



Kano Governor Begins Probe Of Ganduje

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Okuama 17: Army To Declare More Suspects Wanted

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» **BRIEFING:** » **Trending:** Binance CEO crowned crypto's wealthiest person » **Numbers:** NERC approves electricity tariff of N225/KW/h » **History Today** ▶ PAGE 2

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OUR ECONOMY IS LOOKING UP – TINUBU ▶ PAGE 25

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5.4.24

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**OUT THIS SUNDAY
7TH APRIL, 2024
DON'T MISS IT!**

Opposition Mounts Against Electricity Tariff Hike

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■ It's reckless disregard for people's welfare – *Northern Elders* ■ More trade unions bemoan new tariff ■ We won't abandon Nigerians, says Senate



L-R: Deputy Senate President Jibrin Barau; minister of foreign affairs, Yusuf Tuggar; Senate President Godswill Akpabio; President Bola Ahmed Tinubu; president of ECOWAS Commission, Dr Omar Alieu Touray; FCT minister, Nyesom Wike, and other parliament members during the inaugural session of the Sixth Legislature of ECOWAS Parliament held at the International Conference Centre Abuja, yesterday PHOTO BY REMI AKUNLEYAN



Bandits Kill 5, Release 51 After Ransom Payment In Kaduna

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NIN-SIM LINKAGE: NCC JUSTIFIES DEADLINE EXTENSION TO JULY 31

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TRENDING

THE FOUNDER AND FORMER CEO OF CRYPTO EXCHANGE BINANCE, CHANGPENG ZHAO, HAS BEEN CROWNED CRYPTO'S WEALTHIEST PERSON FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING AS FORBES UNVEILS CRYPTO BIGWIGS. POPULARLY KNOWN AS 'CZ, ZHAO' IS NOW WORTH AN ESTIMATED \$33 BILLION, UP FROM \$10.5 BILLION LAST YEAR AND THE 50TH-WEALTHIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

NUMBERS: 225 NAIRA

THE NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY TARIFF FOR CUSTOMERS UNDER THE BAND A CLASSIFICATION. THE VICE CHAIRMAN, NERC, MUSLIU OSENI, SAID THE INCREASE WILL SEE THE CUSTOMERS PAYING N225 KILOWATT PER HOUR (KW/H) FROM THE CURRENT N66.

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA: CHINENYE OGWUMIKE CHINENYE OGWUMIKE IS AN AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER FOR THE LOS ANGELES SPARKS OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (WNBA).

HISTORY TODAY ON THIS DAY, APRIL 5 1998, IN JAPAN, THE 'AKASHI KAIKYŌ BRIDGE' OPENED TO TRAFFIC, BECOMING THE LONGEST BRIDGE SPAN IN THE WORLD.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CAPTIVITY BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL KUJAMA'S KIDNAPPED STUDENTS HAVE SPENT 1,072 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW!

A cross section of kidnapping suspects arrested by Rivers State police command in Okocha Community, Igbo-Etche in Etche local government area of the state, yesterday PHOTO BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA

MAKING IT, SPENDING IT: MAKE OR MAR MONEY CHOICES

Waste diversion is a noble cause and it's the SMART thing to do. Not only for the environment, but also for your finances. Here are items you can recycle for money:

1. Aluminum Cans

This is the classic example of cash for trash that's been around for years. Aluminum takes more energy to mine and produce than any other metal so it is worth paying for these cans. Recycling aluminum not only prevents more resources from being extracted from the Earth but it also saves energy as well!

2. Plastic and Glass Bottles

Cash it! Don't trash it. Many governments have implemented deposit return recycling programs that attach cash values to bottles based on the material

they're made of. Returning glass and plastic bottles to recycling facilities and stores where they offer bottle return can net you a decent amount of coin.

3. Ink Cartridges

Green recycling solutions for when you can't print the colour green anymore! Why recycle ink cartridges? A number of office supply stores such as Staples will offer \$2 back per cartridge. That means your office recycling program can start saving on printer costs!

4. Cardboard

Cardboard boxes are a necessity for moving items from place to place. But they're also very valuable and can get you around \$45

6 Best Items To Recycle For Money: Trash For Cash



per ton. We recognize that this may be more viable for commercial recycling or office recycling rather than at home. Hard to fit a literal ton of cardboard in your outdoor recycling bins! However, that doesn't mean you can't shop around for cardboard.

5. Electronic Waste

The problem is it's not always

clear if electronic waste is valuable because it contains materials that may or may not be worth money. Don't forget electronic waste also includes batteries. If you've recently replaced the battery in your car you could get up to \$10 for your used car batteries depending on the location. It is still important to make sure

your e-waste doesn't end up in a landfill.

6. Scrap Metal

The final and most profitable material on our "best items to recycle for money" list is scrap metal. You may already be aware of this if you've ever visited a scrap yard for cars or other types of scrap facilities. Commercial recycling is lucrative in the metal business, so if you've got a broken down car lying around you can still get some money for it.

By Deepti Save

Culled From: <https://cleanriver.com/resource/blog-best-items-to-recycle-for-money-trash-for-cash/>

Science, Discovery And Uses



Bite From Toilet Rat Hospitalises Man In Canada

In an unusual new medical case, a man in Canada was hospitalized with a severe bacterial infection after being bitten by a rat that was lurking in his toilet. The 76-year-old visited the emergency department at a hospital in Montréal, Quebec, after encountering a rat in his toilet bowl. He was trying to remove the rodent when the critter bit two of his fingers.

Early Humans Lived On 'Persian Plateau' For 20,000 Years After Leaving Africa, Study Suggests

After waves of Homo sapiens left Africa, they left few traces of their whereabouts until they reappeared in Eurasia 20,000 years later. So where did they go in the intervening time? A study proposes that Homo sapiens outside of Africa made their home on the Persian plateau during that mysterious period.

1,700-year-old Roman Fort Discovered In Germany Was Built To Keep Out Barbarians

Archaeologists have unearthed the ruins of a Roman fortress in Germany that once protected against barbarian intruders. For more than a century, historians have suspected that a defense structure known as a castrum was lurking beneath a cobblestone street in Aachen, a city in western Germany.

Culled From: www.livescience.com

SEVEN TIPS ON: BEST STREAMING SERVICES

Here are some of the best streaming services that offer a wide range of contents.

NETFLIX

Netflix is arguably the most popular streaming service in the world. With its tailored content for various countries and regions. Netflix adds new shows every week thereby offering so much to choose from.

YOUTUBE

On the popular video streaming platform, YouTube, there are a lot of channels that share Nollywood movies. All you need to do to watch movies via YouTube search. Or identify these channels and subscribe to them. This way, you can be notified once they upload any movie.

AMAZON PRIME

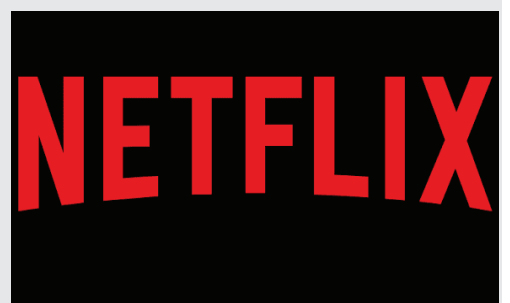
Amazon Prime Video is a popular streaming service that offers a variety of movies, TV shows, and original content. It is included as part of the Amazon Prime membership, which offers additional benefits like free shipping on eligible items.

SHOW MAX

Showmax is one of the top-tier streaming services with coverage in Africa and other parts of Europe. However one of its biggest features is how the platform offers Live football, so you can watch the Premier League, unlike other streaming services.

DISNEY+

Disney+ is a popular streaming service known for its extensive collection of Disney, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic content. It's the perfect streaming service if you love these types of exclusive shows.



Although, Disney+ has not been officially launched in Nigeria. However, it is possible to access Disney+ using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) service.

IROKOTV

IROKOTV is one of Nigeria's most popular streaming platforms. As one of Africa's first mainstream streaming platforms, subscribers can enjoy over 5,000 Nollywood, Bollywood, and Hollywood film titles.

FILM HOUSE

This is a mobile app created by FilmOne Distribution, a popular Nollywood movie distributor in Nigeria. The company also run one of the largest cinemas in Nigeria, hence, have their hands on quite a number of Nollywood content.

By Oyindamola Olawuyi With Agency Report

INBOX

As part of ongoing efforts to improve standards, opinion articles by readers will be accompanied with photographs and also what the writer does and actual address. All opinions should be emailed to: opinion@leadership.ng

our stand

Towards Avoiding Palliatives Stampede Deaths

Three recent tragic incidents of stampede deaths during food assistance distribution have called into question the organisational preparedness of the organizers and the general indiscipline of the average Nigerian.

On February 24, when the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) discounted the price of foreign parboiled rice to Nigerians at its zonal headquarters, Harvey Road, Yaba, Lagos, seven people died while struggling to buy the staple.

The rice had been seized from smugglers, and the Service, in trying to ease the hardship faced by Nigerians over food inflation, decided to sell the 25kg bags at N10,000, a sharp discount from the N35,000 it sold in the market.

Trouble started when Lagosians decided to force their way into Customs' facility. According to reports, those who fell in the process were trampled, and many others fainted. In another such tragedy, at least seven persons died in a stampede at the annual Zakat distribution organized by AYM Shafa Foundation in Bauchi on Friday, March 24.

Most of the victims who died were women and children who trooped out en masse to the Shafa Holdings head office located along Bauchi-Jos Road to collect N10,000 as Zakat from the foundation.

Zakat, one of the pillars of the Islamic faith, requires all Muslims to donate a portion of their wealth to charity. However, the exercise turned tragic after the crowd became uncontrollable as the scramble to get the token before it ran out became fierce.

According to reports, in the midst of the confusion, police operatives, who were

stationed at the venue to provide security and control the crowd, fired tear gas canisters, sparking panic and pandemonium at the venue.

In the end, seven females, with ages ranging from 8 to 53, were trampled to death, with others injured. In Nasarawa State, two undergraduates died during food distribution by the state government.

The state had included educational institutions in the distribution of food assistance in its quest to ease the hardship the people are going through following the removal of fuel subsidy by the federal government.

On March 20, however, the exercise turned bloody after the crowd became unruly at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK), and claimed the lives of two students of the institution. Such stampede deaths during the distribution of charity are not new.

Last year in Port Harcourt, River State, more than 30 persons were reported dead and others injured in a church when a local charity organization was sharing food after the crowd pushed through the barricade in defiance of the organizers.

It was also reported that Shafa Foundation had done a similar charity exercise in the previous years during Ramadan, also with some casualties. Dr. Ibrahim Disina, one of the leaders of the AYM Shafa Foundation, said the incident was an act ordained by the Almighty, not a deliberate attempt to endanger the lives of the poor.

He, however, admitted that the exercise will be reviewed to forestall future similar occurrences. As a newspaper, we are appalled that people are dying repeatedly from avoidable incidents like these.

It means lessons were not learned from similar trag-

edies. Tragic outcomes of similar distributions in the past should have prepared subsequent ones to take more adequate measures.

After the deaths, the authorities at Customs, Nasarawa State, and Shafa Foundation admitted that they would devise different means of approaching the exercise in future exercises to avoid a repeat of such tragedies.

We expect no less; people should not have to lose their lives for a morsel of bread, so to speak. We also call on others who want to embark on such an exercise to learn from previous incidents and put measures in place to avoid any sad outcomes in the place of distributing goodies.

Also, organisations that wish to engage in such distribution of charity should collaborate with other organizations trained specially in such things, like the National Emergency Management Agencies and their state arms.

We also recommend that local authorities should be incorporated into the process since they have the respect of the people.

Security agents should also be well-trained and equipped in crowd control. Most times, the ill-handling of crowds leads to things getting out of hand. We also urge Nigerians to learn the wisdom of patience and orderliness.

In all the cases listed, trouble started when people, out of impatience, willful disobedience, or fearing the palliatives might not get to their turn, breached the process put in place by the organisers.

Finally, those whose negligence leads to avoidable deaths should be made to face the law. Attributing organisational ineptitude to the will of God is not good enough.

friday LEADERSHIP

EDITOR: Ekele Peter Agbo

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mission statement

LEADERSHIP is a national paper symbolically embedded in the nation's capital.

We shall stand up for good governance. We shall defend the interest of Nigerian people even against their rulers, and we shall raise our pen at all times in defence of what is right. These are the values by which we intend to be assessed.

We shall never, ever for any reason forget the noble reason of our coming into being:

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!

Opposition Mounts Against Electricity Tariff Hike

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja, ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna, and CHIKA IZUORA and GEORGE OKOJIE, Lagos

More regional, professional and trade organisations have spoken out against the recent hike in electricity tariffs announced by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on Wednesday.

They said the government had not taken into consideration the hardship afflicting the majority of Nigerians and demanded a reversal of the policy.

The Northern Elders Forum (NEF) expressed deep concern and disappointment over the recent decision by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu government to sharply increase electricity tariffs in Nigeria.

NEF, in a statement issued by its director of publicity and advocacy, Abdul-Azeez Suleiman, said, "This reckless move displays a complete disregard for the well-being and welfare of the Nigerian people".

The NEF said it recognises that the drastic increase in electricity tariffs will have a significant negative impact on the already struggling population, further exacerbating the gap between the rich and the poor.

It stated that a breakdown of the new tariffs reveals an alarming burden that the average Nigerian will face in bear in using electricity on a daily basis.

"Under the new tariff plan, 24 hours of electricity per day will cost a staggering N5,400, amounting to an unbearable monthly total of N162,000, and an astounding yearly total of N1,971,000. These exorbitant amounts are simply unaffordable for the majority of Nigerians, who are already grappling with economic hardship and trying to make ends meet.

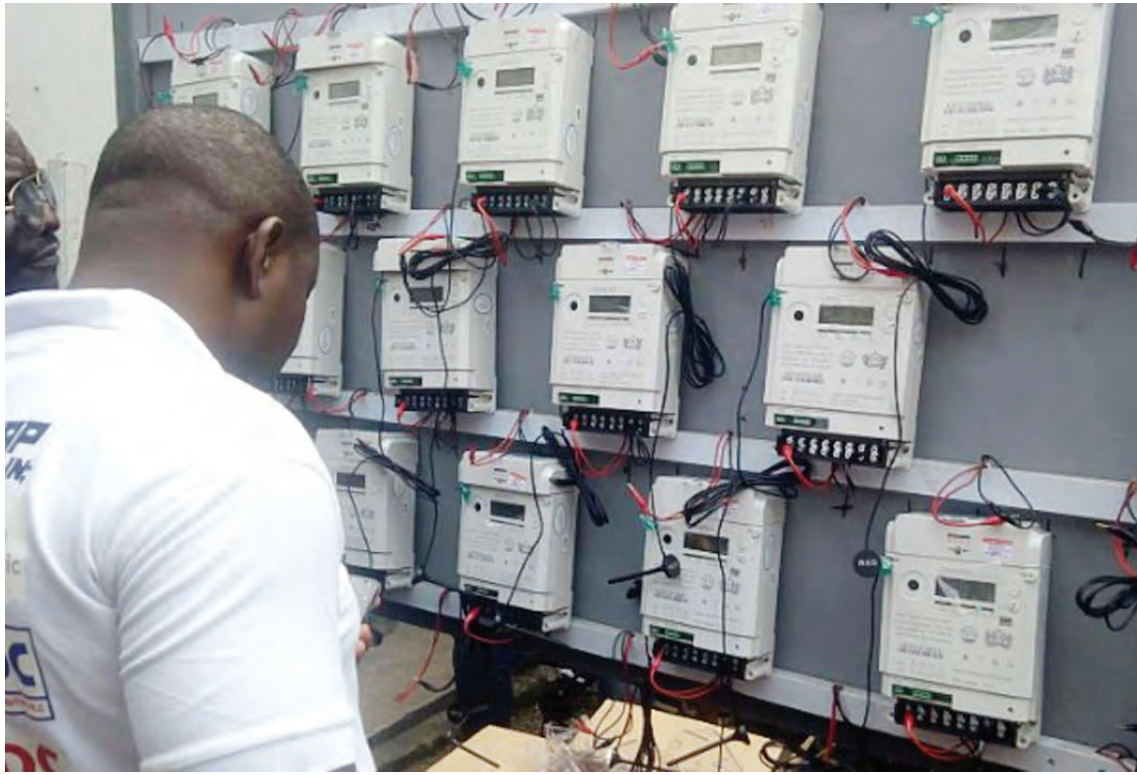
"By implementing such exorbitant electricity tariffs, the government is effectively perpetuating a form of economic oppression that will only serve to widen the gap between the rich and the poor in Nigeria. It is imperative that this act of exploitation be firmly rejected and not be allowed to stand unchallenged."

NEF further averred that the decision to implement these tariffs without considering the impact on the average citizen is not only callous but also short-sighted, adding that the resulting consequences could potentially lead to internal security threats as the disparity between the haves and the have-nots becomes more pronounced.

According to the Forum, the decision was made without carefully considering the economic realities faced by the majority of Nigerians and it highlights the government's lack of empathy towards its citizens.

The Northern elders said instead of implementing policies that would alleviate the suffering of the people, the government has chosen to further exploit them, emphasizing that the introduction of exorbitant electricity tariffs is not only unjust but also a clear indication of the disconnect between the government and the people it was meant to serve.

"It is a blatant display of the government's blatant disregard for the well-being of its citizens and a



betrayal of the trust placed in them," said.

The NEF, therefore, called on the government to immediately reconsider its ill-conceived decision and take into account the dire economic situation faced by the majority of Nigerians, just as it called on Nigerians to rise up and demand accountability from their leaders, reminding them that their primary duty is to serve the people, not to exploit them for personal gain.

Also, pan-Yoruba socio-cultural organization, Afenifere, has rejected the current hike in electricity tariff, urging the government and the regulatory body to focus on supply of electricity to its consumers before considering such a hike.

Its national publicity secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi, told LEADERSHIP that the timing of the hike is equally wrong, saying a lot of Nigerians are currently battling with hardship.

Afenifere said, "It is surprising that at this crucial time when Nigerians are lamenting irregular supply of electricity, sometimes non-supply of electricity, that is the time that the electricity regulating body, NERC, will approve the increase in tariff as requested by the electricity distribution company.

"It is disappointing because it is never expected, all that Nigerians are looking for is regular supply of electricity, for now it is the communities that are lucky, they are the ones using light up to 15 to five hours electricity supply in 24 hours.

"What the government and all those who are in charge of electricity distribution need to do is to supply electricity efficiently, regularly and frequently.

"In other words, the number of hours which Nigerians enjoy electricity must be increased and the quality must increase too, because there are situations where the current is low or too high, which cause electricity surge," he said.

"We in Afenifere implores NERC to compel DISCO to work harder on increasing the supply, rather than talking about increasing the tariff," he added.

Similarly, the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) has bemoaned the hike in electricity tariff in the country, describing the new policy as a "misplacement of priority, anti-people policy and unacceptable."

National president of ASCSN, Etim Okon, said this while speaking with newsmen on Wednesday in Abuja on the new increase in tariff.

According to him, the hike in the electricity tariff from N66/kwh to N225/kwh for those who enjoy electricity supply for 20 hours per day is totally unacceptable and a recipe for unrest.

"This shows clearly that Nigeria is not ready for 24 hours electricity supply. I think that the policy is not right, especially at this time of socioeconomic challenges where the cost of living is very exorbitant and the salaries of the workers have remained static.

"Today, we are still battling with the fuel subsidy removal without any corresponding remedy, yet there is an increase in the electricity tariff without even the supply of electricity," he said.

Okon remarked that the federal government was prioritising revenue generation over the welfare of Nigerians who are currently struggling to survive.

Okon, therefore, advised the government to reconsider its stance, revert to the old tariff and find ways of stabilising the economy before thinking of how to generate more revenue through taxation.

"If the labour union calls for protest, the government will say we are being insensitive, but without consultation they just woke up and announced an increase in the price of electricity.

"No worker now can boast of anything with N30,000 minimum wage. The calculation on ground and the high cost of living have already consumed everything before they even make the announcement so where are we going from here?"

"Government must revert to the former tariff and allow the economy to have some level of stability," he said.

On its part, the Association of Table Water Producers of Nigeria (ATWAP), Ogun Chapter,

decried the 300 per cent increase on electricity tariff approved by Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

Mr Babatunde Lawal, state chairman of ATWAP, said on Thursday in Ota that the hike would further raise the cost of production.

Lawal noted that electricity was central to development in any economy, adding that it contributed about 30 per cent of the requirements in the table water production industry and generally in manufacturing as it provides lighting and powers machines and tools.

"An increase of 300 per cent will drive up costs as expenses will go up, if it translates to availability of electricity. The effect may be marginal as we currently pay a fortune buying diesel and premium motor spirit at the moment.

"However, the average household will have to pay more for the products while consumers may purchase less as purchasing power reduces," he said.

He appealed to the federal government to provide loans needed to support businesses as capital had been eroded following the hike, adding that it was time for businesses to reassess strategies for profit making as a result of the current challenges in the country.

We Won't Abandon Nigerians, Says Senate

The Senate has said that it will not abandon Nigerians if it receives reports of genitive effect from its relevant committees.

According to the Senate, it will take a position upon resumption from its recess on over 300% increase in electricity tariff for certain customers under the Band A classification.

The spokesman of the Senate, Yemi Adaramodu, stated this on Thursday that the red chamber's action will be guided by reports from its relevant committees.

Speaking with journalists, Senator Adaramodu said relevant Committees of the Senate are watching the situation and would take a position favourable to

Nigerians on its resumption.

He said: "The relevant Senate Committees on Power are studying the situation. You know we are on recess now. When we resume, they will present their findings to the Senate at plenary. We won't abandon Nigerians."

Adaramodu maintained that the Senate would not show indifference to any policy that would add to the economic burden of Nigerians.

The Senate last February rejected pronouncement by the Ministry of Power to approve the proposed hikes in electricity tariff by distribution companies.

Ikeja Electric Unveils Consumers Under Band 'A' Category In Lagos

Against the backdrop of the new electricity tariff approved by NERC, the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (Ikeja Electric) has released data showing 41 areas under its network that are categorised under band 'A' in Lagos.

LEADERSHIP reports that this category of customers is affected by the new tariff structure directed by the federal government.

Under tariff structure, customers under B and A are those receiving 20-24 hours power supply daily while those in Band B are subscribers who enjoy 16 to 20 hours.

Customers under Band C enjoy electricity for 12 to 16 hours daily while those in Band D -are beneficiaries of eight to 12 hours of power daily, which Band E subscribers only enjoy four to eight hours of electricity consumption every day.

The customers under Band A represent a 15 per cent of the 12 million electricity customers in the country, which is approximately 1.8 million subscribers.

According to Ikeja Electric, 41 areas are currently enjoying consistency in its supply and distribution pattern in Lagos.

The Band A areas are: Ijaiye (33-Ota TCN-AMJE) in Abule-Egba Business Unit enjoys 998 KW/h, Ijaiye (33-Ota TCN-Abeokuta Expressway) in Abule-Egba Business Unit enjoys 930KW/h, Able-Taylor (11-EkorolNJ-T1-Ekorol) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 920KW/h, Egbeda (11-AlimoshoINJ-T8-Alimosho) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 889KW/h, Anifowoshe (11-New AlausaINJ-T4-Siyabola) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 929KW/h, Anifowoshe (11-Adeniyi JonesINJ-T1-Ajao) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 941KW/h, Anifowoshe (11-New AlausaINJ-T6-Awolowo) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 889KW/h, Anifowoshe (11-Adeniyi JonesINJ-T1-Adeniyi Jones) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 982KW/h, Ogba (11-OgbaINJ-T3-Oba Akran) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 888KW/h, Ogba (11-Oke IralINJ-T2-Kayode) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 867KW/h, and Ogba (11-Oke IralINJ-T2-Mangoro) in Akowonjo Business Unit enjoys 943KW/h.



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TAKEAWAYS

2,351 Terrorists

Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has said troops in the first quarter of 2024 neutralised 2,351 terrorists, arrested 2,308 and rescued 1,241 hostages. The DHQ listed some of the terrorist commanders killed to include Abu Bilal Minuki (aka Abubakar Mainok) – Head of Is-Al Furqan Province (ISGS and ISWAP) and Haruna Isiya Boderi killed on February 21, Kachallah Damina (neutralised on March 24, by troops alongside over 50 combatants).

FRSC Task Force

After weeks of campaign against carrying passengers on trailers, the Inter-agency Joint Task Force recently constituted by the corps marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dauda Ali Biu to operate along critical corridors have arrested 35 trailers carrying 982 passengers. FRSC spokesperson, ACM Jonas Agwu said reports from the field showed that a total of 19 trailers carrying 810 people were apprehended on the Abuja-Kaduna expressway. Also, the JTF team covering Bauchi-Maiduguri general operation area of the Corps also arrested 16 trailers conveying 172 passengers on that route.

Parliament Members

Deputy Senate President Barau Jibril, and the lawmaker representing Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan were amongst others that have been inaugurated as members of the sixth legislature of the ECOWAS parliament. The inauguration which took place yesterday at the International Conferences Centre (ICC), Abuja, was graced by President Bola Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, representatives of parliamentarians of other ECOWAS countries, diplomats and top government officials.

Troops Kill 2,351 Terrorists, Rescue 1,241 Hostages In 3 Months

BY TARKAA DAVID, Abuja
Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has said troops in the first quarter of 2024 neutralised 2,351 terrorists, arrested 2,308 and rescued 1,241 hostages.

The director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Edward Buba, who disclosed this yesterday in Abuja, said several terrorists' commanders are among those killed.

He listed some of the terrorist commanders killed to include Abu Bilal Minuki (aka Abubakar Mainok) – Head of Is-Al Furqan Province (ISGS and ISWAP) and Haruna Isiya Boderi killed on February 21, Kachallah Damina (neutralised on March 24, by troops alongside over 50 combatants).

Others were Kachallah Alhaji Dayi, Kachallah Idi (Namaidaro), Kachallah

Kabiru (Doka), Kachallah Azarailu (Farin-Ruwa), Kachallah Balejo, Kachallah Ubangida, Alhaji Baldu among several others.

He said, "We have been collecting intelligence, hunting them and striking them where they may be hiding and hibernating. Our aim is to kill these terrorists and the infrastructure that supports them.

"Accordingly, we have employed significant

firepower to neutralize several terrorists and disrupt their activities.

"The above was achieved through synchronized strikes between the ground and air forces on terrorist enclaves," he said.

Buba further said troops conducted ambushes, raids, fighting patrols and offensive against the terrorists during the period which resulted in 2,351 terrorists neutralised, 2,308 persons arrested and

1,241 kidnapped hostages rescued.

General Buba said troops recovered 2,847 weapons, 58,492 ammunition and denied the oil thieves of an estimated sum of over N20 billion within the period under review.

In a breakdown, he said troops recovered 1,497 AK47 rifles, 33,878 rounds of 7.62mm special ammo, 12,698 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, 948 assorted arms and 5,520 assorted ammo.

Others are 21,573,310 litres of stolen crude oil, 2,723,430 litres of illegally refined AGO, 53,300 litres of DPK and 52,730 litres of PMS amongst other items.

FRSC Task Force Arrests 35 Trailers Carrying 982 Passengers

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja
After weeks of campaign against carrying passengers on trailers, the Inter-agency Joint Task Force recently constituted by the corps marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dauda Ali Biu to operate along critical corridors have arrested 35 trailers carrying 982 passengers.

FRSC spokesperson, ACM Jonas Agwu said reports from the field showed that a total of 19 trailers carrying 810 people were apprehended on the Abuja-Kaduna expressway.

Also, the JTF team covering Bauchi-Maiduguri general operation area of the Corps also arrested 16 trailers conveying 172 passengers on that route.

The arrests were perfected

within the first one week beginning from March 23 to March 30, 2024 of its operations on the identified routes.

Agwu noted that at the points of arrests, the Inter-agency Joint Task Force ensured that all passengers onboard the trailers were dropped, cautioned against the deadly act and asked to join passenger vehicles designed

for conveying people.

