player.

Bayern's new offer

which will be about €35m as initial payment plus €5m as add-ons according to Bild, will be handed to Liverpool 'quickly', in the hope of agreeing on a deal 'quickly'.

Burnley appoint Vincent Kompany as manager

Former Manchester City captain, Vincent Kompany, has been appointed as the new head coach of Burnley. The club sacked long-serving manager Sean Dyche in April after a streak of poor results.

Though Dyche's assistant Mike Jackson was appointed to oversee the squad and ensure he sustains their Premier League status, he fell into the deep with a 2-1 loss at Turf Moor to Newcastle to consign Claret's to English Championship football.

Burnley chairman Alan Pace has been on the watch for Kompany, who he

believes can turn the fortune of the club around to return to the English topflight football division.

Kompany, 36, was the former boss of Belgian club Anderlecht and guided the team to a top-three finish in the Belgian First Division A last season.

"Burnley is a truly historic English side and it is an honour to be appointed first-team manager," Kompany told Sky Sports.

"I'm excited by the challenge ahead.

"I'm looking forward to getting to work with the players and creating a positive, winning team for

our fans when we return to Turf Moor," he added.

Meanwhile, Claret's chairman Alan Pace has commended the signing of Kompany and stressed he is impressed with the plans the Belgian has for the club.

"Vincent is a proven leader and I've been very impressed with his ideas for Burnley, his appetite to succeed and his focus on leading the club back to the Premier League," Pace said.

Pace also noted that Kompany has rich credentials having managed Belgium's biggest teams to European tournaments and a Cup final last season.



Kwibuka T20: Nigeria lose to Kenya



Nigeria women's cricket team lost for the second consecutive time after Kenya defeated them on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at the Gahanga Cricket Stadium in the ongoing eighth edition of Kwibuka T20 in Kigali.

The Female Yellow Green started the tourney on a good note defeating Brazil, Germany and Botswana in the process but fell to Uganda and Kenya in to drop the percentage of the

games won to 60 per cent.

According to the results from the match, Kenya whose player, Qieentor Abel was named the player of the match with 47 off 50, defeated Nigeria with 42 runs to defend their 119.

However, Nigeria will endeavour to shrug off the defeat to rediscover their winning streak when they face Tanzania tomorrow, June 15, at the same venue.

Meanwhile, the Female

Yellow Green in their preceding encounter with Uganda on Sunday were defeated by 9 wickets to concede their first defeat in the tourney.

Following the defeat, head coach of the team, Leke Oyede praised the Female Yellow Greens adding that they stuck to his instruction.

Though he promised to win the match against Kenya, the team fell by 42 runs to the East African female cricket team.

FIFA bans Ivory Coast goalkeeper

Ivorian national team player Sylvain Gbohouo has been handed 18 months ban by the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) after he was found guilty of testing positive for trimetazidine.

In a report by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the substance is against the anti-doping law and also violates the WADA's list of prohibited substances.

Following the ruling, the Ivorian International suspension according to the Disciplinary Committee started from the day the

chairman of the committee issued him a suspension on December 23, 2021.

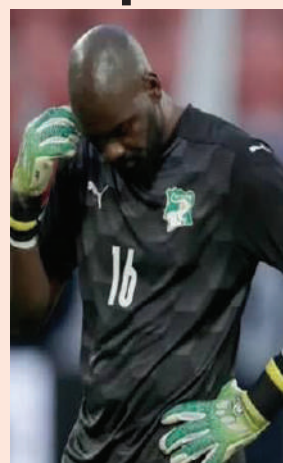
"As a result of the presence of the prohibited substance in his sample, the player was found to be in violation of article 6 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations as read in conjunction with article 17 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code," FIFA said.

"The aforementioned suspension period starts on 23 December 2021, the date on which the player was provisionally suspended by the chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

"In line with article 30 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the suspension covers, inter alia, all types of matches, including domestic, international, friendly and official fixtures," FIFA concluded.

Gbohouo, 33, on return to action probably in June 2023 after serving the ban which restricts him from all football-related activities, would have clocked 35.

