



**10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION...**

L -R: Hope Aliu; Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Chukwudi Adiukwu; President, Neo Black Movement (NBM) of Africa, Lekki Zone, Chukwuma Madike; Moderator, Iziq Olawale, and Lekki Unit Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Sani Abdullahi, during a panel session held at the NBM of Africa Lekki Chapter, 10th Anniversary and Fundraising Event held in Lagos...recently

# Tuggar: Military Takeover in West African States May Engulf Africa If...

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar, has warned against describing the unconstitutional change in government in West Africa as solely a regional problem, insisting that it could engulf the

entire African continent and add to the challenges of terrorism and other cross-border criminalities.

The Minister gave the warning during a panel discussion: "Resurgence of Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa: Global Outlook, Response and

Implications for the A3", at the 10th Annual High-level Seminar on the Promotion of Peace and Security in Africa: Assisting African Members of the UN Security Council in Preparing to Address Peace and Security Issues on the Continent.

At the seminar, which ended on December 18 at Oran, Algeria, the minister said it was easy to describe the military takeover in some West African countries as a problem of the region not looking at the root causes which included the proliferation of arms as a result of the war in Libya and other factors.

He said looking at the military takeover as a West African problem

was escapist and a denial of what might lie ahead.

He said: "In examining the root causes of UCG and proffering solutions. It is important to consider just not endogenous factors of governance, election processes but also important to consider the exogenous factors, some might look at West Africa and say West Africa must have a problem and that is why it is happening there.

"West Africa was not responsible for the implosion of Libya that brought out the proliferation of arms, West Africa was not responsible for failure of EU's Sahel Strategy. It may not necessary be responsible

for climate change in the Sahel and I can go on and on and on.

"The easier option is to ignore all these things or to wish them away and simply say there is something West Africa is doing wrong and try and accommodate the new military regimes, but that would be fatal for the whole of Africa because we want to get to the issue of fighting terrorism in the entire Africa, in North Africa and other parts.

"It is easy to think the solution is to accommodate these new military regimes and work with them because they are dear to you and that way you can continue to fight against terrorism but this would

not work.

"I think the solution would be to bring life into Africa Union body of programmes because terrorist groups and indeed other criminal gangs edging ways in border areas and West Africa has complex border areas.

"Issues of territory are difficult to man and manage and the African Union body of programmes bringing about development, bringing about infrastructure would be more coercive and more coordinated and bring development of infrastructure when we don't give in to this military takeover on pressures from the social media."

## Oyebanji: Bring Back Our Stolen Artefacts from Ekiti

Gbenga Sodeinde in Ado Ekiti

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has called for return of the stolen Ekiti artefacts with a vow to work towards the return of other stolen works of renowned carver, Olowe Ajalemo, popularly known as Olowe of Ise back to the state.

Oyebanji, who spoke during his visit to the residence of the late carver in Ise-Ekiti, Ise-Orun Local Government Area of Ekiti State, yesterday, noted that the carver, who died in 1934 distinguished himself with his artistic dexterity, with his works scattered across major museums in America and European countries.

The governor accompanied by Senator Babafemi Ojudu, the Arinjala of Ise, Oba Adetunji Ajayi and other prominent leaders, promised that the government would build a museum in the house, where all his works from abroad would be retrieved and deposited to attract tourists and investors across the world.

He explained that the artefacts when returned would serve as a means of boosting the economic fortune of the state and preserving the cultural heritage for coming generations.

While soliciting the support of the residents and the community towards the rehabilitation and building of the museum, said his administration was committed to the project in the overall interest of the people and the state.

"Today, as we embark on the rehabilitation of Olowe of Ise, we have the opportunity to not only preserve and celebrate his legacy, but also to bring greater awareness to his work within Nigeria.

"Olowe's carvings are a testament to the rich cultural heritage and artistic excellence of our nation, and it is only right that we ensure his contributions are properly acknowledged and celebrated.

"Through this rehabilitation, we can create a space that not only

showcases Olowe's carvings, but also serves as a hub for artistic exchange and appreciation.

"It is our hope that by doing so, we can inspire a new generation of artists and artisans to draw upon Olowe's incredible talent and passion for their own creative endeavors.

"To achieve this, we shall do something about this house where he lived all his life; build a respectable museum here and make efforts to bring back home all his work taken away from here.

"All those pretty works of this super talented man must return home and adorn the proposed museum so that the world can find its way here to adore them and know that Olowe belongs to Ise, belongs to Ekiti and to Nigeria and Africa."

Ojudu, who commended Oyebanji for his interest and commitment in the project, revealed that the late carver's artistic works were generating huge amount of money for museums in America and European countries.