While the special operations are going on, the corps marshal also directed sector commanders of the states where the act is more prominent, to sustain ongoing engagement with the leadership of road transport unions as well as owners of articulated vehicles.

"This is to ensure that drivers who engage in such traffic violations are cautioned," the statement added.

The corps marshal had earlier flagged off the Inter-

agency Joint Task Force on March 23, 2024 in Kaduna State, comprising the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, State Traffic Management Agencies and Transport Unions.

The mandate of the JTF is to mitigate trailer related crashes and fatalities as well as stop the use of trailers to convey passengers following the spate of a number of avoidable crashes that involved trailers loaded with goods, animals and passengers that led to deaths and injuries.



Vice President Kashim Shettima (4th left); deputy chief of staff to the president Office of the Vice President, Sen. Ibrahim Hadejia (3rd left); permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Amb. Nura Abba Rimi (5th left), with IDICE Technical Committee members during a meeting at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on Wednesday. PHOTO BY REMI AKUNLEYAN

Barau, Natasha, Others Inaugurated As ECOWAS Parliament Members

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja
Deputy Senate President Barau Jibril, and the lawmaker representing Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan were among those that have been inaugurated as members of the sixth legislature of the ECOWAS parliament.

The inauguration which took place yesterday at the International Conferences Centre (ICC), Abuja, was graced by President

Bola Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, representatives of parliamentarians of other ECOWAS countries, diplomats and top government officials.

The lawmakers were inaugurated into the sixth Legislature of the ECOWAS parliament by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu who doubles as the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Senator Natasha, Barau and other newly elected representatives for the sixth legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament took their oath during the opening session.

The ECOWAS Parliament is one of the institutions of ECOWAS established by the ECOWAS Treaty of May 28, 1975, signed in Lagos, Nigeria.

The treaty was revised in July 1993 and signed in Abidjan and it is what is currently in use.

ECOWAS Parliament comprises 115 members drawn from the 15-member States of which Nigeria is one.

Nigeria has been allotted out of this number, 35 slots (That is 17 Senators and 18 Honourable members), followed by Ghana which has eight seats. Côte d'Ivoire is allotted seven seats, while Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal have six seats, respectively.

Nigeria's Senate President Godswill Akpabio is the one who transmits the list of the Nigerian Delegation to the president of the ECOWAS Commission and the speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament.

Furthermore, the leader of the Nigerian Delegation to the 6th ECOWAS Parliament is the deputy Senate president.

The tenure of office for members is four years beginning from the date of inauguration.

We Must Unite Against Divisive Forces, Tinubu Charges ECOWAS

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH, Abuja

President Bola Tinubu has called on ECOWAS member states to come together, strengthen ties, and reject forces bent on causing division within the community.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Sixth Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament on Thursday in Abuja, President Tinubu, who is the chairman of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, in a statement by presidential spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale, said regional solidarity is imperative to strengthen the bloc's resilience and effectiveness at this critical juncture.

He emphasised that member states cannot afford to remain passive spectators while the community faces the threat of disintegration.

"We stand united against such forces and are committed to ensuring that our unity remains unshaken. We must ensure that cooperation amongst us is strengthened, with a view to building a sense of common destiny and purpose. No one can do this for us. We must come together.

"To this extent, reinforcing the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the Authority of Heads of State is key in sending a message that ECOWAS is one indivisible body. It is also very important that the executives, on the other hand, show similar confidence in the Parliament, which would indeed deepen democracy in our



region," the president said.

Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's unwavering commitment to the aspirations of the community and, by extension, the fundamental objectives upon which the ECOWAS Parliament was established.

Affirming the important role of the ECOWAS Parliament in the bloc's journey towards a future of peace and prosperity for all, he said success cannot be achieved without the loyal contribution and hard work of the community's legislative agency.

"Furthermore, to realize the ECOWAS 'Vision 2050', we

require greater involvement of the people in the decision-making processes of the community. That can only be achieved through their duly-elected representatives who, being members of their national parliaments, are seconded to the Community Parliament. We are here, collectively, to serve all the good and great people of West Africa."

President Tinubu also stated that Nigeria, as the host of the community's institution, will continue to support the Parliament to achieve its objectives.

"I am aware of the plan to

have all ECOWAS institutions in one complex and of the good progress that has been made. Nigeria is also working to meet its responsibilities in constructing the ECOWAS Parliament's Headquarters in Abuja within the same complex.

"I would like to emphasize that, as you conduct the business of the 6th Legislature, it is my hope that your discussions will provide you the opportunity to address the prime concerns of the region and come up with resolutions that will lead to the attainment of peace and the advancement of all," he added.

Repealed Student Loan Act Was Unimplementable – Presidency

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH, Abuja

The Presidency has revealed the key reasons behind the amendment of the Student Loan Act, which was signed into law by President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, saying the initial legislation would have been difficult to implement.

In a statement yesterday, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale explained the challenges with the previous Act and the major changes introduced by the newly enacted Student Loans (Access to Higher Education) (Repeal and Re-enactment) Act, 2024.

According to the statement, the repealed Student Loan Act, 2023, had issues related to governance and management, the purpose of the loans, eligibility criteria for applicants, the method

of application, repayment provisions, and recovery of the loans.

He said the new Act addresses these shortcomings comprehensively.

According to him, one of the significant amendments is the establishment of the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) as a corporate body with the legal capacity to enter into contracts, including loan agreements, and initiate actions to ensure repayment by beneficiaries.

He said NELFUND is empowered to provide loans to qualified Nigerians for tuition, fees, charges, and upkeep during their studies in approved tertiary academic institutions and vocational and skills acquisition institutions in the country.

According to him, the board members of NELFUND are drawn from relevant

ministries, regulatory bodies, and participating agencies, including the Federal Ministries of Finance and Education, the FIRS, NIMC, NUC, NBTE, and NCCE, as well as representatives of universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, students of tertiary institutions, and the organised private sector.

He said the governance and management structures have been separated, with a board of directors overseeing governance and a management team led by a managing director responsible for day-to-day operations.

According to him, the board comprises representatives from relevant ministries, regulatory bodies, and participating agencies, while the President appoints the board and management.

"The resource structure of NELFUND has been clearly

defined, with 1 percent of all taxes, levies, and duties collected by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) accruing to the General Reserve Fund.

"This fund will be used to pay loans to qualified applicants and cover operational expenses.

"Significantly, the eligibility criteria have been revised, removing the family income threshold and guarantor requirement. Students can now apply for loans and accept responsibility for repayment, subject to application and identity verification guidelines provided by NELFUND.

"Additionally, a student's application can no longer be disqualified based on their parent's loan history," he explained.

#Day 26 – Ramadan Timing

Towns	Magrib	Alfijir
Abakaliki	6:38	5:13
Abeokuta	6:59	5:33
Abuja/Suleja	6:44	5:17
Akure	6:51	5:25
Akwanga/Keffi/Nasarawa	6:40	5:13
Auchi	6:47	5:21
Ankpa/Ayangba	6:41	5:15
Argungu	6:53	5:25
Azare/Jama'are	6:31	5:03
Bama	6:17	4:49
Bauchi/Ningi	6:33	5:06
Benin	6:49	5:24
Bichi	6:39	5:11
Bida	6:48	5:21
Birnin Gwari	6:45	5:18
B/Kebbi/Gwandu/Jega	6:54	5:27
Birnin Kudu/Gwaram	6:33	5:07
Biu	6:23	5:09
Calabar	6:38	5:14
Damaturu	6:24	5:49
Daura/Dambatta	6:38	5:11
Dutse	6:35	5:08
Dutsinma/Jibia	6:43	5:15
Enugu	6:41	5:18
Funtua/Tsafe	6:43	5:15
Gombe	6:27	5:00
Gumi	6:51	5:08
Gusau/K/ Namoda	6:45	5:13
Gwadabawa	6:51	5:08
Hadejia/Gumel	6:33	5:06
Ibadan/Ife	6:55	5:29
Ilesha/Baruba	6:58	5:31
Ilorin/Kaiama	6:54	5:27
Jalingo/Lau/Gashaka	6:26	5:49
Jere	6:42	5:15
Jos/Saminaka	6:36	5:09
Kabba	6:48	5:22
Kafanchan/Kachia	6:39	5:12
Kafin Maiyaki	6:39	5:11
Kaduna	6:42	5:15
Kano	6:38	5:10
Katsina	6:42	5:14
Kontagora/Zuru	6:50	5:23
Lafia	6:39	5:22
Lagos	6:58	5:32
Lokoja/Idah	6:45	5:19
Maiduguri/Mubi/Gwoza	6:18	4:50
Makurdi	6:38	5:12
Minna	6:46	5:19
Missau	6:29	5:02
Mokwa/New Bussa	6:53	5:28
Monguno	6:17	4:49
Nguru/Gashua	6:29	5:01
Ogbomoso	6:55	5:29
Okene	6:47	5:21
Onitsha	6:44	5:19
Oyo	6:56	5:30
Port Harcourt/Owerri	6:43	5:18
Potiskum	6:27	5:00
Shagamu	6:57	5:31
Sakoto	6:51	5:23
Takum/Wukari	6:32	5:06
Warri	6:48	5:23
Langtang/Wase Shendam	6:33	5:06
Wurno	6:50	5:22
Yola/Numan	6:22	5:55
Zaria	6:41	5:14
Cotonou-Benin	7:01	5:36
Ndjamena-Chad	6:12	4:36
Niamey-Niger	7:04	5:34
Zinder-Niger	6:37	5:07
Garoua-Cameroun	6:18	4:51
Yaounde-Cameroun	6:25	5:01

(Source: Society for the Propagation of Islam Kaduna)

Enlightenment

Narrated Abu Sa'id Al-Khuduri (May Allah Be Pleased With Him); Somebody asked, "O Allah's Messenger! Who is the best among people?" Allah's Messenger (PBUH) replied, "A believer who strives his utmost in Allah's Cause with his life and property." They asked, "Who is next?" He replied, "A believer who stays in one of the mountain paths worshipping Allah and leaving the people secure from his mischief." SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 45.

Compiled by Abdulrazaq Yahuza Jere.



ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS RIVERS STATE

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Re: RIVERS PEACE PACT: "IF YOU DARE ME, I'LL SURPRISE YOU".

ANOTHER FAUX PAS OF GOVERNOR FUBARA.

When a butterfly thinks itself a bird, it ventures into an area that turns it to a mere prey to the real bird.

Same is the case when a snail boasts of being capable of crossing a road faster than a Tortoise, it somersaults dangerously. – African proverbs.

Yesterday, the media space was inundated and awashed with the wailing voice of Governor Siminalayi Fubara, spewing innuendos against the person and office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, HE, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, unprovoked.

It was an occasion of a wrongly counseled "Thank You" visit to the Governor by the crowd purporting to be members of National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE).

In the account of the state chairman of NULGE, the visit was to thank the Governor for two cardinal reasons namely;

- 1) For implementation of 30% minimum wage.
- 2) Promotion of local government workers.

He further seized the opportunity o request for mobility to aid the union in her operations.

Let me digress and ask a few punchy questions in passing:

1. Does NULGE operate the early Greek style of Governance, where every member of the Greek society, gathered at a particular arena, venue/spot, as in this case, to deliberate and debate and decide on issues, or does it operate a Representative pattern where elected/appointed leadership stand in for the mass?
2. If the latter is the case, was this mobilization of workers across the 23 local government areas of rivers state and the attendant risk necessary?
3. Is promotion of staff of any establishment, institution, Government or company, a privilege or a right?
4. How is it that the implementation of 30% approved minimum wage is a privilege, so much so that it warranted mass mobilization to government house?
5. Now that the largely condemned senseless ostentatious jamboree of thanksgivings have serrated the back and forth of the 23 local government areas, is it the plan that NULGE, a union under the organized labour, should fire the first salvo in the Rivers State Government induced/orchestrated rallies, to replace the former?

Which other labour union is next in the series?

Governor Siminalayi's Outburst

I listened to the presentation of the state chairman of NULGE, on the occasion. At no line, paragraph or page in the speech read by the State chairman of NULGE, did he allude to Governor Fubara's self-inflicted political imbroglio in Rivers State talk more of the peace pact brokered by Mr. President.

Surprisingly, Governor Fubara bottled up in deep seated anger, cashed in on the opportunity of the unrelated visit, to wag Mr. President of Nigeria and other victims. He quipped, "...let me say it here for record purposes; what is happening here in our state, is somebody who has respect for an elder. Mr. President invited all the parties to Abuja and came out with a resolution that we should go and implement. That resolution, I am implementing it. It is not a constitutional implementation but a political solution to a problem. I am doing it because of respect for Mr. President. But let me say it here! Let me say it here!! If that action that I have accepted to follow will be taken as weakness, I will surprise them. I want this message to go to them. You know what I mean".

Though it sounded infantilist and pedestrian, the Governor's media aide embellished it worse in a statement he signed off with the theme: "RIVERS PEACE PACT: If you dare me, I will surprise you".

The questions begging for answers are thusly:

1. When did Governor Fubara realize that the President's Peace Pact was not a constitutional solution but merely a political solution which he may choose to implement or not?
2. Why was Governor Fubara not courageous enough to make the damning observation before Mr. President, who after exhaustive counseling, handing down the peace pact freely signed by Governor Fubara and his Deputy and other isolated key stakeholders that participated in the peace meeting at the behest of Mr. president, when given the opportunity to speak?
3. Why does Governor Fubara continue to relish in petty chicanery and hoax?
4. Was there a paragraph in the document offering options for "dos" or "don'ts"?

For clarity purposes, let me reproduce the document here.

DIRECTIVES FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL IMPASSE IN RIVERS STATE

1. ALL matters instituted in the courts by the Governor of Rivers State, Sir Fubara, and his team, in respect of the political crisis in Rivers State, shall be withdrawn IMMEDIATELY
2. ALL impeachment proceedings initiated against the Governor of Rivers State by the Rivers State House of Assembly should be dropped immediately
3. The leadership of the Rivers State House of Assembly as led by the Rt. Hon. Martin Amaewhule shall be recognized alongside the 27 members who resigned from the PDP

4. The remunerations and benefits of ALL members of the Rivers

State House of Assembly and their staff must be reinstated immediately and the Governor of Rivers State shall henceforth not interfere with the full funding of the Rivers State House of Assembly

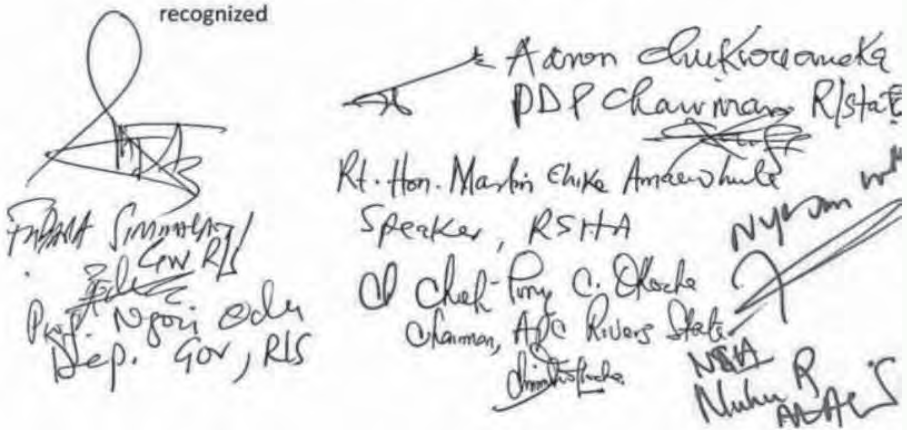
5. The Rivers State House of Assembly shall choose where they want to sit and conduct their legislative business without

interference and/or hindrance from the Executive arm of government

6. The Governor of Rivers State, Sir Fubara, shall re-present the state budget to a properly constituted Rivers State House of Assembly

7. The names of ALL commissioners in the Rivers State Executive Council who resigned their appointments because of the political crisis in the state should be resubmitted to the House of Assembly for approval

8. There should NOT be a caretaker committee for the local governments in Rivers State. The dissolution of the Local Government administration is null and void and shall not be recognized



Prof. Ngoni Odu
Dep. Gov, R/S

Rt. Hon. Martins Chike Amaewhule
Speaker, R/SHA

Chief Tony C. Okocha
Chairman, APC Rivers State

Adnan Chukwuemeka
PDP Chairman R/State

Nyemah
NBA
Nuhu P
ABAL

Distinguished members of the press, reading through the 8 points above, will it be true to say that indices 6 and 8, have been implemented, even when particularly 8, as blatantly refused by Governor Fubara, has been badly affected by effusion of time going by the extant laws of Rivers State, particular the laws prescribing the process necessary for elections into the Local Government Councils and the time allowed?

What of index 6? Does Governor Fubara run a budget duly re-presented to a legitimate Rivers State House of Assembly led by Rt. Hon. Martins Chike Amaewhule?

Is the Governor denying or about to deny his signature on that document or as one of his ardent supporters who was present at the Peace meeting lied to Nigerians that the Governor signed the document under duress?

Doesn't this unprovoked outburst further support our assertion that it is Governor Fubara who mobilized his cronies to institute suits in law courts challenging the powers of Mr. President to churn out the Peace Pact?

Is it not true that with Governor Fubara's outburst, Mr. President is limited to his avowal as sworn to, to protect and defend the entire territory of Nigeria, which includes Rivers State?

In other words, wasn't Governor Fubara alluding to the fact that Rivers State in itself is a sovereign nation-state with him Fubara as GCFR.

Is it true to claim respect for one that you don't obey?

Further questions before Governor Fubara:

1. Who was Governor Fubara warning to surprise in such a crooked high-pitch voice in public?
2. Who did he direct his visitors to pass the message to?
3. Why does a Governor feel sure to threaten fire and brimstone in a state he swore to protect?
4. Why does he drum war when he should actually be the cynosure of Peace?

Conclusion

We shall conclude by asserting as follows:

1. That if Governor Fubara's warning of springing up unpleasant surprise if dared, is to Mr. President, then it is the highest height of insult to Mr. President and his office. We stoutly condemn it and demand an unreserved apology from Governor Fubara to Mr. President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria.
2. If the threat is to the Speaker and 26 other members of the Rivers State House of Assembly, who have been asserting their independence and making/promoting laws for prosperity of Rivers State, then he goofs again.
3. If his threat is targeted at the All Progressives Congress, Rivers State, who has sustained its role as main opposition party in the state and unequivocal and vehement in speaking for the mass of our people including the down-trodden, then he misfired as usual. That threat is empty, hollow and non-sequitur.
4. If the threat is to his estranged benefactor, HE, E. N. Wike, the Honorable Minister of the FCT, then it will not be out of place to define him as an ingrate.
5. The Governor should remember this aphorism, "Those whose carnels are cracked by benevolent spirits, should endeavor to be humble."
6. We demand that All the issues contained in the Presidential proclamation as afore-cited, must be fully implemented by Governor Sim Fubara. He is not allowed to cherry pick.
7. We demand that peace is priceless, terror is senseless. Hence, Mr. Governor should drown the monotonous sounds of war which he personally drums up.
8. We demand that Mr. Governor should perish the thoughts and plans for another brand and round of grandstanding in wasteful spending of tax-payers money to crowds.
9. We demand that the Governor should show the minutest interest in Governance and eschew the braggadocio in Much Ado about Nothing.

Finally, I take the liberties of this media briefing to inform Nigerians, particularly Rivers People of our intercepted information from a very credible source, that Governor Fubara is in subterranean talks with some judges of the Rivers State High Court, to procure interim/exparte orders to declare illegitimate Rivers State House of Assembly and all laws recently passed, to pave way for him to hurriedly appoint Caretaker Committees in the 23 Local Government Councils in Rivers State and execute other anti-people programs within the period of subsisting inter-regnum.

We are sufficiently briefed on the seven judges in cahoots with Governor Fubara on this.

We have included in our petition to the Nigeria Judicial Commission (NJC), their names and courts they preside.

We will not be reluctant to put out here that we shall vehemently refuse and reject such antics of Governor Fubara.

According to the great Philosopher, Franz Fanon, "The gift for an intransigent Government, is Civil disobedience."

CHIEF TONY C. OKOCHA, KSC, DSSRS, JP
Chairman, CTC, APC Rivers State
4th April, 2024

BRIEFLY

Police Recruitment: PSC Unveils 20 Centres For Medical Screening

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja

Police Service Commission (PSC) has confirmed 20 centres for the medical screening for successful and shortlisted applicants from the just concluded computer-based tests conducted by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

The medical screening is one of the several processes put in place by the Police Recruitment Board set up by the PSC to evaluate the applicants for suitability for the job.

The applicants had earlier been subjected to physical and credentials screening and later the computer based test and will on April 16, 2024 undergo the last of the screenings with the medical examination.

EFCC Arrests Impostor Over N.5m Bribe

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

The Ilorin Zonal Command of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested one Akogun Rasheed Usman, an alleged fraudster who has been posing as an officer of the commission and defrauding victims on the pretext that he could help them procure soft-landing regarding their cases with the commission.

The bubble burst for the scammer when the Ilorin Command of the Commission received intelligence regarding his criminal activities.

Usman who claimed to be an officer of the EFCC reportedly obtained money to the tune of N.5million from one Mrs. Khadizah Abdullahi, a parent of two of the suspects held in custody by the Commission over offences bordering on internet fraud.

The intel, which was found to be credible led to the arrest of the suspect, who claimed to be a staff at the library department of the Kwara State College of Education, Oro on Thursday, March 27, 2024 at the General Hospital, Taiwo-Oke area, Ilorin.

Mrs Abdullahi had said she became agitated when the suspect failed to have her two sons held in custody by the EFCC released on bail to her as promised.



R-L: EKSU Registrar, Ife Oluwole; Vice Chancellor, Edward Olanipekun; the awardee, Prince Julius Adelusi-Adeluyi, his wife and Chancellor Dr Tunji Olowolafe, after Prince Adelusi-Adeluyi, he was conferred with Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of the Ekiti State University, during grand finale of the 28th convocation ceremony of the institution.

Police Arrest 3,685 Suspected Criminals In 2 Months

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja

Inspector-general of police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun said the operatives of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) have arrested 3,685 suspects for involvement in various crimes in the country in the last eight weeks.

He also said the Force rescued 401 kidnapped victims, recovered 216 various firearms, 3,601 ammunition and 82 vehicles during the period.

The IGP added that, "In the past eight weeks, we recorded 141 cases of terrorism/secessionist attacks, 537 cases of murder, 126 cases of armed robbery, 214 cases of kidnapping and 39 cases of unlawful possession of firearms."

On the achievements of the police in recent times, the IGP said, "The Force

has successfully, through unrelenting efforts, secured the release of insurance claims of deceased police officers which has accumulated for about eight years.

"We have in the last nine months cumulatively presented cheques totalling N7,263,391,051.73 to 2,514 families of deceased police officers. Apart from actualising a consistent bi-monthly release of insurance benefits to the families of our departed colleagues who had died in the course of their service to the nation (including payment of some backlogs of insurance claims), the Force recently concluded the registration process of the NPF Insurance Company Limited with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and we are steadily progressing towards the operationalisation of the

company. The new company will aid the processing of our insurance funds directly from the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) and the Central Bank of Nigeria," he said.

The IGP also said the maiden Police Awards and Commendations Ceremony, which will honour deserving officers, both living or dead, who have distinguished themselves at their various duty posts has been rescheduled to hold on April 15, 2024.

"The process of sorting through the numerous nominations received from commands and formations has been successfully concluded. It is our expectation that the ceremony will not just serve as an avenue for recognition of the meritorious and courageous efforts of our heroes but it is to serve as inspiration to others," the IGP said.

600 Lawyers Ask UK To Suspend Israeli Arms Export Licences

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Over 600 lawyers yesterday called on the United Kingdom (UK) government to suspend arms export licences to Israel after three Britons were killed in an Israeli strike.

The three Briton died in Gaza on Monday along with four others who had all been working for US-based food charity World Central Kitchen (WCK).

According to Channels TV News monitored by our reporter, Britain's strategic licensing criteria states that weapons should not be exported when

there is a "clear risk" they could be used in international humanitarian law violations.

In the letter, signatories including former Supreme Court judges said the government risked breaching international law by continuing to allow the export of weapons to Israel.

They added that the worsening situation in Gaza and the International Court of Justice's conclusion that there was a "plausible risk of genocide" obliged to UK to suspend arms sales to the country.

London has approved over £487

million (\$614 million) weapon sales to Israel since 2015 in so-called single issue licences, while companies export more under open licences, according to arms control groups.

That includes contributing key equipment worth tens of millions of pounds for F-35 fighter jets made in the United States and sold to Israel, they said.

On Wednesday, two days after the Israeli strike killed the seven WCK staff, two UK opposition parties and various individual lawmakers renewed demands for the government to suspend the exports.

They included former UK national security adviser Peter Ricketts, who now sits in Britain's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords.

Mercy Chinwo: Court Summons 5 Over Defamation

BY OLAKUNLE OLASANMI, Abuja

Chief Magistrate Court, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja has summoned five social media users for "criminal defamation" of the reputation of gospel singer Mercy Chinwo and her husband, Blessed Uzochikwa.

Magistrate Emmanuel Iyanna ordered the five defendants to appear in person before the court on April 23, 2023, to answer the charges levelled against the complainants.

The complainants in the matter are Blessed Uzochikwa and Mercy Chinwo while the five defendants are Okoronkwo Ejike, Kingsley Ibeh, DJ Spoiltkid, Terrence Ekot, and Samuel Agozie.

The suit stemmed from posts made by the defendants last week after the gospel singer and her husband posted a picture of their son on Instagram. After the picture of the baby, who was born in 2023, was posted, the defendants alleged that there was a

resemblance between the baby and another gospel singer, Nathaniel Basse, and claimed that he was the father, an allegation that went viral.

In a criminal complaint filed by the complainants' lawyers led by Pelumi Olajengbesi of Abuja-based media firm, Law Corridor, Mercy Chinwo and her husband said the alleged actions of the defendants amounted to cyber intimidation, injurious falsehood, and cyberstalking targeted at their persons.

TAKE AWAYS

Suspected Criminals

1 IGP Kayode Egbetokun said the operatives of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) have arrested 3,685 suspects for involvement in various crimes in the country in the last eight weeks. He also said the Force rescued 401 kidnapped victims, recovered 216 various firearms, 3,601 ammunition and 82 vehicles during the period. The IGP added that, "In the past eight weeks, we recorded 141 cases of terrorism/secessionist attacks, 537 cases of murder, 126 cases of armed robbery, 214 cases of kidnapping and 39 cases of unlawful possession.

Israeli Arms

2 The United Kingdom (UK) government to suspend arms export licences to Israel after three Britons were killed in an Israeli strike. The three Briton died in Gaza on Monday along with four others who had all been working for US-based food charity World Central Kitchen (WCK). In the letter, signatories including former Supreme Court judges said the government risked breaching international law by continuing to allow the export of weapons to Israel.

Defamation

3 Chief Magistrate Court, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja has summoned five social media users for "criminal defamation" of the reputation of gospel singer Mercy Chinwo and her husband, Blessed Uzochikwa. The complainants in the matter are Blessed Uzochikwa and Mercy Chinwo while the five defendants are Okoronkwo Ejike, Kingsley Ibeh, DJ Spoiltkid, Terrence Ekot, and Samuel Agozie.

NBM OF AFRICA**N/Hq. oba Ewuare II Cultural Center,****Plot 7, Areana Way, Amagba, Benin City, Edo State.***Our Ref:* NBM/2024/01/28/HQ *Your Ref:* _____ *Date:* January 28th, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE/DISCLAIMER

This is to bring to the Notice of the General Public that the names stated below were members of **NBM of Africa** that have been Expelled and Suspended from the Organization for various offenses, infractions, activities and actions/conducts that are inimical or incompatible with the core values and the extant provisions of the **Constitution of NBM of Africa**.