He tested positive during a FIFA World Cup qualifying match on November 16, 2021. Consequently, Gbohouo who plays in Ethiopia for Wokite, missed the last AFCON.



'Inuwa committed to women's football development'

Aisha Folade has said the commitment of Alhaji Rabiu Inuwa, Chairman, Nigeria Football Federation's Referees Appointment Committee, to the development of the female leagues in the country is worthy of commendation.

Folade, chairperson of the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) noted that the standard of referees appointed to officiate female leagues in the country has helped to complement the successes recorded in the 2021-22 season.

According to her statement on Tuesday, Inuwa's contribution was greatly felt in the Super Six tourney held in Benin City where Bayelsa Queens lifted the trophy and promising football star, Monday Gift, emerged as the highest goalscorer.

"He was committed to the further development of women's football in Nigeria as he ensured that only the best sets of referees in the land were appointed to do all matches of the women's league," Folade said.

"The improved standard of play in the league was evident in the Super Six sponsored by Tulcan Energy Resources played in Benin City, as 90 per cent of Referees appointed for the crucial stage of the league were FIFA graded referees led by FIFA Women's World Cup, CAF Nations Cup and Olympic Football referee, Ms Ndidi Kanu, from Enugu state," She added.

Folade reminisced on the

successes recorded during the league season and believes the teams that qualified to represent the nation in WAFU B qualifiers and CAF Women's Champions League will do better than the previous season.

She continued: "And it was the same scenario during the regular season of the league, this made us achieve a one hundred per cent top of the shelf performance worthy of emulation by other women's football leagues across the continent.

"No doubt, we are hopeful that in this year's WAFU B qualifiers and the CAF Women's Champions League, the Nigerian representative, will do us proud in the 2022 edition compared to the country's performance last year," she envisaged.

Folade, however, remarked that Inuwa's contribution to ensuring a high standard of officiating was achieved in the Super Six tourney never went unnoticed as it spurred the NWFL to present a meritorious award to him at the final in Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, Benin, Edo State.



Inter-Chapel tourney, a game to remember - SWAN chairman

Chairman, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Kaduna chapter, Jacob Zango, said the maiden edition of the Inter-Chapel Games by Kaduna State Chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) will be an event to remember.

He made this statement on Monday after the inaugural ceremony of the five-man committee constituted to organise the event by the chairman NUJ chapter of Kaduna.

According to Jacob, head of the committee with Abdulwaheed Adubi as secretary, they will ensure they put in their best to make the maiden edition remarkable.

"I can assure you that we will give you the best, and games to remember for long," he said during the inauguration on behalf of the committee.

In her earlier remark, the chairman of NUJ Kaduna, Comrade Asmau Halilu, while inaugurating the committee pointed

out that the members of the committee have been selected based on their capacities.

Halilu stressed that the council expect a lot of accomplishments from the committee and promised that NUJ will be readily available to give full support to ensure they succeed.

"We expect a lot from you, in view of what we see as the capabilities of the members. Be assured that we will give you all the necessary support to deliver on this," Ms Halilu reiterated.

NUJ noted that the one-week event scheduled from June 25 to July 2 is expected to host several games like Scrabble, Ludo, Draughts, Table Tennis, Table Soccer and Ayoo.

The organisers of the event added that successful winners in different categories will be rewarded accordingly with prizes.

Other members of the quintuplet-committee are Bosan Yakusak, Mayen Etim and Ahmed Usman.

You're more than a teammate, Ronaldo tells Marcelo

Stories By **OVIRI KELVIN**,
Sports Editor, Abuja

Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo has commended Marcelo Vieira after the latter departed Real Madrid, bringing to an end 546 appearances for the Spanish league giants in grand style.

Marcelo signed for Real Madrid from Fluminense in 2007 and amassed a total of 25 trophies with Los Blancos to decorate his career with glamour.

Ronaldo eulogised the player as a teammate, who he said is a brother and added that their relationship spans beyond the field of play.