## Ondo 'Monarch', Five Others Bag Two Years Imprisonment for Robbery

Fidelis David in Akure

An Ondo State High Court, Akure, yesterday, sentenced a self-imposed traditional ruler and spiritual leader of Ayetoro, a coastal community in Ilaje Local Government Area of the state, Oluwambe Ojagbohunmi, to two years in prison for breach of peace.

The presiding judge, Justice David Kolawole, found Ojagbohunmi and five others were guilty of orchestrating the violence that erupted in the coastal community in January 11, 2018.

The five people were Victor Akinluwa, Isaac Ikuyelorimi,

Lawrence Lemamu, George Eyekole and Segun Okenla,

They were found guilty of the three of the 10- count charge preferred against them by the office of the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.

The convicts were accused of conspiracy to commit felony to wit: malicious damage to property which is in contrary to Section 451 of the Criminal Code, Cap 37, Vol. 1, Laws of Ondo State, 2006.

They were also accused of robbing Temitope Olowodasa of a sum of N270,000.00 in his house and at the time of the robbery they were

armed with offensive weapons to wit: guns and cutlasses contrary to Section 1(2)(a) and (b) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act, Cap R11, Vol. 14, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

In addition, the convicts and others at large were accused of robbing Igoli Akinlana of four Industrial Sewing Machines valued N800,000, four Plasma TV valued N448,000.00 and a cash sum of N635,000.00 in his house and at the time of the robbery they were armed with Firearms and offensive weapons such as guns, cutlasses, axes and others

One of the convicts, Eyekole, was accused of attempt to murder one Olu Obobo by shooting him, contrary to Section 320 of the Criminal Code, Cap 37, Vol. 1, Laws of Ondo State, 2006.

The Prosecuting Counsel, Mr Babatunde Falodun, told the court that Ojagbohunmi and others were brought before the court over violence that happened in Ayetoro in January, 2018 among other charges.

Reading the charges, he said, "That you Oluwambe Ojagbohunmi, Victor Akinluwa, Isaac Ikuyelorimi, Lawrence Lemamu, George Eyekole and Segun Okenla on or about the 11th of January, 2018 around 9.00 a.m. at Ayetoro community, Ilaje Local Government in the Okitipupa Judicial Division did conspire with others now at large to commit felony to wit: Armed Robbery.

"Oluwambe Ojagbohumi, Victor Akinluwa, Isaac Ikuyelorimi, Lawrence Lemamu, George Eyekole

and Segun Okenla and others now at large on or about the 11th of January, 2018 around 5.30 a.m. at Ayetoro Community, Ilaje Local Government in the Okitipupa Judicial Division did rob Ashogbon Omowale in his house of his laptop and a sum of N380,000.00 and at the time of the robbery you were armed with offensive weapons to wit: guns and cutlasses."

Meanwhile, all the convicts had pleaded not guilty to all the charges preferred against them, but the court found them guilty and convicted them of malicious damage to property contrary to section 37 of the criminal code, laws of the state.

In his judgement, Justice Kolawole, discharged and acquitted the convicts of armed robbery and conspiracy, but gave an option of fine for count six, seven and eight that related to malicious damage to property

He, however, sentenced Eyekole to five years in prison with hard labour for attempted murder of Obobo in Ayetoro community.

The convict were to pay N300,000 each as value for the damaged properties and N50,000, as option of fine for the offences committed by the convicts.

The Judge also ordered that the convicts should sign memorandum of understanding to maintain peace in the community.

Justice Kolawole said the convicts would be held responsible for any breach of peace in the community if they opted to pay the fine, saying the fine would be returned in case of violation of the peace accord.

## Media Sustainability/Professionalism: NGE to Launch Trust Fund

Ogheneuvde Ohwovoriole in Abuja

In line with the resolution of the All Nigeria Editors Conference (ANEC), recently held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) plans to launch Nigerian Editors Trust Fund, which is designed to address the professional/welfare needs of media houses and editors in Nigeria.

At the ANEC in Akwa Ibom State, publishers, media executives and editors harped on the urgent need by the Guild to initiate the strategic move that will focus on the professional/welfare needs

of media houses and editors in Nigeria - as part of several efforts to help them to continue to discharge their constitutional duties and social responsibility to the society without necessarily compromising their ethical standards.

In a statement issued on Monday by the President of the NGE, Mr. Eze Anaba and the General Secretary, Dr. Iyobosa Uwugiaran, the professional body of editors and media executives, stated that the initiative is a response to the increasing professional/welfare challenges faced by the highest echelon of Nigerian journalists in performing their duties.

"The trust fund, which is expected to be launched in the first quarters of 2024, will also address the daunting economic challenges that the media executives and editors are faced with during and after office. The fund will benefit the Guild's members in the print, electronic and online media.

"The trust fund will be a collaborative effort among all the stakeholders in the media sector, including the public sector - aimed at addressing key challenges that affect the professionals, who are the ultimate gatekeepers in their media organisations", the Guild added.