Any step or actions taken by them for or on behalf of the Organization are NULL and VOID. The persons are as follows:-

1. Mr. Osakpolo Osazuwa Collins - Edo State (Expelled)
2. Dr. Ishaq Osagie David Igbineweka A.K.A Eweka - Edo State (Expelled)
3. Mr. Afolabi Olayinka Michael A.K.A Makanaki - Maryland USA (Expelled)
4. Mr. Osadume Nathan - Maryland USA (Expelled)
5. Mr. Maxwell Ogulu - California USA (Expelled)
6. Mr. Walter Winters Akhemein - California USA (Expelled)
7. Mr. Ayodele Daniel Okunade - Maryland USA (Expelled)
8. Mr. Adebawale Salako A.K.A Dr. Debo - Dallas USA (Expelled)
9. Mr. Emmanuel Lebile A.K.A Blacky - Dallas USA (Expelled)
10. Mr. Louis Patrick Erazzele A.K.A CJ - Accra Ghana (Expelled)
11. Mr. Anujuruka John Onyema - Ghana (Expelled)
12. Mr. Silo Norris - Accra Ghana (Expelled)
13. Mr. Bemigho Eyeoyibo AKA Bemuda - Akute Ogun State (Suspension)
14. Dr. Mayor Onyebueke - Edo State (Suspension)
15. Alhaji Yakubu Musa A.K.A Yakson - Auchi Edo State (Suspension)
16. Mr. Stanley Okuh A.K.A Faya - Ilorin Kwara State (Expelled)
17. Mr. Kelvin Olat Bakre A.K.A Apo - Ibadan Oyo State (Expelled)
18. Mr. Pascal Ogie - Auchi Edo State (Suspension)
19. Mr. Kehinde Akanimodo - Lagos State (Expelled)
20. Mr. Fola Ogunmefun - Ijebu ode Ogun State (Expelled)
21. Chief Israel Iwuajoku A.K.A Issy – Owerri Imo State (Suspension)
22. Mr. Chikwe Iheanacho – London UK (Expelled)

Anybody, whether corporate or otherwise who transacts any business with them for and on behalf of NBM OF AFRICA does so at its own risk.

The relevant **Security Agencies, Corporate Affairs Commission, Media Organizations** and the General Public should take note accordingly.

Signed:

Mr. Ajibo Sam-Brown,
National Public Relations Officer
NBM of Africa

+2348055623625. +2348034545500

 www.nbmoafrica.org

Kwara Govt Not Behind Ahmed's Trial BY EFCC – Commissioner

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Kwara State government has refuted claims that it was behind the current trial of former governor of the state, Alhaji Abdulfatahi Ahmed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for alleged corruption.

The government said the burden of governance does not permit any distraction or targeting of anyone, including former public officials.

The state commissioner for communications, Mrs Bola Olukoju, said the trial of the former governor is the exclusive prerogative of the anti-graft agencies which might have found something against him following their investigations of different transactions involving his administration.

“We find the accusa-

tion of the opposition party as cowardly, baseless and wrong-headed. The right place to prove the innocence of anyone accused of wrongdoing is the court of law, not on the pages of newspapers or through shadow-boxing. They should leave us out of the issue,” she said.

“This administration has moved on from whatever happened in the past, except where historical references are inevitable. Our task is so enormous that we are left with no time to waste.

“Regardless, the truth is that the administration still grapples with the burden of fixing the most basic things, including those that should have been done but had resources meant for them blatantly stolen by these PDP officials. An example is the UBEC funds, which were brazenly stolen. We report-

ed a case of a particular N1 billion UBEC intervention funds that were withdrawn cash and stolen. The evidence is damning.

“This barefaced and irresponsible conduct led to the blacklist of Kwara by UBEC and set the state back for many years in education infrastructure and many other sectors. As if that was not enough, there had not been any meaningful investments in the basic education until our administration came up in 2019. It is not surprising, therefore, to see a Kankan LGEA School in some parts of the state, in spite of the huge funds we have pumped in the sector. This was the essence of the government’s public communication dated July 24, 2022 and titled ‘Next Time You See an Oke Apomu LGEA School.’

Ignore Fake Rivers PDP Caretaker Committee List, Says Fubara

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

Rivers State Governor, Sir Siminalayi Fubara, has declared the purported list of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Caretaker Committee members for the state, circulating in the national and social media, as fake.

The governor said the list is a handiwork of cheap publicity seekers and agents of crisis, who should know that their imagination will not stand.

He said the national leadership of the party had met recently and agreed that in states where the tenure of PDP Executives had expired should continue to maintain

the officers as caretakers for the next three months.

Fubara clarified that the decision, which awaits ratification by the National Executive Council (NEC), did not approve that new names should be added to the already existing number of officers, or any subsisting officer(s) removed.

He spoke yesterday at the flag-off of the Port Harcourt International Automobile Spare Parts Trading and Commercial Centre project at Elelenwo, Port Harcourt.

The governor said: “I know that a lot of you saw something flying in the social media, dailies. Let me brief you, we had a meet-

ing, and we agreed that, not just in Rivers State, but in all the States affected, that the Executive Councils (of PDP) should be extended for three months.

“This extension is not meant to bring in new names. The extension also did not say that you are working without the authority of the Governor. So, for those lists that you saw and those ones altered, I can assure you that they are not going to stand.

“For record purposes, so that you will understand, we also agreed that there is going to be a NEC meeting on the 18th of this month (April) that should ratify that decision.

Enugu Govt Takes Clean Water Drive To Rural Areas

BY NNAMDI MBAWIKE, Enugu

Enugu State government has unveiled plans to partner with rural communities on the provision of clean water.

Briefing newsmen in her office in Enugu, the senior special assistant to the governor on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Chika Mbah, said the partnership

would be government-driven and financed but community-led.

“The people of Enugu State are already aware of Governor Peter Mbah’s 180 days water challenge for Enugu metropolis. What is less known is his drive for rural water provision. The governor is not only interested in urban water; rural water is very much in his

plan”, she said.

Explaining how the partnership would work, the governor’s senior aide on WASH stated that potable water would be provided to the various rural communities as they wanted it.

“It is up to each community to decide on what and how they want the provision and management of water, and come with that plan to

the WASH office at the state Ministry of Water Resources. They can for instance decide if they want a borehole or a spring harvested.

“The government is also interested in reticulated water facilities, especially those that can serve more than one community. Adjoining communities can therefore present a joint plan stating the management structure.



STATEMENT TO THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE AND SHAREHOLDERS ON THE AUDITED RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Board of Directors of CWG plc is pleased to announce the group's audited results for the year ended December 31, 2023

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

In thousands of Naira	Group December 2023	Group December 2022	Company December 2023	Company December 2022
Revenue	23,529,216	14,206,737	15,778,260	9,920,212
Cost of Sales	(18,781,278)	(10,377,506)	(12,404,358)	(6,896,406)
Gross Profit	4,747,938	3,829,231	3,373,902	3,023,806
Other Income	144,891	70,786	147,125	48,693
Operating Expenses	(3,444,815)	(2,827,495)	(2,359,459)	(2,075,180)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(231,972)	(275,218)	(221,791)	(267,166)
Interest & Finance Charges	(84,126)	(55,919)	(69,645)	(44,443)
Profit / (Loss) before Tax	1,131,916	741,385	870,132	685,710
Income tax expense	(555,832)	(264,582)	(296,212)	(144,503)
Profit for the Period	576,084	476,803	573,920	541,207

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 31 December 2023

In thousands of Naira	Group December 2023	Group December 2022	Company December 2023	Company December 2022
ASSETS				
Property, Plant & Equipment	729,706	599,436	703,685	583,042
Intangible Asset	62,210	74,590	61,820	74,095
Investment in subsidiaries	59,990		359,274	298,284
Available for sale financial assets	277,552	236,164	277,552	236,164
Deferred tax assets	10,441	1,093		
Inventories	2,623,383	1,268,508	2,319,448	1,268,508
Trade and other Receivables	12,257,340	11,430,997	8,376,667	9,919,977
Cash and cash equivalents	1,794,678	922,245	1,142,294	671,452
Total asset	17,815,299	14,533,033	13,439,840	12,991,522
Liabilities				
Deferred tax liabilities	137,994		137,994	
Lease	8,703	19,741	8,703	19,741
Trade and other payables	12,593,004	10,970,441	8,661,461	9,569,677
Short term loans and borrowing	2,403,631	1,845,437	2,213,651	1,688,432
Income tax payable	428,325	225,480	249,780	225,405
Total liabilities	15,571,657	13,061,099	11,477,609	11,503,255
Equity				
Share capital	1,262,413	1,262,413	1,262,413	1,262,413
Reserves	981,229	209,521	709,818	225,854
Total equity	2,243,642	1,471,934	1,968,231	1,488,267
Total liabilities and equity	17,815,299	14,533,033	13,439,840	12,991,522

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Dated : 25 March 2024

Afolabi Sobande
Chief Financial Officer
FRC/2020/001/0000021960

Adewale Adeyipo
Chief Executive Officer
FRC/2019/ODN/0000019283

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of CWG Plc

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of CWG Plc (“the Company”) and its subsidiaries (“the Group”), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position at 31 December 2023, and the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group at 31 December 2023, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) in compliance with the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No 6, 2011 and with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

Summary Financial Information

The summary financial information do not contain all the disclosures required by the International Financial Reporting Standards, the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), 2020 (and) the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, 2011. Reading the summary financial information and the auditor’s report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Responsibilities of the Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the summary consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards in compliance with the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No 6, 2011 and the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA).

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In accordance with the requirement of the fifth schedule of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, we confirm that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;
- The Company has kept proper books of account, so far as it appears from our examination of those books;
- The Company’s statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

Olumuyi Ogundeyin, FCA,
FRC/2013/CAN/0000002224
For: PKF Professional Services
FRC/2023/COY/141806
Chartered Accountants
Lagos, Nigeria

Date: 25 March 2024



NOTICE OF CAVEAT & NOTICE TO THE WORLD IN RESPECT OF HOUSE B47 VALENCIA GARDEN ESTATE, GALADIMAWA DISTRICT FCT

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE PURPORTED PUBLICATION OF FRIDAY JANUARY, 26 TH 2024 TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DOCUMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPERTY ARE MISSING OR WERE LOST ON TRANSIT IN ABUJA ARE FALSE AND SHOULD BE DISREGARDED.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT ANYONE WHO PURCHASES THE SAID PROPERTY ON ANY DOCUMENT PROCURED AFTER THE SAID PUBLICATION PURCHASES THE SAME AT HIS OWN RISK.

SIGNED:
RICH ATTORNEYS & SOLICITORS
SOLICITORS TO MARGARET OMOREGIE

BRIEFLY**COREN Steps Up Engineering Oversight**BY **ORJIME MOSES**, Abuja

The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) has unveiled series of measures aimed at ensuring quality standards and compliance within the sector.

At the heart of COREN's recent initiatives is the establishment of an Engineering Intelligence, Surveillance, and Enforcement (EISE) Task Force, slated to operate across Nigeria's six geopolitical regions and Lagos State.

In a statement signed by the registrar of COREN, Engr Adisa Ademola Bello, he said this task force will be tasked with gathering intelligence, enforcing regulations, and devising strategies to enhance the integrity of engineering practices.

Also, COREN has unveiled plans to create Regional Steering Committees, aimed at harmonizing the efforts of COREN offices at the regional and state levels.

This move is expected to streamline operations and improve coordination within the organisation.

NAF To Mark 60th Anniversary With Air ShowBY **TARKAA DAVID**, Abuja

Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has outlined events to commemorate its 60 years of existence with an air show in Kaduna in May.

The event marks the NAF's 60 years of unwavering dedication, perseverance and valour in service to the Nigerian people.

A statement by the director of public relations and information, Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet said the celebration will culminate into the Ceremonial Parade and Aerial Display to be held at the NAF Base, Kaduna, on 25 May 2024.

Part of activities lined up for the 60th anniversary with the theme „Nigerian Air Force at 60: Leveraging Strategic Partnerships in Aerospace Innovations for Regional Security“ is a 2-day International Conference and Exhibition, to be held alongside the Third Edition of the African Air Forces Forum, from 23-24 May 2024 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja.



L-R: The administrator of the Presidential Amnesty Programme, Dr. Dennis Otuaro and the Chief of Army, Lt Gen Taoreed Lagbaja, during a courtesy visit of the Army Chief in Abuja yesterday PHOTO BY AMNESTY OFFICE

EFCC Arraigns Bobrisky For Money Laundering, Naira Abuse TodayBY **OLUGBENGA SOYELE**, Lagos and **EJIKE EJIKE**

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) will today arraign controversial cross-dresser Idris Okuneye, popularly known as Bobrisky, before the Federal High Court in Lagos on allegations of money laundering and Naira abuse.

Bobrisky, who was arrested by the EFCC at Pinnock Estate in Lagos State on Wednesday, will be docked before Justice Abimbola Awogboro on a six-count charge of allegedly

laundering N180 million through his company BOB EXPRESS and tampering with the N490,000 by spraying.

While the first four counts of the charge signed by EFCC counsel Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN) alleged that the defendant abused the Naira, the last two counts border on alleged money laundering.

In the first count, the defendant is accused of tampering with N400,000 by spraying the same while dancing at a social event at the IMAX Circle Mall, Lekki, Lagos.

He was also alleged, in count 2, to have, between July and August 2023 at Aja junction, Ikorodu, also tampered with another sum of N50,000 by spraying the same at a social event while dancing.

In count 3, Bobrisky, in Dec. 2023 at White Steve Event Hall, Ikeja also sprayed and tampered with another sum of N20,000 while dancing.

Count four also accuses Bobrisky of spraying and tampering with another sum of N20,000 while dancing at another event in Oniru, Victoria Island.

The offence was committed on March 24, 2024, and is contrary to and punishable under Section 21(1) of the Central Bank Act 2007.

In count 5, Bobrisky, while trading under the name and style of Bob Express between Sept 1, 2021, and April 4, 2024, in Lagos, failed to submit to the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering a declaration of the activities of the said company, (Bob Express) within which period the total sum of N127.7m was paid into the company account domiciled with Ecobank.

Foundation Lauds FG For Fighting Discrimination Against PWDsBY **SAMSON ELIJAH**, Abuja

A non-profit organisation (NGO), which creates awareness on disabilities and other health matters, Asmau Ali Foundation has commended the federal government for taking a decisive action to address the reported discrimination and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Its chief executive officer,

Miss Asmau Ali, said the government's move deserves commendation because it promotes inclusivity and combat discrimination in the society.

Ali, in a statement she issued to journalists in Abuja yesterday said its commendation followed the government's swift action over a social media report by a passenger with reduced mobility (PRM), Debola Daniel, on March 27, 2024,

over the discriminatory treatment he received at the KFC outlet at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA), in Lagos.

Asmau Ali said discrimination against people living with disabilities not only violates basic human rights but also goes against the principles of equality and respect for diversity that are fundamental to Nigerian society.

“This decisive action underscores the government's commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals within our society.

“By holding the eatery accountable for its actions, the government sends a powerful message that discrimination of any form will not be tolerated. This serves as a reminder to all businesses and organizations that they have a responsibility to ensure that their premises and services are accessible and welcoming to everyone, regardless of their abilities.

Tuberculosis, Lassa Fever Hit Benue IDPs CampBY **HEMBADOON ORSAR**, Makurdi

Over 25 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at Ortese Camp in Guma local government area of Benue State have been diagnosed with tuberculosis and Lassa fever.

This is even as the state programme manager, Tuberculosis, Buruli Ulcer

and Leprosy Control, Dr Terence Akighir, explained that the diagnosis is ongoing to establish the exact figure.

The camp chairman, Samuel Imbila, in an interview explained that 15 persons were diagnosed of tuberculosis while 10 IDPs were diagnosed of Lassa fever adding that another major problem in the camp is scarcity of water as several

women in the camp are being ambushed and raped on daily basis by the marauding herdsmen as they go out in search of water.

Imbila who disclosed this in an interview during the birthday celebration of the Bishop of Makurdi Diocese, His Lordship Most Rev. Wilfred Anagbe also informed that those diagnosed with the disease

are already placed on treatment.

While calling for the construction of more houses to decongest the IDPs and nib in the bud the outbreak and spread of diseases, the camp chairman also disclosed that the absence of water at the camp for over three months has further compounded the problem especially on children who are coming up with heat rashes all over their bodies.

TAKEAWAYS**Bobrisky**

1 A Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested popular crossdresser, Idris Okuneye, also known as Bobrisky for mutilation of naira. While confirming the arrest, the spokesperson for the EFCC, Dele Oyewale said Bobrisky was arrested at Pinnock Estate in Lagos State on April 3, 2024, at 3 pm, for alleged spreading naira, currency

Discrimination Against PWDs

2 A non-profit organisation (NGO), which creates awareness on disabilities and other health matters, Asmau Ali Foundation has commended the federal government for taking a decisive action to address the reported discrimination and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Its chief executive officer, Miss Asmau Ali, said the government's move deserves commendable because it promotes inclusivity and combat discrimination in the society.

Tuberculosis & Lassa Fever

3 Over 25 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at Ortese Camp in Guma local government area of Benue State have been diagnosed with tuberculosis and Lassa fever. This is even as the state programme manager, Tuberculosis, Buruli Ulcer and Leprosy Control Dr. Terence Akighir, explained that the diagnosis is ongoing to establish the exact figure.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2024
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, HONOURABLE JUSTICE N. E. MAHA JUDGE

SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/248/2023

BETWEEN
MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD
AND
1. MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO
(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG)
2. THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL
CORPORATE AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA
PAID
SIGN

PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

ENROLLED COURT ORDER
UPON THE HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION EX-PARTE dated and filed on the 4th day of March, 2024 praying the Honourable Court for the following relief:

- An order for leave to serve the 1st Defendant/Respondent by substituted means to wit: by publication in the National Daily Star (P.O. Box 11, Kofar Alimosho, Abuja, FCT) and in other newspapers circulating within Abuja, FCT.
- An order directing the above means of service on the 1st Defendant/Respondent as good and proper service.

HON. JUSTICE N.E. MAHA
Presiding Judge

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AND for such further or other order(s) as the Honourable Court may deem fit and proper to make in the circumstances of this case.

AND THE COURT HAVING EXAMINED the 8 paragraphs Affidavit supporting the Motion for leave to serve the 1st Defendant/Respondent by substituted means to wit: by publication in the National Daily Star (P.O. Box 11, Kofar Alimosho, Abuja, FCT) and in other newspapers circulating within Abuja, FCT, filed in Abuja on the 4th day of March, 2024. Also filed is a written Affidavit dated the 27th day of March, 2024.

AFTER HEARING E. E. Etiongbo, Esq., of Learned Counsel to the Applicant moving in terms of the Motion Paper.

AND THE COURT having given its Ruling:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- An order is made granting leave to the Applicant, to serve the 1st Defendant/Respondent the originating process and subsequent process (as) filed in this suit by substituted means to wit: by publication in the National Daily Star (P.O. Box 11, Kofar Alimosho, Abuja, FCT) and in other newspapers circulating within Abuja, FCT.
- Further to the above, an order is made deeming the substituted order of Court on the 1st Defendant/Respondent as good and proper service in this suit.
- That the 1st Defendant/Respondent shall enter appearance within 30 days of service of the Writ of Summons in the manner ordered by the Court above herein.

HON. JUSTICE N.E. MAHA
Presiding Judge

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4. Hearing Notice is hereby ordered to be issued and served on the Defendants in this suit.

5. Matter stands adjourned to 3rd day of May, 2024 for report of service/further mention.

ISSUED AT ABUJA under the seal of the Court and the Hand of the Presiding Judge this 4th day of March, 2024.

AHM IRENE DOOFAN
Registrar
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CC

IN THE MATTER OF MESSRS L.L. NIG CO. LTD (RC 1193936)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT.
IN RE:

MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD.....PLAINTIFF
AND
1. MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO
(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG
CO.)
2. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

ORIGINATING SUMMONS

BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 30 (1) (2) SECTION 8(2), 8(3) (1) AND 8(1) (4) OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020, ORDER 3 RULE 9 AND ORDER 9 RULES 26 AND 27 OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES 2019 AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT.

Let the Defendants MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO (doing business under the name and style MESSRS L.L. NIG CO) of CP 277, Annex FCT, Abuja and The Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission of plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama within thirty (30) days after service of this summons which is laid, upon the application of the Plaintiff, MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD whose address is

suite D1, Danasari plaza, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, for the determination of the following questions:

- Whether the Defendant's negligence to properly conduct a search on the proposed name MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO prior to registration is not an attempt to pass off the Plaintiff's prior incorporated name of Messrs L.L. Nig Co. Ltd.
- Whether the failure of the 1st Defendant to change its name after notification of the conflict of its name by the 2nd Defendant is not enough reason for the latter to strike out the name of the 1st Defendant among the list of registered business names and equally liable to penalty as prescribed?
- Whether the actions of the Defendants is not a breach of the provisions of Section 30 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020?
- Whether the actions of the Defendants is not an injury to the Plaintiff's reputation and therefore liable to damages?

AND SHOULD YOUR LORDSHIP ANSWER THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, THE PLAINTIFF PRAYS THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR THE FOLLOWING RELIEFS:

- An Order restraining the 1st Defendant using and further using and making claims under the name of MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co. forthwith.
- An Order declaring all actions instituted or taken in the name of MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co. as illegal, null and void and of no effect whatsoever.
- An Order directing the 2nd Defendant to delist the name MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co from the list of registered businesses kept with it for failure to comply with its directive of 19th of May 2022 with Ref No. COM/GCE/QU/VOL. 1/2022/214.
- The sum of ₦10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira) as general damages against the 1st Defendant for passing off of the Plaintiff's name by the 1st Defendant without any positive action by the 2nd Defendant against the 1st Defendant.

This summons was taken out by E.R. Opara, Esq. of E. R. Opara & Co. Legal Practitioners for the above named Plaintiff of No. 24, I.T. Ighani Street, Jabi, Abuja, FCT. Tel: 09087009008, 07087009008. Email: info@eroparalaw.com

Dated this 27th Day of February 2023.

E.R. Opara, Esq.
E.R. Opara & Co.
Excel Chambers
Counsel to the Plaintiff
No. 24, I.T. Ighani Street
Jabi Abuja FCT
Legal mail: eropara@eroparalaw.com
Email: info@eroparalaw.com
07087009008/09087009008

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IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CC

IN THE MATTER OF MESSRS L.L. NIG CO. LTD (RC 1193936)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT.
IN RE:

MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD.....PLAINTIFF
AND
1. MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO
(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG
CO.)
2. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ORIGINATING SUMMONS

1. ABDULMALIK EHIZOGIE, Male Adult Christian, Nigerian Citizen of suite D1, Danasari Plaza, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, FCT do solemnly and sincerely declare and state as follows:

- That I am the procurement manager of the Plaintiff in this suit and by virtue of which I am conversant with the facts of this case and the facts stated thereinafter.
- That I have the authority of the Plaintiff to depose to this Affidavit.
- That the Plaintiff was incorporated on the 30th day of May 2014 and since then has been a going concern. Attached and marked as "EXHIBIT A" is the CERTIFIED EXTRACT OF THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION of the Plaintiff.
- That sometimes in early 2022, our attention was drawn to the fact that the 2nd Defendant had registered a name similar to our name when the bankers were conducting a search with the 2nd Defendant in order to open an account the Plaintiff had requested for.
- That some of our clients were not comfortable making payments in my personal name or that of the Plaintiff's other staff.
- That the Plaintiff then took up the responsibility of engaging its solicitors JOE OHIMAI ELAKHE & CO to write to the 2nd Defendant on the 13th of May 2022 a Letter complaining about the similarities in name. Attached and marked as Exhibit "B" is the Letter captioned COMPLAINT ON SIMILARITY OF COMPANY NAME MESSRS L.L. NIG LTD - RC. 1193936.
- That the 2nd Defendant upon receipt of the Plaintiff's complaint letter showing into action and then replied the Plaintiff in a letter dated the 19th of May 2022 Ref No. COM/GCE/QU/VOL.1/2022/214, which was addressed to the 1st Defendant and copied to the solicitors of the Plaintiff. Attached as Exhibit "C" is a copy of the RE: COMPLAINT ON SIMILARITY OF COMPANY NAME MESSRS L.L. NIG LTD. RC1193936.
- That since the communication of the Letter of the 2nd Defendant to the 1st Defendant, the former has not effected the changes, demanded by the 2nd Defendant.
- That the 2nd Defendant has not sanctioned the 1st Defendant rather the 1st Defendant has continued to use the name.
- That the 1st Defendant has continued to maintain an action in the name and style of MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. Attached and marked as Exhibit "D" is a CERTIFIED COPY OF THE WRIT OF SUMMONS IN SUIT NO. CV/2315/2021; MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO (Trading under the name of MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co.) V. DJAKOTA NIG LIMITED & 4 ORS.
- That the actions of the Defendants are affecting the Plaintiff's business and caused it loss of earnings.
- That it will be in the interest of justice to grant the Plaintiff's reliefs.

13. That I depose to this Affidavit conscientiously believing its contents to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information, and accordance with the Oaths Act.

ABDULMALIK EHIZOGIE
DEPONENT

SWORN TO AT
The Registry of the Federal High Court Abuja, this 27th Day of February 2023.

Page 2

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CC

IN THE MATTER OF MESSRS L.L. NIG CO. LTD (RC 1193936)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT.
IN RE:

MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD.....PLAINTIFF
AND
1. MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO
(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG
CO.)
2. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

AFFIDAVIT OF NON-MULTIPLICITY OF ACTION

1. ABDULMALIK EHIZOGIE, Male Adult Christian, Nigerian Citizen of suite D1, Danasari Plaza, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, FCT do solemnly and sincerely declare and state as follows:

- That I am the procurement manager of the Plaintiff in this suit and by virtue of which I am conversant with the facts of this case and the facts stated thereinafter.
- That I know as a fact that the subject matter of this case is not pending in any court.
- That I depose to this Affidavit conscientiously believing its contents to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and information, and accordance with the Oaths Act.

ABDULMALIK EHIZOGIE
DEPONENT

SWORN TO AT
The Federal High Court Registry Abuja, this 27th day of February 2023.

Page 3

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(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG
CO.)
2. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

WRITTEN ADDRESS IN SUPPORT OF ORIGINATING SUMMONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- This is a Written Address in support of the Originating summons filed by the Plaintiff and in compliance with the Extant Rules of the Court.
- The Originating summons is asking for the following prayers:
 - An Order directing the 1st Defendant to cease and desist from the further use, claiming under the name of MESSRS L.L. Nig Co. forth with.
 - An Order declaring all actions instituted or taken in the name of MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co. as illegal, null and void and of no effect whatsoever.
 - An Order directing the 2nd Defendant to delist the name MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co from the list of registered businesses kept with it for failure to comply with

FOR SERVICE ON

- The 1st Defendant
CP 277,
Annex, FCT, Abuja
- Registrar general
Corporate Affairs Commission
Plot 420 Tigris Crescent,
Off Aguiyi Irons Street,
Maitama, Abuja, FCT.