According to the Portuguese, who shared the same locker room with Marcelo, the Brazilian is one of the biggest stars he was happy to meet during his era at the Santiago Bernabeu.



He said, "More than a teammate, a brother that football gave me. On and off the fields, one of the biggest stars with whom I had the pleasure of sharing a locker room. Go with everything on this new adventure, Marcelo."

Meanwhile, Real Madrid have wished Marcelo a farewell after a 16-year spell at the club came to an end in June 2022.

In a statement by the club's president, Florentino

Perez, he stressed that Real Madrid are profoundly grateful for all that Marcelo, who rose to the rank of the captain, did for the club.

Perez's statement read in part: "We Madridistas are indebted to you for dedicating your heart and soul to every game. For that Brazilian talent and quality that have made you a unique player."

"For the way you are on the pitch and also in life. Your fantasy and your

happiness were always crucial for the team in achieving all its great success," he added.

However, the elated Marcelo thanked everyone in the club for allowing him to excel and share in the club's successes.

"We do what we love and we've got everything we need to be able to enjoy it. I've made history at the best club in the world and I want to thank everyone who forms part of it," he said.

Australia edge Peru, qualify for World Cup

Australia has qualified for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar after defeating Peru 5-4 on penalties in the Intercontinental playoff at Al Rayyan Stadium, Qatar.

Both teams played a barren draw resulting in penalties where goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne stopped Peru's last spot-kick taken by Alex Valera to earn a qualifying ticket to Qatar.

Redmayne was the hero for Socceroos that have always featured in the World Cup since their second appearance in 2006.

After the game, Australia coach Graham Arnold defended his decision to risk

Redmayne by substituting Matthew Ryan before the penalty kicks, saying he brought the 33-year-old goalie to upset the mentality of the Peruvians.

Arnold said, "He's a very good penalty saver and I did something that could affect them mentally."

"They were probably asking themselves the question, 'Why is this guy being brought on, he has to be good'."

"Maybe that was the reason they hit the post. It's a 1% mental effort to trouble the Peru penalty takers. It was a risk but it worked out," he added.

Following the victory against Peru to qualify for the World Cup in Qatar, it makes it the sixth time in history for Australia to feature in FIFA World Cup and the 5th time in succession after 2006's.

Reportedly, Australia becomes the thirty-first team to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup scheduled from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

Meanwhile, the three-caps goalie has played down the attribution that he only played according to the game plan.

He revealed that this kind of circumstance has been preempted to happen during

their preparation for the tourney in Qatar, reported BBC Sports.

He said, "This idea was floated pre-selection that this might eventuate in these kind of circumstances and for the two or three weeks we've been here [in Qatar], I've kind of had that in my mind."

"I've been working on a few things in training but at the end of the day it's a flip of the coin, it's either right or left."

"I'm no hero, I just played my role like everyone did tonight," he added.

Australia play their next match which is a friendly against New Zealand at Eden Park on 25 September, 2022.

How Haaland fulfilled boyhood dream

■ Signs five-year deal with Man City

Norway's striker Erling Haaland has completed a move to the Premier League champions Manchester City after months of speculation about the player's future away from Bundesliga.

His father also played for the club which he, as a boy, also dreamt of joining one day.

Haaland, who was highly courted by Barcelona and Real Madrid finally consented to move to England which will see the 21-year-old spur the campaign of Pep Guardiola's side to their first UEFA Champions League success.

In a statement to confirm the agreement has been reached with the Blues of Manchester, the player who scored an average of 0.97 goals for Dortmund in all

appearances, noted that it was a privilege to play for a club he has always admired their style of processing the game.

He added that going by the lots of chances City create in their attack, it produces a perfect blend to aid him to complement the team's effort.

"This is a proud day for me and my family," Haaland said after an agreement was reached between the City and Dortmund according to BBC Sports.

"I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons. You can't help but admire their style of play - it's exciting and they create a lot of chances, which is perfect for a player like me," he added.

The Norwegian joined

Dortmund from Molde FK where he amassed 20 goals in 50 appearances and was named the UEFA Nations League top scorer in 2021.