Page 4

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CC

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IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CC

IN THE MATTER OF MESSRS L.L. NIG CO. LTD (RC 1193936)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT.
IN RE:

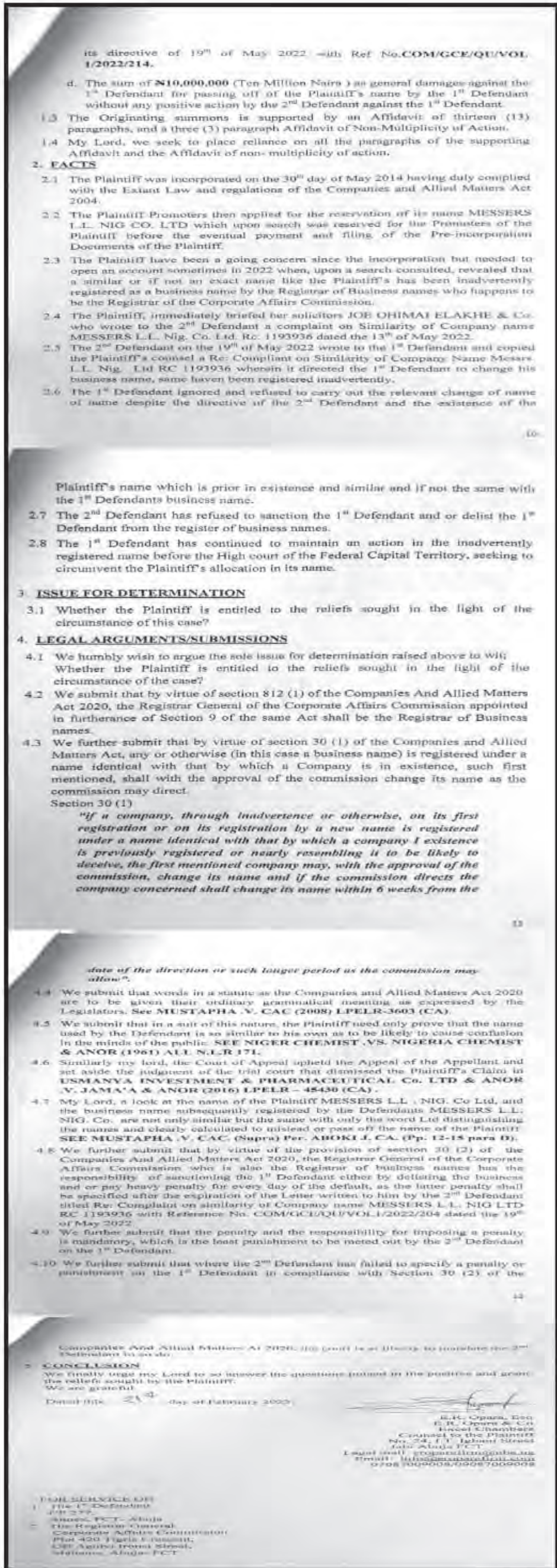
MESSRS L.L. NIG. CO. LTD.....PLAINTIFF
AND
1. MOSES SUNDAY AJEHSO
(Doing business under the name
And style of MESSRS L.L. NIG
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2. THE REGISTRAR GENERAL
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 - An Order directing the 2nd Defendant to delist the name MESSRS L.L. Nig. Co from the list of registered businesses kept with it for failure to comply with

Page 6



We're Working To End Crude Oil Theft In Nigeria – Uzodimma

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State and chairman, crude oil theft and management committee has said his committee is working to end crude oil theft in the country within the shortest possible time.

Uzodimma stated this when he briefed newsmen in Abuja yesterday shortly after a stakeholders meeting that lasted for more than six hours in Abuja.

He said that the committee plans to submit its interim report to the National Economic Council (NEC) before the end of April.

Uzodimma assured that the committee, which is a sub-committee of the NEC, would at the at the next

economic council meeting, give an interim report of what the outcome of their assignment was.

“The NEC meeting usually holds at the last week of the month.

“So, may be the last week of this month, if all goes well and there is national economic council meeting, we will submit an interim report to the council and that report will also carry the interim findings and recommendations.

“We have the mandate to eliminate completely, cases of crude oil theft, increase production of oil and gas and boost revenue earning for the government.

“We have done a lot. We

have interfaced with critical stakeholders in the industry. Some revelations have been made, some findings have also been done,” he said.

Uzodimma added: “We have also been able to collect sufficient data; many have been processed and some are still being processed.

“I assure you at the next economic council, we should be able to give an interim report of what the outcome of our assignment is.

“After the interim report, and if our recommendations have been approved, we will continue with more activities in terms of implementing the recommendations presented in the interim report“, he said. (NAN)

NiMet, LIFE-ND Sensitise Abia Farmers On 2024 Weather Prediction

The Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise for Niger Delta (LIFE-ND), in collaboration with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), has trained 100 farmers on the 2024 Seasonal Climate Prediction in Abia.

The one-day training, which held in Umuahia

yesterday, had participants drawn from Abia, Delta and Cross River, with the intent to enhance agricultural production.

The Abia Coordinator of LIFE-ND, Dr Uchenna Onyeizu, said the objective of the event was to guide farmers on the possible climatic conditions, which might take

place during the year.

Onyeizu, who said that most farmers operate without the clear knowledge of weather and climatic conditions, said the advice would help farmers make informed decisions.

He said: “This is a high level interactive session for our beneficiaries, where we have representatives in different communities that LIFE-ND is very active. (NAN)

Edo Community Disturbed Over Missing 200-level Undergraduate

The community of Iru Egbede in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo is disturbed over the alleged disappearance of a 200-level undergraduate of Delta State University (DELSU), Faith Omodon.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Faith, studying Business Administration at the university, was last seen on Saturday after leaving home for the farm.

Faith's father, Mr Edward Omodon, told NAN on Thursday that the news of his missing daughter reached him while he was at a community gathering.

“We usually have Iru Na-

tional Conference at this time of the year. We were seated inside the community hall when we heard loud wailing outside that my daughter was missing.

“She had left for the farm earlier that morning with a motorbike, taking her breakfast flask with her,” he said.

Corroborating Omodon's story, Ikpoba Johnbull, head of the village vigilance group, said soon after the news of her disappearance broke that evening, they followed the girl's mother to the farm.

“We immediately mobilised and combed the area up to Izighiri and Uwumuwe; two neighbouring villages but could not find any trace of her.

“We only found the leftover of her lunch flask,” he said.

Johnbull said they had to inform neighbouring vigilance groups after spending the night inside the bush but without result.

According to the vigilance group leader, after all was said and done, the girl's father was advised to formally report the case of a missing person at the Abudu Police Division.

The National Youth Chairman of the community, Mr Donald Egboko, who said his people were depressed and devastated over the incident, appealed to security agencies to assist in tracking Faith's whereabouts. (NAN)

Unilorin Students Provide Drugs, Electricity To PHCs In Kwara

Students of Master of Public Health (MPH) of the University of Ilorin, have provided drugs, health interventions and electricity to Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across Kwara communities.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the students also repaired abandoned boreholes and renovated some health facilities in the communities.

Prof. Bolarinwa Akeem, the MPH Supervisor, made this known on Thursday, on the side-

lines of the 2024 MPH Field Posting Reports Presentation at the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.

He explained that the programme was part of the ‘Statutory Posting’ for students of the department.

He stated that the field posting exposed students to community-based services and research.

According to him, the three-month Harmattan Semester Pro-

gramme also exposed the students to community diagnosis and how to identify health challenges.

“By identifying such challenges, they will ultimately provide health interventions to these communities.

“It is also an opportunity to collaborate with the community-based stakeholders and the non governmental organisation,” he said.

Akeem also pointed out that the MPH programme is multidisciplinary, cutting across all disciplines, including lab technology and medicine, among others. (NAN)

BRIEFLY

Kwara Poly Alumni Cry Out Over Land Grabbers' Desperation

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

The alumni of Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, yesterday raised the alarm that the land grabbers who had encroached the institution's land were employing all means, including terrorism to retain the encroached land.

The protom president of the Kwara State Polytechnic Worldwide Alumni, Engr. Abu Salami, raised the alarm during a press conference held at the Polytechnic's auditorium.

"At this point, we are of the view that they (land grabbers) are ready to use all means including threat, terrorism, sponsored court cases and blackmailing to snatch the land they do not own.

Governor Ododo Applauds Tinubu Over Assent To Student Loan Act

BY AYOBAMI OMOLE-IYAGIN, Lokoja

Kogi State governor Ahmed Usman Ododo has commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for assenting to the Nigeria Student Loan Act which establishes the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND).

Reacting to Wednesday's signing of the Student Loan Appropriation Bill into law, Governor Ododo noted that the Student Loan Act will improve the quality of education and increase access to education for millions of Nigerian youth and children from disadvantaged backgrounds in the country.

In a statement by his special adviser on media, Ismaila Isah, the governor expressed delight that President Tinubu is placing premium on the provision of quality education to Nigerians, adding that education is a veritable tool for empowering the people and an enabler for more Nigerians to ascend the socio-economic ladder irrespective of their social and economic backgrounds.

Ododo noted that by assenting to the Student Loan Act, President Tinubu has further demonstrated uncommon determination to transform the education sector in Nigeria.



NYSC director general, Brig-Gen Yushau Dogara Ahmed (right) making a presentation to the registrar of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede, when the registrar with his management team paid a visit to NYSC National Directorate Headquarters in Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO BY NYSC

NESREA, Stakeholders To Eliminate Lead From Paint In Nigeria

National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and SRADEV-Nigeria have reiterated their commitment towards the elimination of lead from paint in the country.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the stakeholders are also seeking safer alternatives to the use of lead in paints.

The stakeholders stated this at the regional lead awareness workshop yesterday in Abuja.

The workshop was

organised by NESREA in collaboration with SRADEV-Nigeria as part of the Lead Exposure Elimination Project.

The theme of the workshop was "Strengthening national capacity towards elimination of Lead paint in Nigeria."

The director-general of NESREA, Prof. Aliyu Jauro, said lead is a highly toxic substance that poses severe health risks, especially to children.

He said exposure to Lead could result in irreversible neurological damage,

developmental disorders, and a host of other health complications.

Jauro said that the primary purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on the dangers of leaded paints, safer alternatives and reformulation methods for SMEs across the country.

"Our mandate encompasses a wide range of activities, including the regulation of chemicals, waste, pollution control, and environmental impact assessment, among others.

"Today, we gathered here to address a pressing issue that directly affects the health and well-being of everybody, the elimination of lead paint," he said.

He said NESREA had recently reviewed and gazetted the National Environmental (Chemicals and Pesticides) Regulations 2023.

"These regulations take into account emerging environmental concerns, including the presence of lead in paint.

"By doing so, we aim to strengthen the legal framework governing the production, importation, distribution, and use of paint in Nigeria," he said.

Foundation Takes Security Dialogue To Abuja Communities

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja

Global Peace Foundation has commenced security and peace dialogue in Abuja, following the wake of insecurity in Nigeria's capital city.

The dialogue, which is a collaboration and synergy between traditional and religious leaders to address insecurity in Abuja, kick-started at the Garki Chieftdom with representatives from all the villages.

The country representative of the Global Peace Foundation, Rev John Joseph Hayab said the capital city in recent months experienced issues of insecurity, adding that the dialogue is aimed at fostering peace, unity and addressing insecurity in Abuja.

"If there is chaos and insecurity in Abuja, it means Nigeria is not safe. But if Abuja is safe, it means Nigeria can be secured.

"Issue of insecurity should

not be left in the hands of the security agencies alone because the people have more information than the security agencies," Hayab said, explaining why they gathered religious leaders and traditional rulers for the dialogue.

"Religious and traditional rulers are not competitors but collaborators in addressing the insecurity in Abuja through dialogue," Hayab added.

Speaking, the chief

imam of Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society, Sheik Fuad Adeyemi, said anyone that loves God, without peace where he or she is, the person may not have any God to call on because of fear.

According to Fuad, it is cheaper to invest in peace.

The paramount ruler of Garki Chieftdom, Dr Usman Nga Kupa who was represented by the district head of Mabushi, Alhassan Dangana, said anyone that preaches peace is in line with God's agenda for mankind.

"And I encourage all traditional and religious leaders here to take the message to our people in the villages.

to transforming key sectors of the economy, Comrade Simeon appealed to Tinubu to prioritise the completion of the Ajaokuta-Otukpo Rail line.

"The project promises to stimulate job creation and foster economic growth in surrounding areas, providing opportunities for the local workforce," he said.

In light of his commitment

Tinubu Urged To Revive Ajaokuta-Otukpo Rail Line

BY ORJIME MOSES, Abuja

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been charged to revive the Ajaokuta-Otukpo Rail Line.

The appeal came yesterday in Abuja from a criminologist, Comrade Elejo Simeon, who

argued that by providing an alternative mode of transportation, the project will alleviate road congestion along the corridor, easing the burden on existing infrastructure.

He said, "Residents and businesses alike stand to benefit from reduced travel

times between regions, enhancing connectivity and economic integration.

SHORT NEWS

Ministry Inaugurates Team On Performance Management System

BY BIDON MIBZAR, Abuja

Permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Dr Marcus Ogunbiyi, has inaugurated the core management team for the implementation of Performance Management System (PMS) in the ministry.

A press statement signed by the ministry's director of information and public relations, Badamasi Salisu Haiba states that the members of the Core Management Team were drawn from the departments of Planning, Research and Statistics (PSR) and the Human Resource Management (HRM) of the ministry.

In his remarks, the permanent secretary explained that "the PRS department would focus on the ministerial aspect of the PMS, while the HRM department on the other hand would focus on the employee aspect."

5,000 Visitors, Tourists Expected At NIHOTOUR Food Festival

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Management of National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR) will on May 31, 2024 hold the 4th edition of "NIHOTOUR Gastronomy Festival".

A statement by the institute public relations officer, Mr. Joesef Karim, said the event would be held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja.

It added that participation in the food festival is open to the public, free of charge.

This year is the 4th consecutive edition of NIHOTOUR Gastronomy Festival, which was conceived in 2020 to improve the gastronomic service skills-set of personnel working in Nigeria's hospitality and tourism sectors.

The festival is a masterpiece of gastronomy tourism that attracts over 5000 visitors and tourists and has been themed "Sustainable Food Production from Farm to Table."

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Difficult Conversations With Employees: 10 Rules To Remember

Whether it's over a performance setback, a policy violation or an employee conflict.

Initiating a talk with an employee who needs correction can be a roadblock for many managers. Whether it's over a performance setback, a policy violation or an employee conflict, it may be tempting to brush the issue under the rug.

But as experienced leaders know, you can't just hope the situation will blow over and resolve itself – most of the time, it will only get worse. This makes having difficult conversations with employees a vital part of a manager's role.

10 tips for difficult conversations with employees

1. Conquer your fears

Let's face it – no one likes conflict. This can cause leaders to turn a blind eye to issues that may be festering on their teams.

You might be hesitant to broach difficult conversations because you're not sure how your employees will react or you don't want to escalate an already tense situation. But while such fears may be valid, the more you avoid confronting a problem, the more pernicious it can become.

So, if you're waiting to have a difficult conversation until you feel comfortable, don't – because it's likely that time will never come. It's natural to feel uneasy, so don't be afraid to tackle your fear head-on. In fact, you'll likely find that your team members will value an honest dialogue and appreciate



Photo Credit: www.cezannehr.com

your feedback. After all, unless you bring it to their attention, they may never realize how their negative behaviors can affect the whole group.

2. Do your homework

The more you prepare, the better the meeting should go. Before you meet with an employee to hash out the conflict, make sure you have all the cold, hard facts lined up. Basing difficult conversations solely on your own assumptions and observations won't lead to employee growth but rather opens the door to conflict.

It's important to have all the applicable policies on hand. For instance, if a team member is habitually late, have a clear attendance policy

to show them and make sure they sign off on it. This will reinforce expectations and increase the chances of the guidelines being met.

Or, if an employee comes to you with a complaint about their co-worker, file a grievance on their behalf to document the conflict in writing and build out strategies for resolving the situation.

You must be ready to face all possible outcomes and employee reactions as well. Difficult conversations can take several different turns – the employee might receive your feedback favorably, get emotional or storm out of the office. As part of your homework, role-play this discussion with an

objective third party to prepare yourself and craft an effective response for whatever you might encounter in your meeting.

3. Look for the positives

It's important to set a positive tone from the outset. Otherwise, the employee might become defensive – or shut down altogether.

But don't start off too positively, or your employee may feel set up when you dive into the difficult part of the conversation. Start with a question such as, "Do you have a moment to talk about some feedback?" Then get to the point as clearly and directly as possible.

Make your conversation an open dialogue with proven facts and data to support your case. Put yourself in their shoes. How would you like the same news delivered to you? You don't want your employees to feel like they're in trouble. Otherwise, they may feel they're on an inevitable path to termination and lose motivation for their job. One way to avoid this is to depersonalize the negative – to focus on the performance, not the person.

By Chris Brennan | Performance Consultant | Los

Culled From: <https://www.insperity.com/blog/difficult-conversations-with-employees/>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: TO IMPROVE COGNITIVE FUNCTION



Source: www.washingtonpost.com

ACROSS

- 1 Answering evasively, perhaps
- 4 Component of MSG
- 5 Esports enthusiast, e.g.
- 6 Confident way to solve crosswords
- 7 Company that introduced Tickle Me Elmo

DOWN

- 1 Stand-up guy, say
- 2 Balanced bridge bid, in brief
- 3 Prominent name in peppermint patties
- 4 Lead-in to moons or thanks
- 5 "Amscrayl!"

YUSUF
I, formerly known as **MARYAM SAJET SANI** and **SANI MARYAM SAJANI** and **SANI MARYAM SAJENT** now wish to be known and addressed as **YUSUF MARYAM SANI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AGUN
I, formerly known as **AGUN IFOMESHO**, now wish to be called and addressed as **AGUN JAMES IFOMESHO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

GLORY
I, formerly known as **GLORY JEKO KALU** now wish to be called and addressed as **GLORY UDO OKORONKWO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OKOLIE
I, formerly known as **OKOLIE CHIEMERIE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **OKOLIE CHIEMERIE SAMSON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TSETAVER
I, formerly known as **ANYAGWA NGUNAN SCHOLASTICA** now wish to be called and addressed as **TSETAVER MNGUSUUR FELICITY**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

GIMBA
I, formerly known as **CHRISTOPHER UBAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **GIMBA CHRIS**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
This is to notify the public that my correct name is **SULEMAN ADAMU DANTSOHO** but wrongly captured as **SULEIMAN ADAMU DANTSOHO**, that I going forward, I wish to be known and addressed as **SULEMAN ADAMU DANTSOHO**. All documents bearing former name remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public to take note.

ADEJOH
I, formerly known and addressed as **ADEJOH ONOJA BASIL ANTHONY** and **ADEJOH-ONOJA ANTHONY BASIL**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ADEJOH ONOJA BASIL**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

MOHAMMED
That my names were wrongly captured during BVN documentation as **Mohammed Adama**. But my correct names are **MOHAMMED ADAMU** as captured in my national ID card. Concerned authorities should take note.

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

BLESSING
I, formerly known as **MRS.BLESSING NNEOMA ADINDU –OHANWE** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS BLESSING NNEOMA NWAUBANI –NDUDIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OLISAEKE
I, formerly known as **EJEMBA BLESSING CHIGOZIE** now wish to be called and addressed as **OLISAEKE BLESSING CHIGOZIE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IYERE
I, formerly known as **EBIERE FINEGIRL OTASI** now wish to be called and addressed as **IYERE EBIERE IYERE MY D.O.B.** is 22/11/1978 not 22/10/1978. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADEDEJI
I, formerly known as **ADEDEJI OLAMIDE KUSI EDUN** now wish to be called and addressed as **ADEDEJI OLAMIDE EDUN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

REARRANGEMENT OF NAME
I, formerly known as **HAMMED MUFUTAU OYEKOLA** now wish to be called and addressed as **OYEKOLA MUFUTAU HAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

PROSPER
I, formerly known and addressed as **OGBONNA CHINEYE MIRIAM**. Henceforth wish to be known and address as **PROSPER CHINEYE MIRIAM**. MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS: 11/5/1999 NOT 19/5/1994. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concern and the general public please take note.

MOHAMMAD
I, formerly known as **NDAKO AMINA WRONG DOB 30/4/1968** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOHAMMAD AMINA NDAKO CORRECT DOB 1/1/1975**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CELESTINA
I, formerly known as **CELESTINA OMO AMOMOH** now wish to be called and addressed as **CELESTINA OMO EBOIGBE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ABAKU
I, formerly known as **ISAAC NKECHINYERE JUSTINA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABAKU NLECHINYERE CLAD ARORIYE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SABIA
I, formerly known as **SABIAT ABDULHADI** now wish to be called and addressed as **SABIA GOODNESS CHIKWENDU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

DONALD
I, formerly known as **BAIN MAIJICHE** now wish to be called and addressed as **DONALD BAIN MAIJICHE MY D.O.B.** IS 19/12/1984. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUSE
I, formerly known as **MUSE TOSIN** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUSE OLUWATOSIN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SUNDAY
I, formerly known as **SUNDAY MARK ODEY** now wish to be called and addressed as **SUNDAY MARK OBI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OCHOCHÉ
I, formerly known and addressed as **OCHOCHÉ SAMUEL**. Henceforth wish to be known and address as **OCHOCHÉ SAMUEL IDADI**. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concern and the general public please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME
I, **IGBOJEKWE ALOYSIUS NWANKWO KELECHUKWU**, whose name was incompletely captured by NIMC as **IGBOJEKWE ALOYSIUS NWANKWO**, hereby state that my correct and full name is **IGBOJEKWE Aloysius Nwankwo Kelechukwu** as in all my records which remain valid. General public should please take note.

BEFUTE
I formally known as **BEFUTE SARKI** now I wish to be known and addressed by **BEFUTE SERAH SARKINGYADA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

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

UNDERA
I, formerly known as **MOGA TERHILE SAMUEL** now wish to be called and addressed as **UNDERA SIMON TERHILE**. Correct date of birth is 15-09-1995 not 05-09-1995. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FATI
I, formerly known as **FATI SANDA** now wish to be called and addressed as **FATI NMA SANDA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

RECONCILIATION OF NAME
That **DANIEL JOHN AGWOM** and **DANIEL JOHN** Refer to one and same person, Now henceforth I wish to be known and address as **DANIEL JOHN AGWOM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

RICHARD
I, formerly known as **RICHARD OGHENEKPAROBO GOODLUCK** now wish to be called and addressed as **RICHARD GOODLUCK**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHIABUOTU
I, formerly known and addressed as **ANYANWU UCHECHI UGOCHI**. Henceforth wish to be known and address as **CHIABUOTU UCHECHI UGOCHI**. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concern and the general public please take note.

GRACE
I, formerly known as **GRACE MUTYON MUSA** now wish to be called and addressed as **GRACE DANMULAK SIMON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

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

ALIYU
I, formerly known as **HAMZA ALIYU MUSTAPHA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ALIYU HAMZA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ATSOR
I, formerly known as **ATSOR JULIANA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ATSOR JULIANA MHIINAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

VICTOR
I, formerly known as **VICTOR JOSEPH** now wish to be called and addressed as **VICTOR CHIBUIKE OKORIE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH
I, **OLOGUNORISA STEPHEN JIDE** WISH TO STATE THAT MY DATE OF BIRTH WAS WRONGLY CAPTURED ON MY INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT AS 4TH MAY 1972 INSTEAD OF 5TH APRIL 1972 AS IT APPEARS ON MY NIN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AUTHORITY CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

VINCENT
I, formerly known and addressed as **VINCENT CYRIL**. Henceforth wish to be known and address as **VINCENT CYRIL AKABOLI**. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concern and the general public please take note.

EMMANUEL
I, formerly known and addressed as **EMMANUEL WADA**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **EMMANUEL KURAH**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public should please take note.

EDWIN
I, formerly known as **NNAJIOFOR CHARLES NZUBECHUKWU** now wish to be called and addressed as **EDWIN CHARLES NZUBECHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

KUTIGI
I am formally known and called **AMINA MOHAMMED**. Now wish to be known and called **KUTIGI YABAGI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TYAVGYER
I, formerly known as **UDOO HELEN IGBU**. now wish to be called and addressed as **TYAVGYER GWAKASE HELEN**. All former documents remain valid. Zenith bank and General public should please take note.

ABUBAKAR
I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABUBAKAR KAWU MOHAMMED** with my real d o b 06 - 07 - 1978 not 02 - 01 - 1985. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

NSOR
I, formerly known as **OJOGHO IHECHUKWU AKOMA** now wish to be called and addressed as **NSOR NTUI EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHUKWU
I, formerly known as **OBASI RUTH CHUKWU** now wish to be called and addressed as **CHUKWU RUTH CHIDIMMA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

LAMISI
I, formerly known and addressed as **ONIMISI LAMISI**. Henceforth wish to be known and address as **LAMISI IBRAHIM**. MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS: 1/05/1992 NOT 01/05/1987. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concern and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
That my name was wrongly captured as **NUHU BADUKU**, instead as **BADUGU NUHU MHYA**. which is my correct name. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public please take note.

ABEL
I, formerly known as **ABEL SUNDAY KELVIN**, Wrong D.o.B 31/08/1993 now wish to be called and addressed as **ABEL SUNDAY**, Correct D.o.B 31/08/1999 All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MAXWELL
I, formerly known as **MANAGER JULIANA ESTHER** now wish to be called and addressed as **MAXWELL JULIANA ESTHER**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MOHAMMED
I, formerly known as **MUHAMMED ALIWIYA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOHAMMED ALAWIYA** my correct date of birth is 09/09/1993 not 01/01/1976. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

EKELEME
I, formerly known as **JOHN CALEB ONYEKACHI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **EKELEME CALEB ONYEKACHI**. Reason: Name to tally National Identity card, documents. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

NURA
I, formerly known as **SHAMSU MUSA** now wish to be called and addressed as **NURA SHAMSU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SALIHU
I, formerly known as **SALUHU DAUDA ISA** now wish to be called and addressed as **SALIHU ISAH DAUDA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

EZE
I, formerly known as **MISS OMOTUNDE CHIAMAKA OMOLAYOLE** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS EZE OMOTUNDE CHIAMAKA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AMUCHIE
I, formerly known as **AMUCHIE CHIKAODIRINAKA EMMANUEL**, Wrong D.o.B 12/02/1982 now wish to be called and addressed as **AMUCHIE EMMANUEL CHIKAODI**, Correct D.o.B 15/03/1983. Reason: Name to tally with name in my National Identity card. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

BENJAMIN
I, formerly known as **TSOUL ADOO CHARITY**, Wrong D.o.B 07/10/1995 now wish to be called and addressed as **BENJAMIN CHARITY TSOUGH**, Correct D.o.B 10/03/1993. Reason: Name on my National Identity card to tally with BVN, Bank Account All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

KABIRU
I, formerly known as **DUKKU SADIQ KABIRU**, Wrong D.o.B 14/11/1968, as I provided during BVN registration, now wish to be called and addressed as **KABIRU SADIQ CORRECT D.O.B 16/01/1976**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SABASTINE
I, formerly known as **SABATINE RUTH NANRET D, PANTU RUTH GABRIEL** now wish to be called and addressed as **SABASTINE RUTH NANRET**. Reason: Marriage All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SALEH
I, formerly known as **AL-AMIN SALEH, SALEH AM-AMIN**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SALEH AL-AMIN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ANEBI
I, formerly known as **EDACHE REGINA ENE** now wish to be called and addressed as **ANEBI REGINA ENE**. Reason: Marriage All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IGOH
I, formerly known as **ABRAHAM REBECCA ANYONE** now wish to be called and addressed as **IGOH REBECCA ANYONE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
PAGE II

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
PAGE VII

COMPANY TRUSTEES
PAGE VIII

PUBLIC NOTICE
I FORMALLY KNOW AS **HASSANA ISHAK SAMBO, HASSANA .I. SAMBO, HASSANA ISHAKUSAMBO AND HASSANA SAMBO** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **HASSANA ISHAK SAMBO**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, KADUNA STATE PROBATE DIVISION OF KADUNA STATE
WHEREAS, the person whose names and address are set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and place in the said column AND whereas the person whose address(es) are set out in the second column hereunder claimed the relationship to the said deceased and has applied to the above court for a grant of "LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION" of personal property of the said deceased.
NOTICE is hereby given that the said LETTER OF ADMINISTRATION will be granted to such person unless notice to PROHIBIT the grant thereof is filed in the Probate Registrar High Court of Justice, Kaduna State within "TWENTY-ONE DAYS (21 DAYS) from this publication to this NOTICE."
SCHEDULE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF DECEASED.	APPLICANTS FOR GRANT
ADEYANJU JOHN BAYO OF NO. 27 A.B.U STAFF QUARTERS SAMARU ZARIA (AREA G) Who died on 23RD DAY DECEMBER, 2021 AT TEACHING HOSPITAL SOKOTO	PROF. ADEYANJU FLORENCE BOLA and ARIGBEDE YETUNDE ADEDOYIN OF NO. 27 A.B.U STAFF QUARTERS, SAMARU ZARIA (AREA G) LAWFUL WIDOW AND DAUGHTER

SIGNED:
MURTALA JAAFARU ZUBAIRU (ESQ)
PROBATE REGISTRAR

ZOE REVIVAL GOSPEL CENTRE
THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAME HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT (CAMA) 2020.
THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. ONUCHUKWU FRANKLIN CHINECHETAM - CHAIRMAN/TRUSTEE
2. ONUCHUKWU CHISOM - SECRETARY
3. ONUCHUKWU CHISOM - TRUSTEE
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
1. PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF GOD BY WORD AND DEED SO THAT PEOPLE CAN COME TO A LIVING FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR AND LORD.
2. GROWING PEOPLE IN THE TEACHING OF JESUS CHRIST TO MAKE THEM THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
3. CREATING A PLACE FOR THE WORSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST
4. PROCLAIMING AND SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTER GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF PUBLICATION.
SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

JAIBEL TALLAFI FOUNDATION
THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED FOUNDATION HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION UNDER PART "F" COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.
THE TRUSTEE ARE:
• MUSA ELISHA ALI
• JARED IBRAHIM GANGYISI
• TIMON JAMES
• IBYOMI HYELLA TAGWI.
THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.
1. TO WORK FOR THE ECONOMIC, HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA.
2. TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, HEALTHCARE PROVISION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, AND PROCUREMENT PLANNING IN NIGERIA.
3. TO ENCOURAGE AND POPULARIZE VOLUNTARY WORK IN OUR SOCIETIES.
4. TO ASSIST IN ADVOCACY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION IN AREAS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE PUBLIC
ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.
SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

ENGR. EMMANUEL OGUNLEYE FOUNDATION
This is to notify the general public that the above name has applied for name registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission, under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act no 1 of 1990.
THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. OGUNLEYE EMMANUEL IDOWU CHAIRMAN
2. ABE FOLASHADE OLUWAKEMI TRUSTEE/SECRETARY
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
1. To help the less-privileged in our societies and to assisting young children on the street into a stable living condition and facilitate their reintegration through information education.
2. To provide resources for the street children and assist them to acquire some skills for living.
3. To act on behalf of the street children and cooperate with all interested groups and organizations for reintegration into normal life in society.
4. To identify the origin and family background of the street child with the hope of regenerating them with their family.
5. To reduce child illiteracy rate, teenage pregnancies and extreme poverty among our children and women.
6. To assist poor parents and families to utilize the resources available to them
7. To sensitize local children and families about the importance of formal Education and take children and teenagers out of hawking in the streets during school hours.
Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this
SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

PRICES
Change of name: - N3,000
Loss of Documents: - N7,500
Company Trustees: - N15,000
FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL:
ABUJA: 08112993160 | 08112993166 LAGOS: 08112993161
VISIT:
ABUJA OFFICE: LEADERSHIP GROUP LIMITED, 27 IBRAHIM TAHIR LANE, OFF SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA WAY, UTAKO DISTRICT, ABUJA
LAGOS OFFICE: LEADERSHIP GROUP LIMITED, 22 TANK AND TUMMY PLAZA, OBA AKRAN AVENUE, IKEJA, LAGOS

Difficult Conversations With Employees: 10 Rules To Remember

By by Chris Brennan | Performance Consultant | Los

Continued from cover...