Furthermore, he praised City for parading lots of world-class stars, adding that Guardiola is among the greatest managers in football history.

He continued: "There are so many world-class players in this squad and Pep [Guardiola] is one of the greatest managers of all-time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions."

"I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me, and I can't wait to get started in pre-season," Haaland stated.

According to reports, Haaland having sealed the 5-year deal



to Manchester City that will see him at the Etihad until 2027, will officially join the club on July 1, 2022.

Meanwhile, Manchester City football director Txiki Begiristain has commended the move of Haaland to Etihad, stressing that the player is a perfect fit for the task ahead.

The Spanish underlined that the player has been exceptional with a prolific goalscoring record that distinguishes him as one of the best strikers in Europe.

We'll build on this momentum, Osimhen pledges

Nigeria Super Eagles slaughtered the national senior team of Sao Tomé and Príncipe in the abattoir of Adrar stadium, Agadir, Morocco.

The Nigerian senior men's national football team from the sound of the referee's whistle ruthlessly dealt with the Falcons and True Parrots to ensure they left them crippling.

The 10-0 result which has left all football spectators' mouths agape on hearing the outcome of Monday's AFCON qualifier, catapulted the Super Eagles to top Group A ahead of Guinea-Bissau that plummeted the former's second match victims 5-1 in their opening encounter.

Nigeria and Napoli forward, Victor Osimhen, presently attracting interest from Premier League clubs with rich footballing history, Manchester United and Arsenal, was on a rampage netting four goals; his first four in any match for Super Eagles.

Expectedly, the victory over Sao Tome and Principe did not only send shivers down the spines of Guinea-Bissau who will play Nigeria in a double-cracker in September but also send signals across the African continent on what awaits any team that would take on the

Super Eagles.

Meanwhile, Osimhen after the game praised his teammates for putting up such a scintillating outing in Morocco and charged them to sustain the momentum as the nation rises to reclaim its spot in Africa and world football.

"Amazing display from the whole squad, we will continue to build on this momentum," Osimhen tweeted.

The Napoli forward, who broke the floodgate of goals a minute before 10 for the Nigerian team, was very instrumental in fomenting sharp-cutting attacks of the Super Eagles.

Remarkably, the result recorded by Super Eagles coach Jose Peseiro yesterday in Morocco, broke a 63-year-old record where Nigeria thrashed Dahomey, renamed Benin Republic, 10-1 in 1959 at Lagos.



WAFU B U17: Nigeria beat Togo 3-1, qualify for semi-finals

Nigeria reached the semi-finals of the ongoing WAFU B U17 Championship in Cape Coast, Ghana on Tuesday after a 3-1 defeat of Togo's Junior Sparrowhawks handed Ugbade's wards six maximum points from two matches in a three-team pool.

Hosts Ghana, who received a 4-2 plastering by five-time world champions Nigeria on the opening day, can not earn more than three points with their only remaining game against the Togolese on Friday. The Togolese have similar arithmetical chances in the campaign. Either of them can only come second behind the rampaging Eagles.

On Tuesday, the

Golden Eaglets took off from where they ended against the Ghanaians, a three-time world champions, when Kevwe Iyede beat goalkeeper Komlan Ignace Kiti for Nigeria's first goal in the 10th minute.

Captain Precious Tonye Williams added another in the 22nd minute, and that was how it ended in the first half.

In the 75th minute, the Togolese cut the deficit in half, but Light Eke, who also scored Nigeria's last goal in the 4-2 thrashing of Ghana on Saturday, struck with nine minutes to go to hand a comfortable win to Nigeria.

The semi-final matches will be played on Tuesday.



“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

— Leo Tolstoy



Okowa tasks judges on ethical conduct

By **KELVIN OHOROR**

Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, has called on judges in the country to discharge their duties with utmost impartiality, courage, integrity, humility and commonsense to guarantee justice for all.

He gave the charge at the swearing-in of four new judges into the state judiciary and a member of the state's Judicial Service Commission at Government House, Asaba.