All team members have areas in which they need to improve, but remind them that you hired them for a reason. Employees need to know that you believe in their abilities and will equip them with the tools, resources and action steps to succeed. Don't just fixate on their failings, but help them identify growth opportunities. Always end the meeting on a positive note. Your employee should leave thinking they can do better and be committed to meeting their goals.

4. Leave your emotions at the door

Difficult conversations can easily become emotionally charged, so be sure to keep your own feelings in check. Avoid using "I feel" statements, as that phrasing could introduce unhelpful biases into the discussion. Remain objective and concentrate on the facts. Also, keep in mind: just because you leave emotions at the door doesn't mean your employee will, too. People are at their most vulnerable when listening to hard feedback, and it can provoke a wide range of emotional responses – an employee might resort to tears, anger or accusations. They could even walk out on the discussion entirely. In any of these situations, pause and resume once everyone is calm – don't power through it.

5. Choose the ideal setting

The physical environment can also set the tone for how your meeting will unfold. In most cases, your office is an acceptable location. As a general rule, praise in public and correct in private, so don't meet for lunch or coffee or in a space at the office where others may overhear you. In a hybrid work scenario, don't ask a team member to come into the office on their remote day just to have the meeting. It's OK to have difficult conversations virtually – but with video on so you can read each other's nonverbal cues. This will help minimize any potential for miscommunication. If the discussion can wait, it's best to schedule it for a time when you'll both be together on site.



6. Know when to ask for assistance

If your meeting involves serious accusations, policy violations or an issue that requires disciplining employees, an HR representative should be present. If they're unavailable, consider using another manager of the team. Never involve another employee. You'll also want to brief the witness on the situation ahead of time, so you're both clear on your roles and responsibilities during the conversation. For instance, you might need them to observe and take notes, or act as a mediator to help control emotional outbursts and ensure the discussion remains on track.

7. Focus on consistency

Hold all employees accountable to the same performance and behavior expectations. Every team member deserves equal treatment across the board, so have the same difficult conversations with anyone who is slipping. You don't want to make it seem like you're alienating or picking on a certain individual or group. Otherwise, your organizational culture will suffer from disharmony and lack of trust. Referring to concrete performance metrics can help ease concerns an employee might have about feeling unfairly targeted. Consistent policy adherence will show that you expect everyone to be at their best.

8. Keep it confidential

When sharing hard feedback or handling a conflict between employees, it's vital to maintain confidentiality. That is, no one who isn't involved in the situation should know about it. If other team members, or even someone in another department, catches wind of this sensitive information, rumors can spread, which can affect morale, erode trust and create a toxic environment. However, if an employee comes to you in confidence, make sure they understand you cannot guarantee 100% confidentiality. Depending on what they disclose, you may



have a responsibility to take action or inform others. Let them know you'll protect their confidentiality as much as possible, but you're also required to follow HR policies and the law. In the case of an employee conflict, use your employees' complaints, firsthand accounts from any witnesses and the facts to determine what actually occurred. Take a step back and understand there are always three sides to the story: the employee who complained, the employee who was complained about, and the truth.

9. Create a measurable action plan

The real mark of effective communication is how well it translates into resolution. Broaching difficult conversations is the first step; you should also work with the employee to create a development plan with measurable action steps they can take to improve. Otherwise, the same issue will continue to repeat itself. Work together with your employee to write down a plan, then agree on deliverables and timelines to track their progress. Ensure that each stage of this plan is concrete and specific, so the employee has a clear direction, knows the expectations and can hold themselves accountable.

10. Loop back around

At the end of your initial conversation, make sure the employee understands what you expect from them moving forward – otherwise, their behavior can creep back over time. As the situation begins to resolve, check in with follow-up discussions to reinforce positive efforts and identify future growth goals. Unlike the more difficult conversations you had before, these periodic check-ins can be more organic and informal. Feel free to use an already scheduled one-on-one meeting or ask if they want to grab coffee and chat. In other words, be human. This will demonstrate that you're there for them and are truly invested in their continued growth.

Summing it all up

As a leader, it's important to recognize the power you have in developing your team members. There's a good chance they're unaware of the negative impact they're having on the rest of the group, but you can help them recognize their blind spots and turn themselves around. Bottom line: Difficult conversations will strengthen your team culture.

Culled From: <https://www.insperity.com/blog/difficult-conversations-with-employees/>

BRIEFLY

Kaduna Distributes Palliatives To 289,375 Displaced Persons

BY AZA MSUE, Kaduna

Kaduna State government has flagged off the distribution of palliatives to 289,375 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in 551 communities across 12 local government areas affected by banditry.

The executive secretary of Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (KADSEMA), Dr. Usman Hayatu Mazadu, who disclosed the figure at the flag-off of palliative distribution at Maraban Kajuru, said the figures were not just numbers, but statistics “that represent lives, dreams, and the enduring spirit of our people.”

Mazadu said, “In Chikun, we have 134 affected communities and 26,345 displaced individuals. In Birnin Gwari, 84 affected communities and 70,893 displaced, and in numerous other communities across 12 other local governments.”

Governor Sani Makes New Appointments

BY AZA MSUE, Kaduna

Kaduna State governor, Uba Sani has made more appointments, which he described as being in line with his administration's efforts to reinvigorate the machinery of government and quicken the pace of governance.

The governor's chief press secretary, Muhammad Lawal Shehu said Hon Nuhu Goroh-Shadalafiya was appointed chairman of Kaduna State Legislative Service Commission subject to confirmation by the Kaduna State House of Assembly.

Other appointees are Ahmed Abdullahi Maiyaki - managing director of Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC), Ibrahim Abdulkarim Adamu - managing director, Kaduna Market Development and Management Company, Engr Idris Aminu-managing director, Kaduna State Power Supply Company. Mr Bamai Abu Nehemiah - senior special assistant on security.

The CPS in a statement said, “The appointments were based on the proven track records of the appointees, and their commitment to the service of Kaduna State.



Okada man with overload along Birni Gwari road in Chikun local government area in Kaduna recently. PHOTO BY GBENGA ABIOLA

Kano Governor Begins Probe Of Ganduje

BY ABDULMUMIN MURTALA, Kano

Governor of Kano State, Abba Kabir Yusuf has inaugurated two judicial commissions of inquiry (JCI), on cases of misappropriation of public property, political violence and missing persons between 2015 and 2023.

The incumbent national chairman of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje was governor of the state during the period.

Inaugurating members of the JCI yesterday, Governor Yusuf vowed to bring anyone found wanting to book,

adding that it was part of his inaugural pledge to unravel and prosecute those behind cases of political violence recorded in the state before and during the past election.

“Political violence is a major setback to democracy worldwide. It leads to loss of lives and property as well as mistrust on the part of the people and those in power.

“The disturbing cases of political killings, especially in 2023 must not be swept under the carpet, this is to ensure we prevent future occurrences.

“Similarly, we have assured the people of the state we shall also revisit

the various forms of political violence perpetrated by unscrupulous elements during and after the elections. We will never allow the blood of the innocent citizens of the state to be spilt by heartless people in the name of politics or other forms of hatred” the governor stated.

The first commission under Justice Zuwaira Yusuf, will look into cases of political violence and missing persons from 2015-2023. It would be recalled that violence involving the Member House of Representatives from Doguwa/Tudun Wada, Ado

Doguwa, that led to the burning down of his house at Khalifa Isyaku Rabiu Estate took place within this period.

“We expect them to unravel the criminal network involved and unmask the sponsors to face justice, find its root causes and find out where violence is associated with 2015, 2019 and 2023 elections” the governor added.

Inaugurating the second commission of inquiry under Justice Lawan, Governor Yusuf gave the commission the mandate of inquiry into cases of misappropriation of public properties and assets.

SHORT READ

Borno Contains Gamboru Market Fire Outbreak

BY FRANCIS OKOYE, Maiduguri

Borno State government has contained a fire outbreak which occurred at 10pm on Wednesday at Layin Yan Katako and outer sections of the popular Gamboru Market in Maiduguri.

The government's feat was contained in a statement issued yesterday in Maiduguri, the state capital to journalists by the state's commissioner for information and internal security, Prof. Usman Tar.

Tar said the Borno State Fire Service immediately on getting report of the fire incident dispatched a team of fire fighters to the fire site, and the fire was effectively extinguished, adding that the adjoining sections on the four cardinal points from point of impact were effectively safeguarded from the raging fire.

“On Wednesday April 3, 2024, at 10am, a fire outbreak was reported at the Layin Yan Katako and outer sections of the Gamboru Market in Maiduguri.

“No human casualty reported. The security of the market was not at risk of trespass or vandalism. The Borno State Fire Service and SEMA are conducting on-the-spot assessment of the inferno to determine the root cause(s) of the inferno, and steps to avoid future occurrence. The government will take all steps to overcome fire disasters in the state.

Police Arrest 2 Over Decomposing Body In Shallow Grave

BY FRANCIS OKOYE, Maiduguri

Borno State Police command has paraded Ibrahim Muhammed and Mustapha Modu in connection with a decomposing body discovered in a shallow grave in Jiddari area of Maiduguri, the state capital.

Briefing journalists at the state police headquarters where the suspects and others arrested for various crimes were paraded, the police public relations

officer, ASP Daso Kenneth Nahum said on March 11, 2024 at about 8pm, one Umar Mohammed of Jiddari Polo area of Maiduguri reported to GRA police station that while inspecting his uncompleted house in Judumari area of Maiduguri, he found a shallow grave with an unidentified decomposed body, one digger and two knives.

Nahum said on receiving the report police detectives of GRA police station visited the scene and exhumed the body which was further taken to state specialist hospital Maiduguri for autopsy.

He said on March 25, 2024 at about 3pm, police investigation further led to the arrest of Ibrahim Muhammed, who confessed to have conspired with his master, one Usman still at large and Modu a labourer, who dug the shallow grave where the body was buried and he was paid the sum of N1,500.

Nahum said the case is under investigation, adding that effort is on top gear to arrest the fleeing suspect.

In a related development, the police said the eight suspects arrested in connection with the killing of Dr. Kamal Abdulkadir, a lecturer of the Department of Physical and Health Education, University of Maiduguri, last Sunday were still in the command's custody undergoing investigation.

Governor Kefas To Rebuild Houses Destroyed By Windstorm

BY JOHN MKOM, Jalingo

Governor of Taraba State, Agbu Kefas has assured residents of Takum local government area that the state government will reconstruct the houses destroyed by windstorm on Tuesday evening during a heavy downpour.

The windstorm that

accompanied the rain destroyed several houses and rendered residents homeless.

Before his prompt visit to the affected areas, Governor Kefas first dispatched a team of state officials to visit the affected areas and mandated the field workers to take stock of all the damages and proffer immediate ways to handle the disaster and proffer ways to

stop any future occurrences.

The governor therefore later on Wednesday visited Takum to get a first-hand report of the damages.

While taking physical assessment around some of the affected parts of the city, the governor empathised with victims and offered words of encouragement where he reinstated his desire to

rebuild the destroyed homes and bring succour to the victims.

LEADERSHIP report that a windstorm had on Tuesday destroyed hundreds of homes in Takum, the headquarters of Takum local government area where properties worth millions of naira were destroyed including livestock and farm products.

BRIEFLY**Fire Guts Section Of LASUTH, Records No Casualty**

BY OLAMIDE OJUOKAIYE, Lagos

A fire incident on Thursday broke out from the ICT unit of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, (LASUTH) Ikeja, gutting some sections of the facility.

It was gathered that firefighters from the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service swiftly responded to the incident at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital to put out the fire.

Director, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye who confirmed the fire outbreak disclosed that firefighters successfully extinguished the inferno.

According to her, "The fire originated in the ICT room of the institutional hospital, situated at the Hematology Clinic of the Pre-Pharmacy block.

"Prompt action from the Ikeja Fire Station of the agency ensured that the fire was contained within the room of its origin, preventing it from spreading to other areas.

Ondo APC Warns Politicians Against Polarising Party

BY TOPE FAYEHUN, Akure

All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ondo State has warned political supporters of aspirants against divisive utterances and actions ahead of the party primary slated for later this month.

The state's party chairman, Engr. Ade Adetimehin, described as unnecessary the idea of some people constituting themselves into "the aborigines of APC" of the state chapter.

The party in a statement issued by its publicity secretary, Alex Kalejaye, contended that the unity of APC is erected on the pillars of equal opportunities, irrespective of whatever considerations.

According to him, the chapter would not condone acts that are aimed at making some members inferior to others, on account of when they joined the party.



L-R: Fashion lawyer and founder, Fashion Law Institute, Bernice Asein; brand manager, Edrington Portfolio, Nigeria, Hammed Adebisi; creative director, ATAF0, Mai Atafu; The Macallan Brand Educator and Ambassador, Lagos, Daniel Atteh, and creative director, Outspoken Clothiers, Adesola Balogun during The Macallan-sponsored Fashion Conversation with Mai Atafu in Lekki, Lagos, recently PHOTO BY KOLAWOLE ALIU

Ikogosi Resort Is Nigeria's Hidden Gem, Says Minister

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

Minister of tourism, Lola Ade-John, has described Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort and Conference Centre in Ekiti State as a standout tourist destination and the nation's hidden treasure.

Ade-John, who made the assertion at the launch of the Ecogenesis Incubator Programme in Ekiti State, described the resort as one of the most charming places in Nigeria.

She emphasised the government's commitment

to partner with the private sector to continue supporting the growth of tourism at iconic locations like Ikogosi Resort, to ensure it becomes a global tourist hotspot.

"I was so impressed when I drove into Ikogosi, the foliage, the greenery, the whole place is charming and enticing," Ade-John remarked, highlighting the resort's excellent hiking trails and urging Nigerians to embrace hiking clubs for exploring the country's natural beauty.

Ade-John was received

by Governor Biodun Oyebanji, who joined her on a tour of the springs on Easter Sunday.

"Every community (such as Ikogosi) has a story, and we want to share those stories across the land," Ade-John shared with journalists during her visit, adding that, "Real tourists don't care much about hotels and airports. They want to get to where the action is. It is hiking trails such as this that enable them to connect with the communities in a way that they won't have anywhere

else."

She underscored the significance of community stories in tourism, emphasising that authentic experiences like hiking trails allow tourists to connect with local communities in meaningful ways.

This sentiment echoes the mission of the federal government's Ecogenesis Incubator Programme, designed to empower residents, tour operators, and guides with essential skills for thriving in the tourism industry.

Ondo Guber: Leaders Make Case For Ondo South

BY GEORGE OKOJIE, Lagos

Ahead of the governorship election slated for November 2024 in the state, notable leaders in Ondo State have stressed the need for the other zones to allow Ondo South to produce the next governor of the state.

A former senior special assistant to the late governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu on oil and gas, Dr. Benson Enikuomehin, who spoke on behalf of the leaders at a

press conference in Lagos, argued that conceding the next governor to Ondo South will help to correct the prevailing political imbalance in the state to guarantee justice, equity, fairness and peace for all segments of the state.

The popular lawyer and chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who is an indigene of the state appealed to the leadership of the two major political parties in

the forthcoming election to support candidates from Ilaje which is in Ondo South and also the backbone of economic growth in the state.

He said though the incumbent Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa is eminently qualified to continue in office, the fears of the people in the zone is that he could only spend a term going by the amendments in the constitution that says, "Once you succeed, your boss,

you can only spend a term because the constitution talks about two terms of eight years.

"I am speaking on behalf of notable leaders of Ondo State, providence has thrown up Aiyedatiwa as the Governor at this moment and we are not quarrelling with that. Assuming that the providence would allow him to do two terms, it would have been better. We will be shortchanged if Aiyedatiwa is allowed to contest."

153 Farmers Get Agric Inputs From Lawmaker

BY ALO ABIOLA, Ado-Ekiti

A member of the Ekiti State House of Assembly, Hon. Hakeem Jamiu, has distributed seedlings and agrochemicals to farmers in his constituency.

Jamiu who represents Irepodun/Ifelodun Constituency 2 in the seventh Ekin June Assembly, said the move was to boost food security and reduce

hunger in the state.

The former deputy speaker of the state Assembly held the distribution in his Igbemo Ekiti country home under his "Back-to-Farm Intervention and Constitution Engagement".

He added that the action was to contribute his quota to tackling the prevailing food crisis.

Jamiu disclosed 153 local farmers in the constituency

benefitted from the initiative which was an opportunity to bring into practice the Ekiti State Food Security Law which he sponsored as a bill in the 6th Assembly which he served as the deputy speaker.

He said his gesture to the farmers was also a way to creating employment, generating wealth and encouraging more people into farming ahead of the

planting season.

Twelve bags of rice seedlings, 35 bags of maize seedlings, 35 cartons of sprayers, agro-chemicals, 35 packs of cassava seedlings, 24D 36 packs of Aminocom for rice, maize and others were distributed to the farmers.

According to him, "It's a constituency engagement and I want to encourage people to go back to farming.

SHORT NEWS**Court Remands Mother, Daughter For Child Labour**

BY OLUGBENGA SOYELE, Lagos

Justice Abimbola Awogboro of the Federal High Court in Lagos has remanded 25-year-old lady Olubube Nwobi and her 55-year-old mother, Ebele Nwobi, in prison for allegedly using two underage girls as domestic servants.

Justice Awogboro ordered that the mother and daughter be remanded at the Ikoyi Custodial Centre of the Nigerian Correctional Services after they were docked before her by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) on a four-count charge of harbouring and using two underage girls (name withheld) for domestic labour.

The defendants, whose address was in Abijoh GRA, Chois Garden Estate Lekki, Lagos State, were alleged to have committed the offences between May and November 2023.

The prosecutor, Uzunwa Egonu, told the judge that their unlawful and exploitative actions had exposed the two teenagers to physical, social and psychological trauma.

Egonu, a senior legal officer with NAPTIP, accused the defendants of assaulting two officials of the agency on March 12 at the agency's office situated at No. 165b, Oba Ladejobi Street, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos.

BRIEFLY

Bayelsa LGA Electoral Process Not Transparent, Says Eradiri

BY OKEM GREEN MBAH, Yenagoa

Bayelsa State Labour Party (LP) governorship candidate, Engr. Udengs Eradiri, has decried the ongoing local government electoral process in the state as “undemocratic and shameful.”

Eradiri said the entire electoral process was fraught with highhandedness, corrupt practices and other irregularities with results already predetermined by the state government.

He said it was not surprising that members of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were all over the streets boasting publicly that the results of the yet-to-be-conducted poll had been written to allow only the candidates of their party sweep the entire positions.

Eradiri, a former commissioner for youth and later environment, said the state governor had allowed everything he complained about ahead of the just-concluded governorship election in the state to characterise the LG poll scheduled for Saturday.

“From a compromised Bayelsa State Electoral Commission to a process designed to favour only the ruling PDP, the local government electoral process in Bayelsa State is laughable, non-competitive and undemocratic and will surely become a scam, a sham and a charade,” he said.

Navy Arrests 14 Suspected Oil Thieves In Rivers

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

The Nigerian Navy has arrested 14 suspects involved in oil theft and also uncovered an illegal oil refining site with a capacity to produce over 9.6million litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) per day in the creeks around Elem Krakama in Degema local government area of Rivers State.

In an exercise conducted by the Nigerian Naval Ship (NNS) Pathfinder, yesterday, the Navy seized four wooden boats with a storage capacity of seven thousand metric tones, while siphoning crude from a tapped oil wellhead owned by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC).



L-R: Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara and Eze Oha of Aparo Kingdom, Obio/Akpor LGA, Eze Chike Amadi Wodo during the visit of the royal father to the Government House in Port Harcourt, yesterday PHOTO BY NAN

Okuama 17: Army To Declare More Suspects Wanted

BY FELIX IGBEKOYI, Asaba

Nigerian Army has hinted that more suspects would be declared wanted over the killing of 17 soldiers in Delta State.

The army authorities said its action in Okuama community, Ughelli South local government area of Delta State is normal because the “enemies must pay the price of killing the soldiers.”

The chief of military/civil affairs, Major General Nosakhare Ugbo, stated this when he fielded questions

from journalists during the Nigerian Army Civil-Military Cooperation media chat held on Wednesday evening in Asaba, the state capital.

Ugbo said apart from the names of those declared wanted over the Okuama murder, new names will be added to he. the military in their investigation and possibly make further arrests.

He said the community as a crime scene, there would be no humanitarian services for now since the people

are said to be displaced, which may indicate they are somewhere, especially when investigation is ongoing.

He said the community is helping them to recover arms stolen by the perpetrators of the deadly act and especially in their investigation to get to the perpetrators. He said details of investigation would be made public as soon as they concludes investigation.

Major Ugbo said that the military have recovered some of the arms and ammunition carted away by the killers, adding that it

is making progress in line with its mandate to recover the rest.

“This issue is an issue under investigation but I am telling you that our arms and ammunition, we are still searching for them. We have gotten some, we have not gotten others. So, the search is continuing.

“Investigation has not been concluded, I don’t think it will be appropriate for you or anybody to go there and interfere with investigation,” he said, stressing that every other issue around Okuama community, is still under investigation. “And I believe and I will assure you that at the end of the investigation, at the end of whatever will unfold, these things will be brought to the fore.”

Obi Seeks End To Govt Officials’ Overseas Medical Bills

BY OKECHUKWU OBETA, Awka

Presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP) in the 2023 general election, Mr. Peter Obi has advised President Bola Tinubu to ban payment of medical bills from federal government treasury for any public office-holder who receives treatment overseas.

The former Anambra

State governor urged Tinubu to prioritise primary health services in delivering Dividends of democracy to Nigerians.

Obi gave the advice yesterday in an interview with newsmen at the College of Nursing Sciences, St. Charles Borromeo Specialist Hospital in Onitsha, Anambra State after

presenting a cheque of N10 million to the management of the school for the upgrading of its facilities.

He said it is only by improving the critical sectors of the country which he listed to include health, education and pulling people out of poverty, that a new Nigeria could be achieved.

Obi expressed

appreciation to the management over the growth of the College which he performed the foundation laying ceremony in 2012 when he was Governor of Anambra State.

He described the nursing profession as very critical in health services delivering because according to him “nurses are the closest medical personnel to any patient in a hospital because after the doctors diagnosis and make prescriptions, nurses are the ones who stay to administer the treatments”.

Stakeholders Clamour For Global Funding Of Climate Change

BY OKEM GREEN MBAH, Yenagoa

Founder/chief executive officer of CleanCyclers, Ambassador Otto Canon, the deputy governor of Cross River State and co-founder Obudu Conservation Centre, Peter Odey, Netanela Duke, Jonathan Wragg and other experts have called for global funding of climate change from financial institutions to positively impact the people and the planet towards

achieving sustainable development.

The clamour was the core of dialogue during the recent Global Sustainability Summit held at the House of Lords, London, organised by the CleanCyclers, a global sustainability initiative in collaboration with other global partners, to address pressing environmental challenges and promote sustainable solutions.

Odey, who established a ministry of sustainable

development in the state, said that Cross River is evidently upholding the practice of sustainability and circular economy at high standards, adding that the state has also set up green police which to a large extent ensures that trees are not cut, waste is disposed properly, and defaulters are penalized.

In a statement via electronic mail, the convener of the Global Sustainability Summit, Amb. Otto Canon, expressed

his heartfelt concern regarding the unsustainable practices of corporations and governments around the world and called for actions that inspire others to embrace sustainability as a way of life.

He said, “The summit served as a platform for dialogue, igniting a collective passion for sustainable action. Participants exchanged knowledge and experiences, addressing urgent climate action, renewable energy revolutions, and sustainable finance.

SHORT NEWS

Rivers Peace Pact Not A Legal Document – Wike’s Ex-Aide

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

Opunabo Inko-Tariah who is a former special adviser on media to former Rivers State governor Nyesom Wike, has affirmed that the eight-point peace resolution initiated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is not a legal document, but a political solution.

His views came a day after the state Governor Siminalayi Fubara warned his detractors not to take him for a ride because of the peace accord, which he asserted was a mere political solution.

Inko-Tariah, who stated this yesterday while addressing newsmen in Port Harcourt, said the document reawakens the reminiscences of the Aburi Accord, that eventually led to the Nigerian civil war.

He said, “The eight-point resolution is not a legal document. It is a political solution. It reawakens the reminiscences of the Aburi Accord. If the governor had come back and said, Mr. President said this and this must be done, Rivers’ people will revolt.

“The support the governor is having today is not necessarily because he is being loved so much. Let me put in that way. Now, probably because of his policies and programmes, people are beginning to love him. But, as at that time, to a lot of Rivers people who had been snared in the flame of oppression, dictatorship, it was like thank God, that era is past.