He urged the judges to deploy patience and wisdom in the dispensation of justice. He said that the judges were appointed in line with procedures enshrined in Section 271, sub-section (2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). He congratulated the appointees on their well-deserved new responsibilities and urged them to consistently demonstrate the proper judicial temperament

expected of their offices.

According to Dr Okowa, the appointments were made pursuant to the provisions of the law and on the recommendations of the National Judicial Council.

“In the discharge of your duties as judges, you must exhibit the qualities of impartiality, courage, integrity, patience, humility, wisdom, and commonsense. Your ethical conduct must be above reproach, bearing in mind that justice for one is justice for all, and you need to prioritize personal development through continuing legal education as a prerequisite for excellence,” he said.

The governor remarked that the judiciary, in a constitutional democracy, was saddled with the responsibilities of interpreting the constitution, upholding federal principle of maintaining balance between various organs of government, adjudicating the laws,



Gov Okowa 5th left with newly sworn in judges

testing the validity of such laws, and guarding and protecting the fundamental rights of citizens. He said “in view of the foregoing, it is pertinent that I reiterate my admonition to the first set of judges we appointed in 2018. I quote: ‘one of the things you must guard against is the frivolous use of injunctions and the frequent adjournments of cases, which not only lead to delay and congested courts but has also contributed to negative perception of the judiciary in the court of public opinion.’

“You have an obligation to see to it that justice is not only served but it is also seen to be served so that the judiciary does not lose the confidence of the public from which it ultimately derives its authority. In recognition of the vital and key role that the judiciary plays in the political economy of the nation, this administration has continued to build capacity in the judiciary, enhance the process of justice delivery, and provide a conducive working environment for our judges and their

support staff.

“Nothing captures this commitment more than the Judiciary Autonomy Law, putting Delta State among the trailblazers in the implementation of financial autonomy for the third arm of government.”

Going further, the governor said, “Aside from building more courts to bring justice proximate to the people and extend the frontiers of legal practice, the present administration has aggressively embarked on renovation and furnishing of dilapidated court

buildings across the State, in addition to equipping them with the necessary information and communication technology. The new ultra-modern High Court Complex in Asaba is almost completed, and when fully operational will substantially ease the course of justice administration and delivery in the state.

“In terms of manpower, we recognize that we still need more judges to oversee all the judicial divisions in the state. Sooner than later, we hope to fill the vacant positions, subject to the recommendations of the National Judicial Council,” the governor stated.

Responding on behalf of the judges, Justice Christopher Daii, thanked Governor Okowa and the state Chief Judge for finding them worthy to serve. He promised that they would uphold the integrity and sanctity of the bench according to the oath of office they took.

“We are here not because we are better thanw others but because it is by the grace of God and we therefore assure you that we would put in our best to uphold the integrity and sanctity of the bench just as we have sworn to today,” he said.

The new judges are Christopher Daii, Obaro Odebala, Mary Gesikeme-Akebofah and Francis Akumagba, while Dennis Agbaga is member of Judicial Service Commission.

New AIG assumes duty in Bayelsa

By **AHERHOKE OKIOMA**, Yenagoa

A new Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Ayim Abraham Eyong, has assumed duty at the Zone 16 headquarters in Bayelsa State. Ayim Abraham Eyong replaces AIG Don Awunah who died

last month after a brief illness.

Zonal Police Public Relations officer, CSP Ikwo Kevin Lafieghe, in a statement announced that Eyong is the third in the line of AIGs that have presided over the Zone 16 covering Bayelsa and Rivers State.

AIG Eyong, while

assuming duty at the zonal headquarters in Yenagoa, promised to bring his professional and intellectual exposure to bear in superintending the affairs of the two states within the zone.

The new AIG hails from Ogoja Local Government area of Cross Rivers State and

was commissioned as a cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1988. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography and regional planning from the University of Jos.

Eyong was described as a dogged crime fighter and operational

guru who has held several positions in the strata of the police force. Until his recent appointment, promotion and posting, he was a Commissioner of Police, Administration in the Department of Finance and Administration, Force Headquarters, Abuja.