SHORTNEWS**Oshiomhole Can Be Relied Upon In Battle – Tinubu**

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISIAIH

President Bola Tinubu has described former Edo State Governor and Senator Adams Oshiomhole as fearless and fiercely loyal because he can be relied upon in a battle.

He stated this while congratulating Senator Adams Oshiomhole on the occasion of his birthday, today, April 4, 2024.

Senator Oshiomhole was President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) from 1999 to 2007; Governor of Edo State from 2008 to 2016, and National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) from 2018 to 2020.

The president in a statement by presidential spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale joined the family and friends of the Distinguished Senator in celebrating his close ally and a man for all seasons.

Work With Matawalle To Improve Zamfara Security, Governor Lawal Urged

BY PAUL UWADIMA, Abuja

The governor of Zamfara State, Dauda Lawal, has been reminded of his promise to work with the minister of state for defence Dr Bello Matawalle to improve the deteriorating security in the state.

This assertion was made by the president, Southern Nigeria Youth Movement, Comrade Ikechukwu Nnamdi Okeke in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja, yesterday.

He reminded the governor that in a two-day interactive session organised by a Coalition of Northern Civil Society Organizations, where service chiefs, minister of defence, northern governors, traditional rulers led by Sultan of Sokoto and prominent leaders in the region attended, Matawalle and Lawal promised the nation that they would work together in the fight against banditry and related criminalities to make Zamfara State safer.

He noted that unfortunately, Governor Lawal is allegedly not ready to work with the minister and alleged that daily the governor, his media aides and social media handlers always blame Matawalle's administration from 2019 to 2023 for the insecurity in the state.

Rivers Govt, APC Clash Over Alleged Plot To Illegalise State Assembly

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

The River State Government and the All Progressives Congress (APC) threw verbal jabs at each other yesterday over an alleged plot to secure a court order to declare the State House of Assembly illegitimate.

APC had fired the first salvo by accusing Governor Siminalayi Fubara, of plotting to procure Court interim

order, which will declare the present Rivers State House of Assembly illegal.

Reacting, commissioner for Information and Communications, Warisenibo Joe Johnson, said the allegation is baseless, adding that it reflects APC's panic over the love Fubara enjoys by the people.

Yesterday's exchange between the state government and the APC in the state followed the reignited political

friction between Fubara and his estranged predecessor and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) minister, Nyesom Wike.

APC caretaker committee chairman in the state, Chief Tony Okocha, who disclosed this while speaking with journalists in Port Harcourt on Thursday, said the court order also intended to render null and void, all the laws which the Rt. Hon. Martin's Amaewhule-led House vetoed the governor.

Okocha stated that Fubara

PDP: Chairmanship Race Hots Up As Ex-minister, Abah, Consults North-Central Zone

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja

The former minister of Police Affairs, Barr. Humphrey Abah, has commenced consultation with executives of the North-Central of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in a bid to assume the national chairmanship position of the party.

Besides Abah, other party stalwarts from the North Central who are in the race are, former Benue State Governor, Senator Gabriel Suswam; his

former colleague from Niger State, Babangida Aliyu; and a former governorship aspirant in Niger State, Alhaji Sidi Abdullahi Bomi Gulu.

PDP stakeholders from North Central geo-political region are agitating for the national chairmanship position to return to their zone based on the original zoning arrangement.

Since the sack of the Senator Iyorchia Ayu (Benue State, North Central) as PDP national chairman last year, the the deputy national chairman

(Yobe, North East) Amb Illiya Damagum has, as provided for in the party's constitution, been acting as chairman.

However, in a bid to secure the support of the support of party officials in his zone, Abah's meeting critical stakeholders and leaders of the zone he hails from provided him an opportunity to unveil his vision for the PDP, including repositioning and fostering unity among members in the promotion of internal democracy as provided from

intends to leverage on the interim order to appoint caretaker committees for the 23 local government councils in the state.

He said: "I want to use this opportunity to inform Rivers people and Nigerians of the move by the governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, to procure interim orders from judges that I will not name here, but I will put in my petition to the NJC.

"What is the intention? He wants to procure an interim order stopping the implementation of the laws he was vetoed over. He wants to procure an order to announce as illegal, the Rivers State House of Assembly, as constituted and led by Rt. Hon. Martins Chike Amaewhule.

in the party's position.

According to a source that attended the meeting with the critical stakeholders of the party, "Recognising the importance of grassroots mobilisation and inclusive leadership, Barr Abah assured party leaders and stakeholders of his commitment in ensuring that every member's voice is heard and valued, just as he emphasised on the the need for transparent and accountable governance. The national chairman hopeful assured stakeholders that he would be guided by the fundamental principles of accountability and transparency if elected as the next PDP national chairman."

SHORTNEWS**2027: Monarchs, Others Adopt Senator Nwoko As Sole Candidate**

BY FELIX IGBEKOYI, Asana

Anioma Traditional Rulers and political leaders have adopted Senator Ned Nwoko, representing Delta North senatorial district at the National Assembly, a sole senatorial candidate ahead of the 2027 election in the district.

This motion was moved by the traditional ruler of Ukala Okpunor Kingdom, HRM Obi Clement Ifeanyi Ejiofor and was unanimously endorsed by others during the unveiling of the senator's office in Asaba, the Delta State capital.

"Senator Nwoko has recorded unprecedented achievements through important bills, motions and empowerments all dedicated to the development of Anioma, Delta and Nigeria in general," the monarch declared.



L-R: Deputy national organising secretary, APC, Nze Duru receiving nomination and expression of interest forms from Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and Senator Tayo Alashoadura at APC national secretariat in Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO BY IBRAHIM MOHAMMED

Post-primary Cohesion, Boost For APC In Edo Poll – Sen Urhoghide

BY PATRICK OCHOGA, Benin City

As parties set for campaigns in the forthcoming Edo State governorship election, an All Progressive Congress (APC) chieftain and former aspirant, Senator Matthew Urhoghide, has said the new found party unity and cohesion among the key stakeholders will propel the party into victory.

He stated this against the reconciliation meeting which doused the conflict arising from party's governorship primaries in which three aspirants laid claim to the party's ticket.

Urhoghide however commended the high sense of maturity displayed by all the aspirants in accepting the outcome of the primaries that produced Senator Monday

Okpebholo as the APC governorship candidate.

He lamented that governance in Edo State, under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) administration in last seven years, has been transactional and detrimental to development. He assured that the APC administration would reverse the trend when voted into power.

Speaking on the chances

of the APC and how the party was able to close rank after the primaries, he said "Let me first of all give God the glory for making it possible for us to conduct our governorship primaries and of course the eventual fallout. In a political party system we must understand that a party is a platform, a pot-pourri and a different perspective. What we want is a candidate and eventually we were able to achieve it after considering the diverse interests of the people.

"Yes, somehow they were orchestrations that excluded some people and that is the thing we are trying to settle. So far, we are happy and the kind of candidate we have will definitely elicit good governance if he tells you his story you will know that he is not pretending and has seen life and God has been merciful to him, we are not afraid he will do well not this one that has made our Edo state a transactional state and that is what we are going to expose to our people.

LEADERSHIP Business

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TIMELINE

Cost Of Basic Food Items Up 96%

The cost of basic food items that meet the minimum nutrient requirements has almost doubled within a year, according to the latest 'Cost of Healthy Diet' report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The report in collaboration with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, shows that the national average Cost of a Healthy Diet (CoHD) rose by 96.2 percent to N938 per day in February this year from N473 per day in the same period of 2023. It also rose by 9.32 percent from N858 in January.

Air Peace Increases London Route Capacity, Targets New York, Houston

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

Indigenous airline operator, Air Peace Airline, has announced an increase in capacity for its Lagos-London route, citing surging demands.

The airline also disclosed that it was gearing up to commence flights to New York and Houston before the end of the year.

Disclosing this via its official X account, the airline said more seats are now available as travellers interested in flying to London with Air Peace have additional options to choose from.

The statement read, "Due to overwhelming demand and interest in our London route, we have decided to increase the capacity on the route. This means that more seats are now available."

"Air Peace would like to thank the Nigerian population, both in Nigeria and in the United Kingdom, for their support. We do not take it for granted, and we will be doing our best to continue to make the whole country proud."

However, following the airline's entry into the London route, the chief executive officer, Air Peace, Allen Onyema, announced ambitious plans for the airline's potential expansion.

Onyema, who announced ambitious plans for the airline's potential expansion, during an interview on Arise News TV recently, stated that the airline was gearing up to commence flights to New York and Houston by the year's end, in addition to initiating services from Abuja to London.

"We are prepared to take on more flights. We are planning to hit New York or Houston towards the end of the year because we are bringing in more 777s," he stated.

STOCK INDEX (AS AT APRIL 4)	
ASI (Points)	103,736.08
DEALS (Numbers)	8,908
VOLUME (Numbers million)	487.728
VALUE (Nbillion)	N15.640
CAP (Ntrn)	N58.653

INFLATION RATE (%)	2023	2022
OCT	27.33	21.09
NOV	28.20%	21.47%
DEC	28.92	21.34

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (AS AT MARCH 28, 2024)	
USD	1303.33
GBP	1647.12
EUR	1411.42

INTER BANK LENDING RATE (AS AT MARCH 28, 2024)	RATE	CHANGE%
O/N	27.0000	0.20
1M	23.2000	4.10
3M	25.1000	4.95
6M	26.3000	5.50

COMMODITY INDEX (N/KG) (AS AT APRIL 2, 2024)		
Cocoa	12,500.00	0.00%
Soyabean	667.00	0.00%
Cashew	1,200.00	0.00%
Sorghum	470.00	0.00%
Paddy rice	612.04	0.00%

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Where the Disco fails to meet the committed service level to a Band A feeder for seven consecutive days, the feeder shall be automatically downgraded— Vice Chairman NERC, Musiliu Oseni



Group Business Editor
Nse Anthony-Uko
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- Mark Itsibor
- Bukola Idowu
- Olushola Bello
- Yusuf Babalola



L-R: Deputy general manager, corporate business relations & stakeholder management, FIRST E&P, Anita Edo-Osagie; managing director, FIRST E&P, Ademola Adeyemi-Bero; executive secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Felix Omatsola Ogbe; general manager, Integrated Gas, FIRST E&P, Yetunde Taiwo; executive director, Corporate Services, FIRST E&P Emmanuel Etomi and general manager, Capital Projects & Engineering, FIRST E&P, John Alamu, during a courtesy visit by the FIRST E&P team to the NCDMB Boss in the Lagos Liaison Office yesterday

New Band A Tariff: NERC Orders Automatic Downgrade After 7 Days Non-performance

...Seeks consumers protection

BY NSE ANTHONY-UKO, Abuja AND
CHIKA IZUORA, Lagos

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has ordered all distribution companies (DisCos) to automatically downgrade any Band A feeder that does not enjoy the minimum requirement of 20 hours per day power supply for seven consecutive days.

This order formed part of the Service Delivery Commitments for every DisCo in line with the Supplementary Order to the Multi-Year Tariff Order (MYTO) 2024, released by NERC, with effect from April 3, 2024.

NERC also said that where the Disco fails to deliver on the committed level of service on a Band A feeder for two consecutive days, the Disco should publish on its website latest by 10 am the next day an explanation of the reasons for the failure and update the affected customers on the timeline for restoration of service to the committed service level.

"Where the Disco fails to meet the committed service level to a Band A feeder for seven consecutive days, the feeder shall be automatically downgraded to the recorded level of supply in accordance with applicable framework" NERC ordered.

The Commission also mandated each Disco to set up a rapid response team to ensure effective service delivery on the committed minimum hours of supply to each service Band commencing with Band A feeders effective from 3rd April 2024.

Recall that NERC had on Wednesday announced the approval of an increase in the electricity tariff of Band A customers from about N66 to N225 per kilowatt hour for the various distribution companies (DisCos) in the country, an increase of 240 per cent.

Vice chairman NERC, Musiliu Oseni, had also emphasised that the increase in tariff will only affect customers enjoying 20 hour power supply and above across the country.

Data in the MYTO 2024 Supple-

mentary Order showed that the new tariff was approved after due consideration of increases in economic indicators namely: 12 per cent inflation rate from 28.2 per cent in January 2024 to 31.7 12 by March 2024; exchange rate rose by 59 per cent from N919.39/\$1 to N1,463.30/\$1; 63 per cent generation cost from N63.8 per kilowatt hour to N103.9/kWh.

Also, transmission and admin cost rose by 34 per cent per kWh from N6.8/kwh to 9.1/kwh while wholesale gas to power prices rose by 11 per cent from US\$2.18/MMBTU to US\$2.42/MMBTU.

NERC also noted that while a new electricity tariff model is being adopted, customer protection is still paramount in exercising the initiative.

The commission also calculated that the newly approved tariffs, subsidies for the 2024 fiscal year are expected to reduce by about N1.14 trillion in furtherance of the federal government's realignment of the subsidy regime.

NIN-SIM Linkage: NCC Justifies Deadline Extension To July 31

BY ROYAL IBEH

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) revealed that National Identification Numbers (NINs) of subscribers with less than four lines under the third phase of disconnection, had not yet been validated, hence the reason for the extension from April 15, 2024, to July 31, 2024.

Recall that the disconnection process, which began in February, was rolled out in three phases. The first occurred on February 28, 2024, which disconnected subscribers that

have not submitted their NINs on or before February 28, 2024.

This is followed by the second phase of disconnection, which occurred on Friday, March 29, 2024, affecting subscribers with five or more lines linked to an unverified NIN.

The third phase is the disconnection of subscribers with less than five lines, linked to an unverified NIN. Such lines are to be barred on or before 15 April 2024.

However, the director, public affairs, Communications, Nigerian Communications Commission

(NCC), Reuben Muoka, told LEADERSHIP that the Commission has extended the date for the third phase disconnection from April 15, 2024, to July 31, 2024.

According to Muoka, the grace was given to subscribers due to the fact that they have submitted their NINs, but yet to be verified.

"The subscribers under this category, have submitted their NINs and have less than four lines, which is permissible. Their NINs are yet to be verified, unlike those who haven't done their NIN at all.

BRIEFLY**Current Global Billionaires Under 30 Inherited Wealth – Forbes**

Recent research by Forbes has found that all current billionaires under 30 inherited their fortune, an indication that the era of Mark Zuckerberg and self-made super wealth at a young age seems to have ended.

The Facebook founder made nine figures aged 23 in 2007. It took Google's Larry Page until 30 to do likewise, while Snapchat creator Evan Spiegel did it aged 25. Bill Gates was a comparative late bloomer, making his first billion aged 31.

However, it seems that times have changed. Forbes research showed that none of the world's 15 billionaires under 30 had created their huge wealth but had benefited from inheritance.

The list includes Firoz Mistry, 27, and his brother Zahan, 25, who have £3.8 billion from Tata Sons after their father died.

Three children of Leonardo Del Vecchio, the founder of the luxury sunglasses company Luxottica, became billionaires after he died in 2022.

Sahara Group Strengthens Security In FCT

In a demonstration of its commitment to social responsibility and community safety, Sahara Group, a leading energy, and infrastructure conglomerate, through Sahara Group Foundation, the corporate social responsibility vehicle, has commissioned the newly renovated Maitama Divisional Headquarters, Maitama, in Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The renovation and solar installation work carried out at the station is part of the company's commitment to enhancing public safety and supporting the welfare of its host communities.

Addressing guests at the commissioning ceremony, the executive director, Sahara Group, Alex Cole stated that "We believe that a safe and secure environment is critical for the well-being of our communities. By supporting the improvement of police stations like Maitama, we are empowering law enforcement officers to better serve and protect residents."

Commending the Nigerian Police Force's supportive collaboration during the renovation, Cole reiterated Sahara Group and its Foundation's commitment to partnering with like-minded organisations to build stronger communities.



L-R: Chief compliance officer, Wema Bank, Toyin Kariere; divisional head, Brands People and Culture, Wema Bank, Ololade Ogungbenro; MD/CEO Wema Bank, Moruf Oseni; resident representative, United Nations Development Program, Uganda, Elsie Attafuah; divisional head, Retail and SME Segment, Wema Bank, Ayodele Olojede and chief digital officer, Wema Bank, Olusegun Adeniyi at a courtesy visit from representatives of the United Nations Development Program at Wema Bank's HQ, in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO BY KOLAWOLE ALIU

Recapitalisation: Mergers To Reduce Number Of Nigerian Banks Soon – ARM

...As NACCIMA warns of hyperinflation, negative implications

BY BUKOLA ARO-LAMBO, Lagos WITH AGENCY REPORTS

With nearly N3 trillion needed for banks in the country to meet the new minimum capital requirement as stipulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) analysts have said the recapitalization exercise will see the reduction in the number of banks operating in Nigeria.

The CBN had given a two-year period for banks to meet a new capital base of N500 billion for international operations, N200 billion for national operations and N50

billion for regional operations and merchant banking licence.

In 2004, the Nigerian central bank last raised capital requirements, sparking a wave of mergers that reduced the number of commercial lenders from 89 to 25. Similar outcomes are anticipated with the current capital increase.

Currently, out of the 12 listed banks, only the Nigerian subsidiary of pan-African lender, Ecobank Nigeria Ltd does not have to raise capital to meet the new requirement. All other lenders have

to seek new investors or ask existing shareholders to purchase fresh stock. There are a total of 25 commercial lenders in the country.

According to a breakdown by ARM, United Bank for Africa Plc faces the largest capital shortfall of N384 billion, while Stanbic IBTC, the Nigerian arm of South Africa's Standard Bank Group, has the smallest gap at N90 billion.

According to Asset & Resource Management Co. (ARM) banking analyst Oyinkansola Aregbesola, there will be more marriage

in the form of mergers and acquisitions for those who are not able to raise the additional capital required. "We will definitely see a reduction in the number of banks. The tier two banks and the smaller entities will likely consider mergers if they can't individually raise the capital on their own," she said.

Professor of Law and developmental economist Tayo Bello, whilst noting that the recapitalization exercise for banks is already long overdue, considering the devaluation of the naira noted that

many banks will not be able to survive the recapitalisation.

"Not all of them will be able to cross the hurdle. When Soludo brought up the recapitalisation exercise then, I think the number of banks in the economy was more than 50 then, before they were reduced to 20. So, this one, I can predict maybe they will come down to 15 or above that."

Rating agency Moody's Investor Service noted that the new capital requirement will lead to a consolidation in the Nigerian banking sector.

Expert Demands Tax Holidays To Boost FDIs In Maritime Sector

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

A finance expert and the managing director of Financial Derivatives Company Limited, Bismarck Rewane, has called on the federal government to create tax holidays to boost investments in the nation's maritime sector.

Rewane gave this directive while speaking at the 2nd Maritime Breakfast meeting organised by the Nigerian Maritime Law Association (NMLA), with the themed: "The Interplay of

the Maritime Industry and the Macro Economy in Nigeria – The Way Forward," said that there are three dynamics – leadership, policies, and institutions to enhance the economy positively.

"If you have good policies, good leadership, and weak institutions, the economic outcome is negative. If you have bad leadership, strong institutions and good policies, the economic outcome is positive. If you have good leadership, strong institutions, and bad

policies, the economic outcome is positive. So what is common to positive economic outcomes is strong institutions," he said.

According to him, the foreign exchange complications have largely affected the maritime sector business in recent times, and the challenges are likely to persist in the near future.

While opening that the Nigerian water transportation sector has been unstable in the last two years, he called for the harmonisation

of maritime activities and monitoring of implementation efforts.

Speaking on the headway to optimise the nation's maritime sector, he said addressing corruption and promoting transparency will boost investor confidence while there should be tax concessions for investors.

"Cooperation between public and private sectors for establishment of key infrastructure. Improving port facilities, connectivity and logistics before efficient op-

erations. Ethical business practices," he said.

On the strenuous cargo clearance procedures at the nation's seaports characterised by corruption, smuggling and manual processes, he said these actions have led to cargo diversion to ports in Benin Republic and Togo.

Also speaking, the President, NMLA, Funke Agbor, noted that a growth in the maritime sector would invariably lead to holistic national economic development.

Federal Govt Targets 2040 To Phase Out 344.9tonnes HCFC Consumption

BY ROYAL IBEH, Lagos

The federal government has reiterated its commitment to completely phase out Nigeria's baseline consumption of 344.9 Tonnes of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) by 2040

This is even as it has commenced stage three of its Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) project in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations

Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Recall that Nigeria is a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement that regulates the production and consumption of man-made chemicals referred to as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Under the treaty, parties have specific responsibilities related to the phase-out of different groups of ODS. In September 2007, Parties to the Protocol decid-

ed to accelerate their phase out schedule for HCFC, which are gases used worldwide in refrigeration, air conditioning and foam applications, being ozone-depleting substances and powerful greenhouse gases. Developing countries, including Nigeria, agreed to start their phase-out process in 2013 and are now following a stepwise reduction until complete phase-out by 2040.

The minister of State, Federal Ministry of Environment, Iziq Adegunle Salako, at the official commissioning of the

Ozone and Climate-friendly Air Conditioning Manufacturing Line at Sacral Industries Limited, on Thursday, in Lagos, said the project is being implemented in stages and having completed stages one and two, the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, has approved stage three, which is currently being implemented.

The focus of stage three is on the conversion of eligible companies in the Refrigeration & Air Conditioning manufacturing sector from the use

of HCFCs to ozone-friendly and low global warming potential alternatives such as Hydrocarbons, to help Nigeria meets its target of 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC baseline consumption by 2025, the Minister disclosed, adding that the project will assist the country in its compliance with the Montreal Protocol provisions, thereby raising the country's status amongst the Committee of Nations as a model of success in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

BRIEFLY

Stanbic IBTC Launches Enhanced App For Business Owners

BY OLUSHOLA BELLO, Lagos

Stanbic IBTC Bank, has unveiled an enhanced version of its Mobile App, optimised specifically for businesses.

The updated App offers a range of new features designed to streamline and simplify digital banking for business owners.

The enhanced Mobile App for businesses provides a comprehensive suite of tools to manage finances efficiently. With an intuitive interface, users can execute transactions seamlessly, transfer funds between accounts, check real-time balances, and manage beneficiaries. The App offers instant access to transaction statements, self-service options, and robust security features to safeguard business operations.

Speaking at the Bank SME Mobile launch held yesterday in Lagos, the chief executive, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Wole Adeniyi said “the Stanbic IBTC Mobile App for business is an updated version of our mobile banking application specifically designed for business clients.

Akintomide Joins Parthian Partners Board

BY BUKOLA ARO-LAMBO, Lagos

Parthian Partners has announced the appointment of Ms. Cecilia Akintomide, OON, to its board of directors in a strategic move that underscores the company’s unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation.

Akintomide brings a wealth of experience to the table, with a distinguished career spanning development finance, corporate governance, law, and general management. Her proven expertise, particularly in development finance, aligns perfectly with Parthian Partners’ vision for the future.

Previously serving as a Senior Executive Advisor at Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, Ms. Akintomide oversaw operations across 33 African countries. Her extensive background and strategic thinking will be instrumental in guiding Parthian Partners’ growth trajectory.

Beyond her corporate experience, Akintomide actively contributes to the African development landscape. She chairs the Global Sanitation and Hygiene Fund and holds directorships at CcHUB Growth Capital and SWAg-Co.



L-R: MD/CEO, Leadway Health HMO, Dr. Tokunbo Alli; managing director/CEO, Medbury Medical Services, Dr. Itunu Akinware; chairman, Alameda Healthcare Group, Dr. Fahad Khater, and Group CEO, Alameda Healthcare Group, Neeraj Mishra at the unveiling of the strategic alliance between Leadway Health HMO, Alameda Healthcare Group and Medbury Medical Services recently held in Cairo, Egypt for the joint management of the SPDC IA Specialist Hospital located in Port Harcourt, yesterday.

Universal Energy Facility Signs Grant Agreements With 19 Clean Developers

BY NSE ANTHONY-UKO, Abuja

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) has announced the signing of grant agreements with 19 clean energy developers under its Results-Based Financing (RBF) multi-donor fund.

The RBF is the Universal Energy Facility (UEF), Stand-alone Solar for Productive Use (SSPU) programme, for the deployment of high capacity solar + battery storage systems to businesses and institutions across Nigeria. These systems are expected to be fully installed and operational before the end of this year.

Reliable clean electricity for

homes, businesses (SMEs), and institutions, transforms daily life. Electricity stays on, harmful petrol and diesel gen sets will be removed which reduces indoor air pollution and CO2 emissions, equipment runs smoothly, and essential services like healthcare and education can function effectively. This unlocks economic opportunities and improves overall well-being.

Commenting on the agreements, interim chief executive officer, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), Joseph Nganga, said “This marks a significant step forward in our shared vision for a sustainable future. By signing these grant agreements, the UEF is truly making

a difference by empowering clean energy developers to bring their innovative solutions to life. “I’m incredibly proud of the UEF’s work and excited to see the positive impact these projects will have on many lives.”

On his part, managing director, Rural Electrification Agency,

Abba Aliyu, said “I am proud of the work we have all done to enable a better environment for the private sector to grow within the energy sector. The companies signing the grant agreements today are a testament to the policies that have been put in place and capacity building efforts made in the past decade to build the sector.”

Navy Arrests 5, Intercepts 65,000 Litres Of Diesel In Lagos

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

The Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT, on Wednesday, announced the discovery of an illegal fuel depot with 65,000 litres worth N500 million in Lagos.

NNS, in a statement by the Base Information Officer, Lieutenant Hussein Ibrahim, said the leader of the syndicate, Ahmed Ariyo, alongside 4 other persons were arrested in a private apartment at 3 Silverbird Road, Ilasun Lekki, Lagos, where they were carrying out illegal activities.

Ibrahim said the Commander NNS BEECROFT, Commodore Rafiu Oladejo, disclosed that the discovery of the illegal depot

was sequel to credible intelligence received on the suspicious activities taking place at the Elegushi Beach.

The Base’s spokesperson stated that the intelligence necessitated the deployment of NNS BEECROFT Quick Response Team to the location which resulted in the discovery and arrest of the suspects.

Commodore Oladejo, according to the statement, added that the depot contained eight storage tanks of 50,000 litres capacity each, laden with about 57,000 litres of AGO; a tanker laden with about 7,000 litres and a bus with 30 jerry cans laden with about 1,500 litres.

He said the total products discovered was

about 65,000 litres of AGO estimated at N89 million based on the current price of diesel at N1, 350 per litre.

While estimating the total capacity of the storage facility at the apartment, the Commander said the 8 storage tanks, if filled to capacity with AGO will be about 400,000 litres approximately valued at N500 million.

He explained that preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects possibly got the products through pipeline vandalism, illegal vendors at sea as well as other illegal means along the coastline.

Commodore Oladejo reiterated that NNS BEECROFT will not relent in its efforts to pursue oil thieves and other criminal elements as directed by the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu.

New Tariff: AEDC Reports System Glitches, To Refund Excess Charges

BY NSE ANTHONY-UKO, Abuja

The Abuja Electricity Distribution (AEDC) has said that efforts were ongoing to refund erstwhile Band A customers who were charged the new tariff of N225 Per Kilowatt Hour.

The management of the power distribution company, in a public notice posted on its X handle on Thursday, noted the wrong charges experienced by some Band A customers who tried to recharge their meters following the new tariff regime.

According to the notice, this was due to

a system glitch caused by the reclassification of some Band A customers who have now been downgraded to Band B due to the number of hours of electricity supply enjoyed over the past few weeks.

Recall the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on Wednesday approved an upward review of the tariff payable by Band A customers to N225/kWh from N68/kWh.

Musiliu Oseni, the vice chairman of the commission who announced the increase in a press briefing, explained that having reviewed the electricity supply to custom-

ers, NERC had downgraded some customers from ‘Band A feeder’ to Band B. This he explained was because they were not receiving up to 20 hours of electricity daily.

Oseni further explained that the new rate at N225/kWh is expected to affect only customers under the Band A feeder, who are offered at least 20 hours electricity per day.

AEDC also stated that once the glitch is resolved, the Band A category of customers will now recharge their meters at the new rate of N225, which will ensure they enjoy a minimum supply of 20 hours daily.

TAKEAWAYS

Clean Energy Agreements

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Illegal Fuel Depot

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Band A System Glitch

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BRIEFLY**NESREA, Stakeholders To Eliminate Lead From Paint In Nigeria**

The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and SRADEV-Nigeria, have reiterated their commitment towards the elimination of Lead from paint in the country.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the stakeholders are also seeking safer alternatives to the use of lead in paints.

The stakeholders stated this at the regional Lead awareness workshop on Thursday in Abuja.

The workshop was organised by NESREA in collaboration with SRADEV-Nigeria as part of the Lead Exposure Elimination Project.

The theme of the workshop is: Strengthening national capacity towards elimination of Lead paint in Nigeria.

The director general of NESREA, Prof. Aliyu Jau-ro, said that Lead is a highly toxic substance that poses severe health risks, especially to children.

The Macallan, Mai ATAFO Collaborate To Mentor Aspiring Fashion Entrepreneurs

BY OLUSHOLA BELLO, Lagos

The Macallan has partner with Nigerian fashion designer, Mai Atafo to upskill aspiring fashion entrepreneurs.

Both organisations hosted a transformative workshop themed 'Fashion Conversations with Mai Atafo' held in Lagos. The ATAFO Workshop, a hub of creativity and innovation, played host to this extraordinary collaboration, providing a platform for both budding and established fashion creatives to glean insights from the acclaimed fashion designer himself.

At its core, the workshop embodies a shared vision between The Macallan and ATAFO: the empowerment and upskilling of Nigerian fashion talents through a series of hands-on sessions, providing the participants with the opportunity to delve into the intricacies of design, craftsmanship, and brand building, guided by the expertise of Mai Atafo and fueled by the inspiration of The Macallan.



L-R: External communications manager, Nigerian Bottling Company (NBC) Ltd., Samuel Iboroma; Youth Empowered Training Facilitator, Lucy Abeng; Youth Empowered participant, Amah Emmanuel Vincent; Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Lead, NBC, Olukemi Ogunsakin, and Youth Empowered Training Facilitator, Esohe Ekunwe, at the NBC Youth Empowered initiative held in Cyprian Ekwensi Center for Arts and Culture, Abuja, recently.

Our Economy Is Looking Up – Tinubu

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISAIAH

President Bola Tinubu has acknowledged Nigeria is still grappling with high inflation, but insisted that overall economic indicators are pointing in a positive direction under his administration.

The President spoke on Wednesday night when he hosted members of the APC Presidential Campaign Council and the Independent Campaign Council to Iftar at the State House in Abuja.

Presidential spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale, in a statement, Tinubu said taming inflation remains a key priority.

However, he expressed optimism that the broader economic landscape is improving.

The President also used the occasion to reassure Nigerians that the economy is being steered onto the path of sustainable growth and broad-based prosperity for Nigerian families in all parts of the country.

“The economy is looking much better. Yes, we have challenges with inflation, but we will bring it down. When the exchange rate was going haywire, it looked like we were asleep, but we worked on it diligently, and it is go-

ing down; it is getting better. “Borrowing was higher a year ago, but today, we are reengineering the financial landscape, and our revenue is expanding. And we are taking up our sovereignty and earning our respect back in the comity of nations,” President Tinubu said.

The president also said the future of the Nigerian child is going to be brighter as the path to take them out of poverty has been cleared with his signing into law of the Student Loans Re-enactment Bill.

The only thing that can fight poverty is education. Today, I signed the bill for the Stu-

dent Loan Scheme. Imagine the children of the poor; what about people going through the mud, fishing in the ponds? How do you tell their children that their future will be brighter? It is only through education that we can fight poverty. A promising future awaits our children,” the President affirmed.

Acknowledging members of the PCC and ICC for their rigorous efforts toward his election, the president said: “It is your footwork and footprints that made me the President. I campaigned on hope, and you promised Nigerians hope and a good result when

campaigning for me. There are a lot of expectations. I, therefore, have to work hard for it. There is a windy road we are travelling on. We have to navigate carefully. Otherwise, one ends up in the bush, and that is all I have been focused on.

“It is your effort, resourcefulness, and dedication that has brought us here. The results will not come suddenly, you have endured the campaign, you must endure more, and I assure you that a very bright light beckons for you and your children. Nigeria will prosper, and we will all reap the benefits.

UBA Unveils ‘Scan To Resolve Complaint’ Portal For Enhanced Customer Experience

Africa’s Global Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, has unveiled a Quick Response solution qrdispute.ubagroup.com:8088, called the ‘Scan to Resolve Complaint’ Portal aimed at enhancing satisfaction and swiftly addressing customers’ disputes.

The innovative platform marks another significant step by the bank to revolutionise customer service and streamline complaint resolution processes.

The ‘Scan to Resolve complaint’ portal is a QR-

code qrdispute.ubagroup.com:8088,-based portal conceptualised by the bank to proffer timely solution to customers’-challenges, without them having to visit the bank or branch.

With the portal, a variety of concerns including challenges around failed transactions will be quickly resolved from the comfort of their homes and business places.

UBA’s head, Digital Banking, Olukayode Olubi-yi, who spoke on the work-

ings and benefits of the ‘Scan and Resolve Complaint’ portal explained that with the platform, difficulties with transactions on web, Point of sale machines (PoS) and Automated Teller Machines will immediately get immediate responses and be treated within one to three days.

“Our customers are at the heart of our business, that’s why we keep going the extra mile to constantly innovate in a bid to satisfy them.

As the name implies, Scan and Resolve Complaint, is a

solution driven portal which attends to complaints and issues of customers fast and promptly,” he explained.

He also disclosed that the portal is loaded with many benefits including ease of transactions, adding that “henceforth, customers are only required to scan and log in complaints while each complaint would be integrated into the portal register to make resolution seamless which also reduces customer hassles.”

According to Olubi-yi, when these complaints are made,

there will be an Instant verification process and notifications will be sent to customers while resolution will commence immediately with the overall aim to satisfy customers.

UBA’s group head, Customer Experience, Michelle Nwoga said the bank is always on the look-out to provide exceptional services to customers, and has over time developed various strategies to ensure that its service delivery is continuously upgraded to remain the bank of choice.

NAICOM Collaborate With FCTA To Combat Insurance Irregularities

BY MARK ITSIBOR, Abuja

The commissioner for Insurance and chief executive officer of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), Mr. Olorundare Sunday Thomas, paid a courtesy visit to the director of road transport service at the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Dr. Bello Abdul-Lateef, on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

The purpose of the visit

was to explore areas of collaboration to address two critical issues: the circumvention of the insurance system through underpayment of premiums and the proliferation of fake third-party motor insurance, according to a statement that was issued by the commission.

During the meeting, the director of road transport service highlighted concerns regarding individu-

als renewing their vehicle particulars without receiving the expected insurance coverage.

He told the commissioner that many individuals were found to be paying higher premiums, such as N15,000, but receiving insurance coverage worth only N4,000 due to engagement with unauthorised intermediaries.

To address this issue, Abdul-Lateef said his office has implemented technolog-

ical solutions, automating 98 percent of its processes and allowing individuals to initiate vehicle renewal processes from their homes.

The commissioner for insurance informed Abdul-Lateef about the enhanced third-party motor insurance, which came into effect on January 2, 2023. He said “The premium for this insurance has increased from N5,000 to N15,000, and the bene-

fits have been raised from N1,000,000 to N3,000,000 for the protection of road users.

Thomas emphasised that effective collaboration between NAICOM and the FCTA’s Road Transport Service would help reduce instances of third-party motor insurance irregularities by implementing active policing measures to ensure proper insurance management systems.

BRIEFLY



Arraignment Of Binance, Directors By FIRS Stalled

BY OLAKUNLE OLASANMI, Abuja

The arraignment of the officials of Binance Holdings Limited, Tigran Gambaryan and one other could not go on yesterday, following delayed service of the charge on one of the accused persons.

The arraignment was stalled due to the inability of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to effect service of the charge on one of the defendants.

When the matter was called for the defendants to take their plea before Justice Emeka Nwite of a Federal High Court, Abuja, only Gambaryan was represented by a lawyer.

Before the case came up yesterday, neither the company nor Anjarwalla, who recently escaped from lawful custody, was represented by counsel.

However, Gambaryan's lawyer, Chukwuka Ikwuazo (SAN) told the court that his client had not been served with the charge, hence, his arraignment cannot proceed.

FIRS lawyer, Moses Ideho, though acknowledged that the agency had not served Gambaryan with the charge, said all efforts to do so proved abortive because the defendant could not be reached at the EFCC's detention.

Ideho then prayed the court to serve Gambaryan in the open court and the judge directed that the charge be served on him in the dock.

The lawyer, therefore, sought a stand-down of the matter or an adjournment to enable Gambaryan to consult with his lawyer.

Ikwuazo did not object to an oral application for adjournment and the matter was adjourned until April 19 for him to take his plea.

In the charge marked FHC/ABJ/CR/115/2024, the three defendants will equally be arraigned before Justice Nwite on four counts.

In the charge dated and filed March 22 by the FIRS, the defendants were alleged to have committed the offence on or about Feb.



Plateau State Governor Caleb Mutfwang (left); and other government officials, during the inauguration of Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) twin operating theatre suites by the Nigeria LNG Ltd Hospital Support Programme in Jos, yesterday PHOTO BY NAN

Military Must Produce Own Equipment To End Insecurity – COAS

BY TARKAA DAVID, Abuja

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt.-Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, has said the Armed Forces of Nigeria must attain self-sufficiency in the production of military hardware to be able to meet its operational needs internally.

Lagbaja said this yesterday in a lecture titled, „Role of the Military in the Protection of Nigeria's National Interest and Security“, at the Maiden Edition of The Chief of Army

Staff Annual Lecture Series 2024 of the Nigerian Army Resource Centre in Abuja.

He said the lack of industrial base had turned Nigeria into a mere consumer nation, saying that the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) Act 2023 would to some extent address the shortcoming.

According to him, the ability of the country to look inward and produce its needed equipment will help

the military to be at par with other developed nations of the world.

He said that experts had argued that the international system was anarchical as all the nations pursue their interests at the expense of others.

This, according to him, explains why some of Nigeria's strategic partners do not assist nor sell equipment to the country and the armed forces of Nigeria.

“In the past, during the civil war and in the contemporary era when the Boko Haram crisis was at its peak, Nigeria was denied by the US using human rights record, the international humanitarian law and America's Adversary through Sanctions act of 2017.

“The Nigeria's ability to procure some of the weapons needed was at variance to the interests of the countries involved at that material time.

Bandits Kill 5, Release 51 After Ransom Payment In Kaduna

BY ISIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna

Bandits who kidnapped 61 Kaduna villagers at Budah Hausa village in Kajuru local government area of Kaduna State three weeks ago have killed five of the victims.

Fifty-one other victims it was gathered were released on Tuesday by their abductors after a ransom payment as well as drugs and motorcycles were collected by the attackers.

It was further gathered that five victims were not released as the bandits demanded additional ransom before they would be released.

A local vigilante in the area who pleaded for anonymity, confirmed their release to newsmen yesterday, saying all the five victims killed were men.

He explained that those released including children who were subjected to torture

while in captivity could hardly walk when they returned because they were chained for weeks.

“Very terrible; if you see them, you will shed tears because they really suffered, especially the men among them. 61 of them were abducted, 51 have returned, five killed in captivity, and five others are still with the bandits,” he said.

He also disclosed that

among those released, two were shot in the legs while in captivity, adding that those who regained freedom and whose condition worsened have been rushed to an undisclosed hospital for treatment.

A resident, Maigari Ben, who is among the youth leaders in the area, confirmed the release of the victims and the killing of the other five in captivity.

Beware Of Scammers, NAHCON Warns Intending Pilgrims

BY SALIFU USMAN, Abuja

National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has once again warned intending pilgrims not to fall prey to the scammers.

This was contained in a statement issued yesterday by Fatima Sanda Usara, assistant director, public affairs, NAHCON and sent to media houses.

The commission urged intending pilgrims to report any one asking them to pay additional administrative charges beyond the stated 2024 hajj fare.

“National Hajj Commission of Nigeria hereby issues another important warning to intending pilgrims regarding payment of extra Hajj fares. The Commission has not requested pilgrims to pay

any additional administrative charges beyond the stated amount and any one that makes such a request on

our behalf is violating the role and responsibility of NAHCON as the regulatory body.

“Collection of any extra charges are not authorized. Any pilgrim asked to pay extra charges should forward the name of the person

making the request and location, along with evidence of the request or payment. Kindly send such documents to this number on WhatsApp: 09071800007.

“Please only adhere to official announcements from NAHCON, which are published on our website. Stay alert and protect yourselves from scam,” the statement reads.

SHORT READ

Nigeria Will Overcome Current Challenges – Wike

BY IGHO OYOYO, Abuja

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has expressed optimism that Nigeria will come out of current turmoil, that the signs are clear.

Wike who gave the assurance when the Methodist Prelate, Most Rev. Oliver Aba, visited him in Abuja yesterday, said that they have no regret; and have no doubt that victory shall be theirs.

The minister thanked the church for the prayers for Nigerians and for the government of President Bola Tinubu to actualise his vision and dreams in the “Renewed Hope” agenda.

He noted that nobody could govern without the backing of God, stressing that it was important for every leader to know this.

“I believe by the special grace of God, Nigeria would come out from the turmoil that we are in. That is why Tinubu has never failed to ask religious leaders to continue to pray for his administration and for the growth of Nigeria.

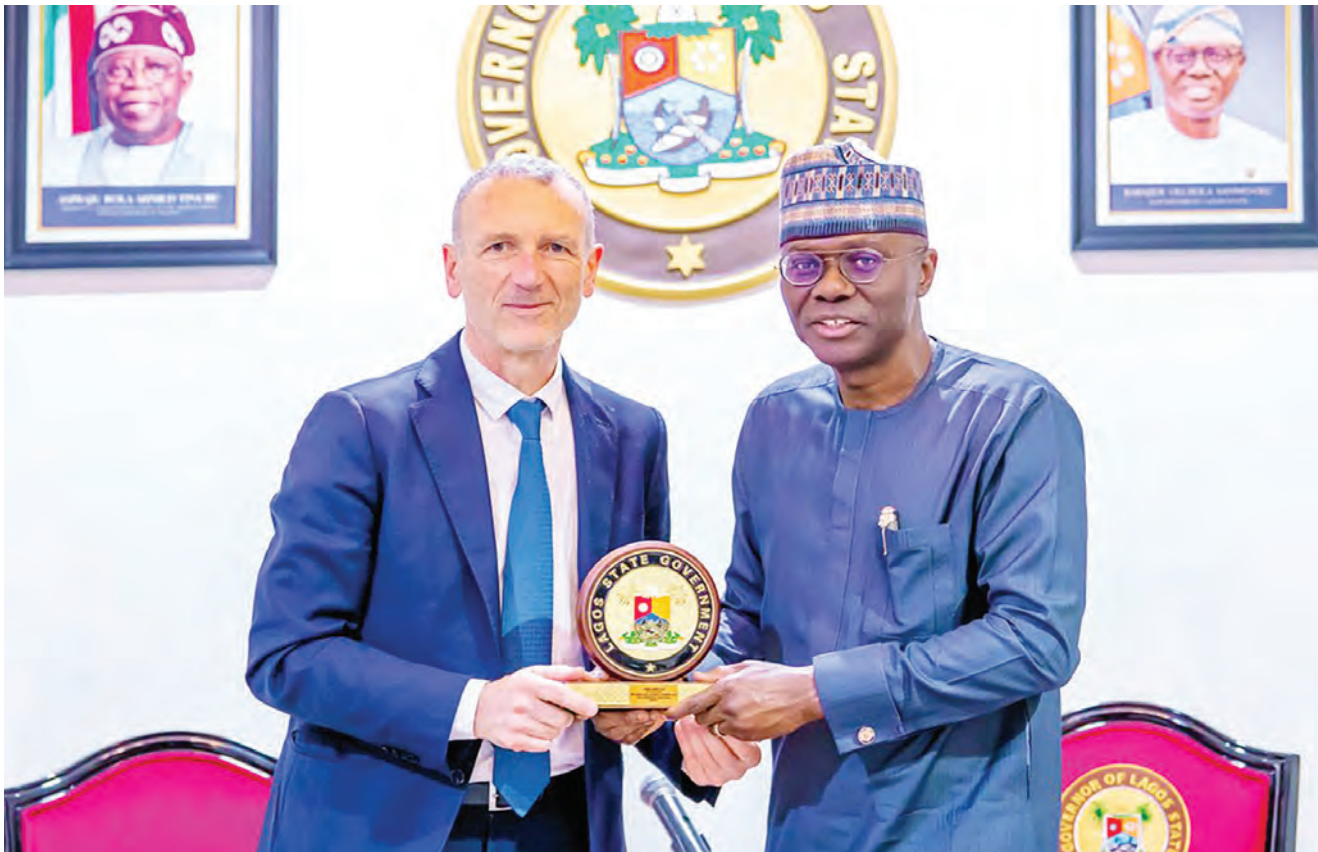
Ondo 2024: I'm Ready For Any Form Of Primary – Jimoh Ibrahim

Director of strategic communication of Jimoh Ibrahim Campaign Organisation, Mr Banji Okunomo, says the group is ready for any form of primary adopted by the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Ondo State governorship election.

The national leadership of APC on Wednesday announced the adoption of the direct mode in picking its flag bearer in the scheduled April 20 primary.

Okunomo told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in an interview yesterday in Okitipupa, that Senator Jimoh Ibrahim had before now, “strategically prepared for either the direct or indirect primary mode”, by taking his campaign to the grassroots to fraternise with APC leaders and members.

According to him, Ibrahim possesses all the educational credentials, exposure, political goodwill, popularity, financial capacity, charisma and all other qualities needed to emerge as the party's flag bearer at the primary.



L-R: The chair, International Sustainability Standards Board, Emmanuel Faber receiving a state plaque from Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, during a meeting with the governor, at the Lagos House, Marina, recently. PHOTO BY KOLAWOLE ALIU

SHORT READ

Nigeria Emerges UN-HABITAT Executive Board Chair

BY BIDON MIBZAR, Abuja

Nigeria has emerged the chair of the executive board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

A press statement signed by the director of information and public relations, Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Badamasi Salisy Haiba, explained that the confirmation of Nigeria as chair of the board was made known during a meeting with the UN-Habitat office and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, yesterday, in Abuja

The minister of state for housing and urban development, Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo has on behalf of the Nigerian Government and the Housing Ministry accepted the position, assuring that Nigeria would accomplish the mission.

Police Nab 4 Suspected Kidnappers In Rivers

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

Operatives of the Rivers State Police Command have arrested four suspects for alleged involvement in kidnapping in Okocha Community, Igbo-Etche in Etche Local Government Area of the state.

The police said the arrest followed complaints by the management of a company that some of its workers on field inspection were missing.

The police spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, disclosed this in a statement issued in Port Harcourt, the state capital, yesterday.

Iringe-Koko said the suspected kidnappers subjected their victims to a harrowing experience, threatened to kill them, and demanded N300m ransom.

She said discreet investigations revealed that the suspects were part of a criminal syndicate operating under the guise of cattle rearers.

The statement read: "The Rivers State Police Command continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment in combating the menace of kidnapping within the region.

"In a recent development, an intensive operation conducted by the police has resulted in the successful arrest of five individuals suspected to be involved in various criminal activities, including kidnapping and cultism.

"The investigation was initiated following a report made by the management of Lujo Heights Homes on January 19, 2024.

Ex-minister Adelusi-Adeluyi Calls For Values Reorientation

BY ALO ABIOLA, Ado-Ekiti

Former federal minister of health and social services, Prince Julius Adelusi-Adeluyi, has called for a redirection and reorientation of the value system in Nigeria.

The elder statesman who lamented that the nation's core values are being eroded said such could be addressed through the instrumentality of formal education.

The renowned

pharmacist also called on the Ekiti State government to prioritise and expedite action on the completion of the state's airport project.

Prince Adelusi-Adeluyi made the comments yesterday in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State capital, after he was conferred with Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of the Ekiti State University, during the grand finale of the 28th convocation ceremony of the institution.

LEADERSHIP Friday reports that 155 of 10,894

graduating students of the state-owned institution were awarded postgraduate diplomas, master's and doctoral degrees of the university at the event.

The lawyer-turned businessman called for the inclusion of local languages and history in the school curriculum.

He said, "The motto of this state is land of honour, land of integrity, fountain of knowledge; all these words sound superlative, but what we face in Nigeria today,

Ekiti in particular, is where many of these values are being eroded, and formal education must be able to address these challenges.

"How can we explain the fact that an Ekiti-born person cannot understand Ekiti language let alone speak it? How can we understand the fact that an Ekiti person does not know the history of his people? If you don't know the history of your people, you cannot be proud of yourself and your people.

Ondo Guber: Aiyedatiwa, Ibrahim, Akinterinwa Sure Of APC Ticket, Victory

BY JAMES KWEN, Abuja

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and former Finance Commissioner, Wale Akinterinwa - aspirants for the Ondo State governorship election on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) have expressed optimism to clinch the

ruling party's ticket.

The trio who made their feelings known after submitting their expression of interest and nomination forms at the APC National Secretariat in Abuja on Thursday equally said that if nominated by the party on the April 20 primary election they will win the November 16 guber polls.

Addressing journalists,

Governor Aiyedatiwa who said his intention to go into the race was based on popular demand, promised to consolidate on achievements recorded in the last few months he has taken over the reins of powers.

The governor who said he was not afraid of other aspirants in the race with him but sure of winning

the ticket, maintained that his strides such as the payment of some salaries, pension and other arrears owed since 2014, WAEC registration, improvement in agriculture and other sectors of the state would be further consolidated.

On his part, the Senator representing Ondo South, Ibrahim said he is going to win the next election as a movement he set up, has collected data of over 400,000 and he visited over 120 wards enlisting the people's support.

I'm Not Responsible For Ningi's Suspension, Akpabio Replies Falana

BY OLUGBENGA SOYELE, Lagos

A counsel to the Senate President Godswill Akpabio, Mr Umeh Kalu (SAN), has told suspended Senator Ahmed Ningi that his suspension was a decision of the Senate and not that of his client.

Kalu stated this in a letter in response to an earlier one written on behalf of Senator Ningi by his lawyer Femi Falana (SAN), accusing Akpabio of instigating the suspension of the senator

representing Bauchi Central.

Ningi was suspended by the upper legislative house for three months on March 14, 2024, following an interview he granted to BBC, where he accused the senate leadership of padding the 2024 budget.

Following the development, his lawyer, Falana, in a letter to the senate president entitled, "Request to lift the suspension of Senator Abdul Ahmed Ningi, dated March 27, 2024, gave Akpabio seven days to lift the

suspension placed on Ningi or face legal action.

But in the letter dated April 3, 2024, Chief Kalu maintained that the senate president was not responsible for suspending the embattled Senator.

The lawyer stated that after he analysed the facts and circumstances leading to Ningi's suspension from the Senate, he could not find any reason to support Falana's accusation that his client had sole culpability in the said suspension.

Students Anticipate Relief From Loan Act

BY HENRY TYOHEMBA, Abuja

As the amended Student Loan Act is assented to by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Nigerian students have welcomed the development and anticipated reliefs because of the provisions in it.

Tinubu on Wednesday signed the Student Loans (Access to Higher Education) Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2024 into law.

With this new amended bill, Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) will be established and loans will be provided to students, while eligibility constraint removed totally as against the 2023 one.

It will be recalled that on June 12, 2023, Tinubu signed the Access to Higher Education Act, 2023 into law to enable indigent students to access interest-free loans for their educational pursuits in any Nigerian tertiary institution.

Reacting to the signing of the new law, the National Association of University Students (NAUS) demanded for fairness in the allocation of loans.

It also advocated for equal opportunities for all categories of students across the country.

LEADERSHIP **friday** Books & Arts

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BY CHINELO
CHIKELU

SHORT READ

Document Culture & Heritage Starting With Language – *Museologist Sogbesan*

Architect, curator, museologist and founder, Asa Culture Heritage Foundation, Dr Oluwatoyin Sogbesan, has urged culture enthusiasts and filmmakers to document Nigerian culture and heritage on films, but starting with language.

Sogbesan emphasis on documenting culture and heritage beginning with language, lies in the fact that indigenous languages are fast going extinct and if not recorded, the people will miss out on the changes or variations that occur in our languages and culture over time.

She further noted that because culture is dynamic and constantly evolving, if not recorded can be lost. Likewise, in the case of cultural assimilation arising from population culture a product of globalization, if culture is not recorded there will always be the question of who owns what? Or where did what come from? As seen in the case of the Nigeria and Ghana Jollof Rice war.

Language engenders understanding, connection and exchange. “When you go to the market and speak Hausa to a Hausa trader, he is happy to sell to you cheaper. He may go further to ask how you know the language if you are not Hausa. It is language that brought about the connection before any question of your geographical background comes in.

“But we have a lot of young people that will tell you, “I am Igbo but I don’t speak Igbo. I am Yoruba but I don’t speak Yoruba. It is important that we start documenting languages first.”

Languages can be documented in written, audio (voice), and audio-visual (film) format. The latter two Sogbesan said holds a lot of authenticity.

“(with audio-visual) You can see all those speaking the language. If a grandparent is speaking the language. If a grandparent is speaking a language, it is unique because that way you can document it saying, “this is what my grandparents said something is called, but this is what it’s called now.”

Language can also be documented via recorded storytelling told in indigenous language. The latter, Sogbesan said it helps in detecting the changes or variation that occur in the stories and language between one’s parents and grandparents’ time.



Funding, Language Major Challenges @ PAWA – *Sec General Dr Okediran*

The Secretary General of the Pan-African Writers Association (PAWA), Dr Wale Okediran has identified lack of funding and multiplicity of language as major challenges of the association.

Okediran who took over the reins of leadership in 2020, post the demise of his predecessor and first secretary-general, Atukwei Okai said the association relied heavily on grants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for short-term projects, a source that has drastically reduced post COVID 19.

Modeled after the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), PAWA established in 1989 by the African Union (AU), mandates member countries to make annual contributions (subventions) to the association for its projects and day-to-day operation.

Despite raising active membership from 5 to 45 countries within four out of his five-year tenure, Dr Okediran said it hasn’t impacted funding.

“Some governments have no interest in literature. It’s made funding erratic, and we go one year or two without subventions from countries. We had organizations interested in literature that supported us prior to the COVID 19 era, but post COVID, many countries have cut their allocations to literature and culture. Culture is the first to go during global economic downturn.”

Dr Okediran further noted that multiple official languages of operation, has proven more of challenge. “Our official languages of operation at PAWA are English, French, Swahili, Portuguese and Arabic. We have had to find ways to interpret and translate all our publications to ensure understanding and exchange of these works amongst our writers.

“We are not giving up. I am never tired of sending reminder letters to member countries



to pay their subventions.”

In spite of the aforementioned challenges, Dr Okediran’s administration has achieved much success since assumption of office in 2020. In addition to raising active membership from 5 to 45 (of 52 countries), PAWA had its first ever congress in Ibadan in 2022, with 45 countries in attendance; published and presented PAWA’s first audited Financial Statement; and was hosted by the Djibouti government to mark the 2023 African Writers Day.

PAWA further published four works, the first, in honour of a popular African writer – this time on former Ghanaian President, Jerry Rawlings; the second, a publication on the proceedings of PAWA’s first conference in Ibadan; the third work, is a publication of its programme at Djibouti; and finally, PAWA published a collection of 56 short stories from 15 African countries, in collaboration with a publisher.

Speaking on the future and role of African writers in the face of continental political upheaval, coups and corruption, Okediran said is tricky and requires tact.

“The issue of writer associations and interventions in political or social issues requires a lot of tact, because both divides the issues are represented in a global body like power. Take the issue of the Israel and Palestine, we have members who are on both sides of that issue. We have those who are sympathetic to Israel, and those that are sympathetic to Palestine. The best we could do was to come out with a statement asking for peace.

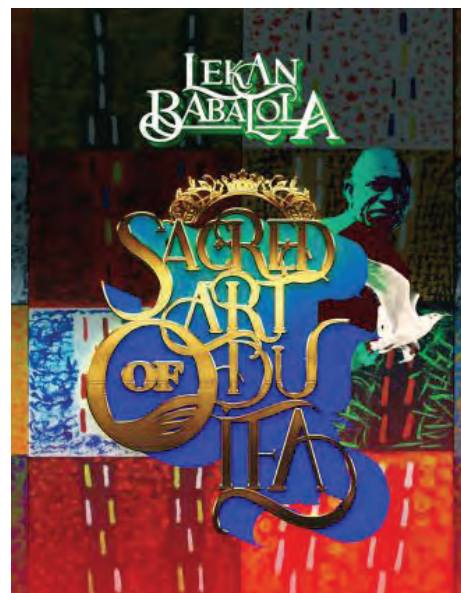
“That is what I consider the negative effect of belonging to such an organization. On the positive side, it presents us more leverage to network, publish more writers works, and widen our writers’ horizons.”

New Book On Odu Ifa Yoruba Binary & Visual Writing Language To Launch April 13

A new publication, Sacred Art of Odu Ifa detailing West Africa’s Yoruba People Binary and Visual Writing Language is set to launch April 13, 2024 at the Kongi’s Harvest Art Gallery, Freedom Park, Lagos.

Authored by twice Grammy Award-winning percussionist, cultural curator and founder of the UK-registered charity Ifa-Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust, Olalekan Babalola, the 200-page book shares the philosophical essence of the 16 principal odus of Odu Ifa, what it means to the Yoruba people of West Africa, its influence on contemporary art, and how Jazz maestro, John Coltrane believed its traditional wisdom should play a significant role in the 21st century thinking.

“In this book, the Sacred Art of Odu Ifa, Lekan has summarized the philosophical essence of each of the 16 principal odus in writing, and vividly stunning self-illustrated artistic aesthetics. Detailing the depth to which its sixteen variations are woven into well being and life cycles of west Africa’s



Yoruba People (who lives predominantly in Nigeria, Benin Republic and Togo).

“Featuring 15 photographic plates and

over 20 artworks by the author, Babalola’s book is a visual feast that brings a unique language, as well as its potency and wonder to the consciousness of a whole new audience,” said the publisher, Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust.

For Babalola, the celebration of the art and writing of 16 principles of Odu Ifa will help not just the Yorubas but culture and language enthusiasts feel connected to its energy and motion, while appreciate the power and majesty of the art crafted out of it.

“Sixteen essential life situations are represented which have sixteen possible variations each. Through these linked concepts of order, creation and destiny, the narratives of each Odu have created the prayer that would enhance the motion of human lifecycle and well-being.

“Each Odu of Ifa has its own music, food, herbal prescription, iconic symbols, stories, allegory, morality, meaning, divination, colour system, dance, sensibility, poetry and therapeutic effect.”

As I reflect on the

remarkable reign of Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Olu of Warri, I am filled with admiration for a leader who embodies the very essence of royalty and stewardship. The annual celebration of his birthday on the 2nd of April serves as a poignant reminder of his pivotal role as the custodian of Itsekiri culture and pride.

Since ascending the revered throne of his forebears, Ogiame Atuwatse III has captivated the hearts of the Warri Kingdom with his youthful charisma and unwavering dedication. His leadership has been characterized



Honouring Outstanding Reign Of Ogiame Atuwatse III, Olu Of Warri

BY IFETAYO ADENIYI

by a profound sense of pride, dignity, and admiration, instilling hope and resilience in the hearts of his people.

One cannot overlook his relentless pursuit of development for the oil-rich Warri Kingdom. His love, passion, and commitment know no bounds as he tirelessly engages with progressive partners both domestically and internationally, all in pursuit of prosperity and progress for Iwereland.

Amidst the grandeur of the palace, lies

a monarch deeply committed to uplifting the lives of his people. In his address to the Itsekiri nation during his second year on the throne, Ogiame Atuwatse III reiterated his unwavering commitment to the growth and development of their ancestral home. His call for unity and collective action resonated deeply, urging his people to contribute their quotas towards the advancement of Warri Kingdom.

Central to his vision

is the implementation of strategic initiatives such as the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) and the Iwere master plan. Ogiame Atuwatse III recognizes the transformative potential of these endeavors, aiming to bridge the gap between oil-rich areas and those less fortunate, ensuring that development reaches every corner of Iwereland.

The impact of his reign extends far beyond the borders of Warri. Through initiatives like the Royal

Iwere Foundation, he has become a catalyst for change, empowering the youth and promoting gender equality. With access to cutting-edge technology and mentorship, the youth of Warri are charting new paths towards a brighter future, fueled by innovation and progress.

Furthermore, Ogiame Atuwatse III's diplomatic efforts have brought stability and prosperity to the region, fostering an environment where

peace flourishes and opportunities abound. His unwavering commitment to peace and diplomacy has earned him international recognition, exemplified by the prestigious Key to the City of Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

As we celebrate the birthday of His Royal Majesty, let us not only honor his tireless dedication to his people and kingdom but also embrace the timeless values of peace, unity, and progress that he embodies. Long live the King, whose legacy will continue to shape the destiny of Warri Kingdom for generations to come.

—Ifetayo Adeniyi, Public Affairs Commentator, writes from Warri, Delta



Naked Reality

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Revisiting The 20 Millionaires In Igalaland

Over the weekend, social media was agog with the frenzy that percolated the atmosphere in Igalaland speaking area of Kogi state, the Senator representing the axis in the National Assembly, Senator Isah Jibrin Echoco had presented a cheque of N20 million to 20 beneficiaries of his Graduate Entrepreneurship Scheme. The fund sits with the viable potential of a revolving effect-with each beneficiary expected to recreate the grant unto others. Drawn from the nine local government areas of the state, the beneficiaries are given this seed capital to stimulate their existing business.

One of the beneficiaries, Ujachi Smaila from Imane in Olamaboro Local Government Area of the state runs a kiosk in Imane upon his graduation from the

Kogi State University, with this fund, he sees himself more poised to achieve more in his business. Salamatu Haruna, the owner of Sally Pastry from Ofu Local Government runs a bakery shop, with this grant, she hopes to inject more zest into her business which she opined has the potential to expand greatly in prospect.

Speaking about how the 1 million naira grant will impact their businesses, Hopeline Unyo, the Founder and CEO of Bryant Scents, an entrepreneurial outlet specializing in perfumery and other essentials, explained that the support from the Echocho Graduate Entrepreneurship Scheme will revolutionize their online presence and establish their business as a leading player in the digital perfume market. "By investing in strategic social media initiatives, we are confident in attracting

new customers, fostering meaningful connections with our customers, and driving sustainable growth for the company. I am very grateful for the show of love and support. With Senator Isah's support, I am confident that I can make a meaningful impact in my community and contribute to its economic growth."

Ismaila Ujachi, Founder and CEO of Ujachi Kiosk, applauded the credible selection process. he said, "When my brother-in-law forwarded the flyer of the programme to me, I thought it was a scam, but he encouraged me to apply. I'm not too good at business proposal writing but with the help of one of my siblings, who is a graduate of Business Administration, I was able to come up with something tangible. I was so thrilled when I got the notification that my proposal scaled through. This effort is

commendable."

Senator Jibrin Isah (Echocho)'s commitment to empowering youth and fostering economic growth within his constituency by providing a grant of 1 million naira each to twenty outstanding graduates and budding entrepreneurs is the new thinking that politicians and other leaders of thought should cultivate. With this kind of venture, the pressing economic challenges facing communities, such as high unemployment rates, the biting economic realities, intense competition in the labour market, and the need to create a viable economy, as the primary motivations for the initiative become a resort.

The significance of Senator Isah's initiative in providing essential financial support to deserving individuals underscores the need to address the economic situation that is biting

very hard and has presented intelligent graduates struggling with unemployment. The society urgently needs entrepreneurial solutions such as this. The grants should not be for luxury but intended financial assistance that will catalyze positive change and sustainable economic development.

Through the initiative, which is the maiden one, there is no doubt, that Senator Jibrin Isah has continued to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders, laying the groundwork for a prosperous and vibrant community. As the embodiment of visionary leadership and inclusive governance, Senator Isah remains committed to driving sustainable progress and prosperity across Kogi East Senatorial district.

This gesture should not only be viewed as a celebration of

generosity but also a testament to the power of leadership and vision in driving positive change. Senator Jibrin Isah's unwavering dedication to empowering youth and fostering economic growth has set a shining example for leaders across the nation, inspiring hope and optimism for a brighter future in Kogi East Senatorial District and beyond.

The Echocho Graduate Entrepreneurship Scheme initiative transcends political affiliations and serves as a beacon of hope, bringing tangible relief and opportunity to the people of Kogi East Senatorial district. Senator Isah's unwavering dedication to the welfare of his constituents is evident in his proactive approach to addressing pressing socio-economic challenges and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.

LEADERSHIP Sports

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BRIEFLY

Super Eagles Drop 2 Places In New FIFA Ranking

The Super Eagles of Nigeria have dropped two places from 28th to 30th in the world based on FIFA's latest rankings.

According to the list released on Thursday by the world football governing body, the three-time African champions remain the third-best team on the continent.

Nigeria's current rating was due to mixed results in the international friendly games played in March.

The Eagles secured a 2-1 victory over Ghana in his first friendly match but lost 2-0 to Mali in the second game.

In February, Nigeria climbed to the country's highest slot on the FIFA ranking since May 2013. The positive leap was propelled by a silver-winning campaign at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Cote d'Ivoire.

Morocco and Senegal maintained their lead as the best African teams, while Egypt and Cote d'Ivoire completed the top five teams on the continent.

Meanwhile, Argentina remained number one globally, with France in second place, while Belgium leapfrogged Brazil and England to third in the global rankings.

Parents Hail Ikoyi Club Easter Holiday Tennis Clinic

Ikoyi Club 1938 has been getting commendations from parents for their continuous running of the Easter Holiday Tennis Clinic and Championship which will end on Saturday.

Mrs Zainab Mohammed have two of her kids featuring this year and he said: "It's a great idea from Ikoyi Club.

"We are impressed by this and one of the good things that could come out of this is the fact that some of the kids might just pick interest in the sports and they may want to go to it professionally in the future."

Mrs Atebe also expressed delight at the programme declaring that it serves as a solid foundation for the kids who could be future stars.

Falcons, Banyana Lock Horns In Abuja For Paris Olympic Ticket

BY SALIFU USMAN, Abuja

Nigeria's Super Falcons will lock horns with their South African counterparts, Banyana Banyana, at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium in Abuja on Friday for the first leg of their final qualifying playoff of the 2024 Paris Olympic Women's Football Tournament.

Both countries, with stellar talents in the women's game, are arguably among the best in the world at the moment, therefore, it is a battle between two of the best national female sides on the African continent.

While the South Africans are the reigning African champions, Super Falcons dominated women's football for most of the last four decades, winning nine of 11 African Championships and appearing at every edition of the World Cup.

To underscore their seriousness about giving the Super Falcons a good fight for the ticket, the delegation of Banyana Banyana for the encounter arrived in Abuja on Sunday, and have been training for the big match since that day.

On Monday, the South African High Commission started active mobilization of South Africans living in Nigeria to come and support the reigning African champions. Just as NFF's general-secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, on Wednesday, called



on residents of Abuja and environs, and even in the neighbouring states, to storm the MKO Abiola Stadium in their thousands to cheer the Falcons to victory.

Coach Randy Waldrum is most likely to stick to his tested-and-trusted World Cup rearguard, including goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie and defenders Michelle Alozie and Osinachi Ohale. In the absence of the injured Oluwatosin Demehin and Ashleigh Plumtre, Alozie could move to left back to give returnee Chidinma Okeke the space on the right, with youngster Shukurat Oladipo likely to pair Osinachi in the centre.

Hard-as-nails Halimatu Ayinde and Christy Ucheibe will spearhead the midfield, with Captain Rasheedat Ajibade and the slippery Deborah Abiodun providing the guile and flamboyance. Uchenna Kanu,

Esther Okoronkwo, Jennifer Echegini, Rinsola Babajide, Gift Monday, Asisat Oshoala and the returnee Chiwendu Ihezuo are all options in the attack.

For sure, Coach Desire Ellis also has dependable weapons in her armoury, not least of them the nimble-footed Thembo Kgatana, as well as Jermain Seoposenwe, both based in Mexico. There's also the crafty Hildah Magaia, as well as midfielders Linda Motlhalo, Jane Refiloe and Nomvula Kgoale.

"We want our people to come to the stadium and support us. The Super Falcons do not fear any team. With their support, we will play with total confidence and overcome," said goalkeeper Nnadozie.

The return leg will take place at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria on Tuesday evening.

NPFL: Victory Over Kwara Utd, Big Relief – Ogunbote

Gbenga Ogunbote, the head coach of Shooting Stars Sports Club (3SC) of Ibadan has described his team's 2-0 defeat of Kwara United on Wednesday as a big relief for the team.

Ogunbote, who spoke after the match held at Lekan Salami Sports Complex, noted that 3SC wasted many scoring chances due to pressure on the team, especially on the players who had not done so well in



the league season.

The coach said this was because some of the players were trying to impress and come back to normal form.

Ogunbote added that the level of team work and understanding among the players have improved.

"This is in comparison with the first half of the season when almost 80 per cent of the players first came together as a new team.

"But the players are blending gradually, and the difference we are seeing in the team is improvement in the level of understanding among the players.

"Now everybody in the team is aware that we have a target which we are trying to meet.

"We want to be happy and make our supporters, sponsors and fans happy through our performance and also to enhance their confidence in the team," he said.

NDLEA Pledges Increased Involvement In Sports To Check Drug Abuse, Trafficking

The Kwara State command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has promised increased involvement in sports events as part of efforts to wage war against drug abuse and child trafficking.

NDLEA's Kwara commander, Bashir Ibrahim, made the promise in Ilorin when members of the state chapter of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) paid him a courtesy visit.

The commander said the decision had become necessary because of recent challenges faced in policing drug traffickers in the state.

Speaking on the danger it poses to sports, the commander noted that youths were particularly vulnerable to drug abuse.

"NDLEA will now be more visible in sports events. We want to curb the trending menace of drug abuse by athletes.

"Youths tend to glamourise drug use. Matters are not helped when adults, handlers of athletes tend to sell them the drugs.

"We recently secured the conviction of a coach who was selling drugs to young athletes under his care," he said.

According to the NDLEA commander, the use and supply of synthetic cannabis, a modified form of Indian hemp, is now prevalent among drug abusers and athletes.

He added that more women appear to be involved in the supply chain of the banned substances, including synthetic cannabis, "loud" and "Colorado".

Ibrahim said based on United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data, Kwara had a drug trafficking prevalence of 13 percent.

He noted that it was the highest in the whole of the country's North-Central region.

"The data from the UNODC is however quite obsolete given that it was produced in 2018 and statistical data are reviewed at least every five years).

"This is what makes the job of drug law enforcement challenging," the NDLEA commander said.

The Kwara SWAN Chairman, Ayodeji Ismail, while speaking said sports writers were aware of the dangers the menace had continued to pose to sports and youth development.

Nasara FC Win Baptist Church Super 8 Unity Cup

BY ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna

Nasara Football Club of Maraban Rido, Chikun local government area of Kaduna State, have emerged champions of the maiden First Baptist Church Super 8 Unity Cup competition after beating the hosts Baptist Church 0-1 in the final.

In a thrilling final that drew lots of spectators, saw the hosts Baptist Church team missed several scoring chances after Nasara FC had took the lead in the first half, courtesy of Jessy Pius who took advantage of a defensive error to shot into the net, and the scoreline remained same at the end of the first half.

Both teams resumed hostility in the second half targeting each other's net, but their ef-

orts to either increase the score line or equalize were futile at the end of regulation time.

Desperate measures on both sides saw both teams ending the match with 10-man as the centre referee had to send two players, one each from both sides for indiscipline.

The winners Nasarawa FC were awarded certificates of participation, trophy and cash reward of N80,000 while the runners up also got certificates and reward of N50,000.

Earlier in the third place match played at the same venue, Christ Apostolic Church (CAC) Koseunti lost 0-1 to Maranatha Baptist Church Ungwan Boro at in a highly competitive match, with the later claiming bronze medal, a certificate of participation



sports NEWS

Saudi Arabia To Host WTA Finals For Next 3 Years

Saudi Arabia will host the WTA Finals for the next three editions, the Women's Tennis Association said on Thursday, following widespread speculation and criticism from some of the game's greats.

In just the latest high-profile Saudi sporting acquisition, the capital Riyadh will first hold the season finale featuring eight singles players and doubles teams from 2-9 November.

"Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will host the next three editions of the WTA Finals from 2024-2026," the WTA posted on X, formerly Twitter, on its official account.



McIlroy Consults Woods' Ex-coach Ahead Of Masters

Rory McIlroy has consulted Tiger Woods' former coach Butch Harmon in a bid to address the issues in his game prior to his latest bid to win The Masters.

World number two McIlroy will become the sixth player to win all four men's majors if he wins next week's Masters.

But with just one top-20 finish on the PGA Tour this season, the 34-year-old has sought Harmon's help.

Harmon, 80, worked with Woods for his first eight major wins before splitting with the then-world number one in 2002.

"I went last week to see Butch Harmon for a golf lesson," McIlroy told the I Can Fly podcast. I've seen him over the years, like once every few years. I'll say, 'Hey, Butch, can I just come see you and you can take a look and see what you think'."



R-L: Rory McIlroy with Butch Harmon during a practice round prior to the 2016 PGA Championship

South African Footballer Killed In Carjacking

Former South Africa junior international Luke Fleurs, who played for the country's most popular soccer club, Kaizer Chiefs, was killed in a carjacking in Johannesburg, police officials confirmed Thursday.

Fleurs, 24, was shot in the chest at a gas station Wednesday night and the assailants drove off in his vehicle.

"While waiting to be served by the attendant, he was confronted by two armed males," police spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Mavela Masondo told reporters, adding that no arrests had been made.

The centre-back played every minute for South Africa at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021, and that same year was called up to the senior team for World Cup qualifiers against Ethiopia, though he did not make it off the bench and was uncapped.

NIS To Introduce Arm Wrestling In Curriculum

In line with its mandate of training, research and sports development, the National Institute for Sports (NIS) is to introduce 'Arm Wrestling' as part of the institute's program.

This was made known by the NIS director-general, Professor Olawale Moronkola, when he received in audience the president of the Arm Wrestling Federation, Engineer Samuel Jackson and his team.

While presenting members of the Arm Wrestling team that won laurels for Nigeria at the African Games

in Ghana, Engineer Jackson said, "We have come a long way by hosting Africa thrice. We are now ranked third on the continent due to our impressive outing at the African Games in Ghana. We want to have Arm Wrestling in the NIS curriculum to expose our athletes, technical officials and other stakeholders who may be interested to latest trends and as well build up their techniques while also exposing our athletes.

"We are also here to say thank you for allowing us to use the NIS facilities in

Abuja while preparing for the Games".

In his response, Professor Moronkola said, "I want to thank you for your keen interest in Arm Wrestling. In sports, just like other human endeavours, you can't learn everything, just like we have so many things in the curriculum, but we pick few.

This is something we will be proud of. We will work together to forge a good partnership. I like new ideas when there is justification for it. We shall be ready to take necessary steps to make it work.

We shall do all within our power and encourage you to put everything together in the next few months.

I will take it to the academic board so that it can be included in our curriculum".

Speaking to the athletes, the DG asserted, "Let me challenge the athletes whatever you have, make sure you save and also get education. You must plan for your retirement by developing yourself. You can lead the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) in the future if you acquire quality education."

Premier League Title Race Will Go To The Wire – Guardiola

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has told his side to prepare for another Premier League title race that goes all the way to the last day of the season.

Reigning champions City have been playing catch-up this term in a three-way clash with Arsenal and Liverpool.

City maintained their charge by drawing level on points with second-placed Liverpool, and moving just one behind leaders Arsenal, with a

commanding 4-1 win at home to Aston Villa on Wednesday featuring a hat-trick from England midfielder Phil Foden.

Guardiola was speaking ahead of Liverpool's match against relegation struggling Sheffield United yesterday's night.

Guardiola continues to insist his side are only third favourites to lift the Premier League trophy as they seek to be crowned champions of England for an unprecedented

fourth successive season.

But he expects City to remain in the hunt, with the Spaniard saying: "If we win all our games it will go until the last day because they are not five, six, seven points in front.

"It will not be easy. The feeling I have is not easy. I see Liverpool and Arsenal playing, they don't drop points, it will not be easy.

"But we have to do our job and don't regret, 'Oh, we

should have won that game because they lost after'. We cannot do anything, we do not play against them any more so we don't control what Liverpool and Arsenal do. All we can do is win our games."

Even with Kevin De Bruyne and Erling Haaland only among the substitutes ahead of next week's Champions League trip to Real Madrid, there was no denying City's dominance against Villa.



DENIAL IS A RIVER IN EGYPT.

—MARK TWAIN

Jonathan And Sam: Two Books, One Message



Conversation With Sam

A weekly diary on life & politics

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I have looked at the whole situation," Tinubu tells Sam, "I told myself, if I didn't run, I'm damned. If I ran, they may want to damn me. So, I had to run, anyway

Before *The Human Flow* was published, Jonathan, one of Europe's most accomplished foreign affairs columnists and journalists, had talked with excitement about the book. It was his first novel. Like a woman who became pregnant when she thought she was past child-bearing, Jonathan, 82, couldn't wait to make Mary Wesley look like a child prodigy. Sam Omatseye's book, *Beating All the Odds: Diaries and Essays on How Tinubu Became President*, on the other hand, is part diary, part essay. The diary would have been difficult to script even if a fiction writer had tried to imagine the outcome of events in the months leading up to the 2023 general elections in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.

The thing about diaries is that you never know. When the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), a legacy member of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) was compiling *A Witness to History*, for example, the party could not have imagined that it was writing the final chapters of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) government that had lost its way for good.

This gift of the unknown is also exemplified in *The Diary of a Young Girl*, the story of Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl caught up in the turmoil of the Second World War, but who in spite of it produced a diary that has become both a record of history and also a work of moral philosophy.

Damned either way

From the first part of Sam's 349-page book, it's improbable that he knew exactly which way the wind would blow when he started journaling ahead of the February 2023 presidential election, two months after the APC presidential primary in 2022.

Unlike former military president General Ibrahim Babangida who famously said he didn't know who would succeed him but he knew those who wouldn't, President Muhammadu Buhari appeared confused about both. His body language, which became a metaphor for his government's malaise, suggested that the front-runner, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the subject of Sam's book, was not his preferred candidate.

Even though Tinubu had picked the APC's presidential



ticket when Sam started his diary and decency required that Buhari would rally the party behind its candidate, the party became Tinubu's worst enemy. It wasn't just the usual horse-trading, feather-ruffling, and backstabbing that come with internal party politics. It was a betrayal of Judas-like proportions, plotted to swallow Tinubu alive.

"I have looked at the whole situation," Tinubu tells Sam, "I told myself, if I didn't run, I'm damned. If I ran, they may want to damn me. So, I had to run, anyway."

Inside Ota lair

Sam's diary opens with an entry on August 19, 2022, about Tinubu's pilgrimage to the Ota, the lair of one of Nigeria's political gods, President Olusegun Obasanjo. Whatever the sacrifice Tinubu offered at the Ota shrine on that visit, his token may have fallen short.

In spite of the photo-ops and pretensions of ethnic solidarity, Obasanjo whom Sam describes as "the old fox of Nigeria's politics," later cast his lot with the Labour Party candidate, Peter Obi, reopening old memories of mutual distrust between Obasanjo and Tinubu.

Three main issues dominate the diary: One, the conspiracies within the APC, right up to the

Presidency, to subvert Tinubu's ambition; two, the division within the PDP, which split the party into at least three irreconcilable factions, the Nyesom Wike faction being the most potent; and three, the bitter pushback by anti-Tinubu groups – masquerading sometimes as the religious police, sometimes as ethnic tin-gods, and yet at other times as the youth avantgarde – all sparing neither mud nor kitchen sink in their desperate attempts to stop him.

"It seems obvious," Sam says in his February 17, 2023 entry, "that the worries that Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu expressed about efforts to scuttle his path to victory have never been better revealed than when the President (Buhari) went on national television and defied the Supreme Court ruling (on the currency crisis) ...the president gave ammunition to the other contestants."

The Atiku Syndrome

The bulk of the entries however centres on the Atiku Syndrome, a condition that makes the sufferer utterly unable to see or seize an opportunity even if beaten on the head with it; and the unrestrained bitterness of "Obidients" towards the Tinubu campaign.

Sam, whose diary makes no pretence of his support for Tinubu, not only highlights the misery

that the division between Atiku and Wike's G-5 brought upon the PDP, he also invokes the worst of Atiku's politics, and takes no prisoners amongst "Obidients" who wanted his head on a platter, especially after his controversial article, "Obi-tuary".

Even though the opposition's divided house set the ducks of Tinubu's victory on a row, Sam had his anxious moments not a few. At one point, he asks Tinubu if there is a Plan B, because, he says, "I knew Buhari did not want him and the vampires around him did not want him."

The rest is history, enriched by the second part of his book – a careful curation of a decade's worth of some of his most engaging weekly columns in *The Nation*.

Love story

In *The Human Flow*, Jonathan took a different tack away from – but enriched by – his commentary on foreign affairs published for decades on many platforms across the world. The novel is a love story expressed as a tragedy of our modern existence: the trafficking of West African migrants.

In some ways, the book reminded me of Sina Odugbemi's *Japa*, a slim but horrific personal account of the author's search for greener pastures through the Sahara Desert, complete with tales of his Maghreb nightmares.

Or perhaps Olusegun Adeniyi's *From Frying Pan to Fire*, a searing account of the human tragedies experienced in the elusive chase for a better life in Europe by thousands of African migrants who are consumed by the unforgiving desert or

trafficked as slaves long before they can achieve their dreams.

The difference, perhaps, is that while Odugbemi's and Adeniyi's accounts are based on real-life stories, *The Human Flow* is a narrative prose fiction of the life of a Tanzanian-based white British journalist, Jon, whose quest to expose the evils of human trafficking led him into an odyssey of a complicated romance, adventure and tragedy.

Complicated affair

The main characters in the book are Jon, and his Tanzanian girlfriend, Agnes. In their pursuit for truth, they fall in love. Their affair is deepened by Agnes's brief kidnapping and the search for her that led Jon into romantic entanglement with a married Spanish journalist, Ana.

The quest also reveals a web of human traffickers comprising religious leaders, local chiefs, border police, hustlers and deadly gangs. These forces sometimes work for or against each other, but unfailingly prey on the desperation of their victims for that basic human instinct of a better life.

In the end, Jon and Agnes are captured by a deadly guerilla movement in Morocco and murdered in Libya.

In the former world, European migrants to Africa were impeded by geography and tropical diseases but they overcame by guile and gunpowder. In today's reverse migration, hope and dinghies are the main vessels for African migrants.

Conclusion of the matter

Unfortunately, as we see from *The Human Flow* the brutal realities confronting African migrants range from human traffickers to deadly gangs and compromised or hostile border police, leaving the migrants with forlorn hopes and broken dreams, if they survive.

There's a place where Sam's poetic prose and Jonathan's enthralling story-telling meet: leadership. The failure of leadership is responsible for the booby traps and chaos thrown on Tinubu's path in the runup to the 2023 election on Buhari's watch. It also explains why African youths are risking everything to escape the continent.

Both diary and novel meet at the crossroads of Africa's biggest problem: leadership.

GHANA MUST GO

You share everything in marriage, including infections

– Actress



It depends on the type!