

News

Why Gov. Mutfwang Visited President Tinubu –Media Aide

MR Gyang Bere, the Director of Press and Public Affairs (DOPPA) to Gov. Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau, has clarified the reason for the visit of the governor to President Bola Tinubu.

Bere told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Jos that the governor's visit on Monday in Lagos was to brief the president on the security situation in the state.

Bere was reacting to reports making the rounds in some social media handles that the governor went to Lagos to make merry while the state was under attack.

The media aide explained that the visit was a sincere effort towards tackling the insecurity currently confronting the state.

NAN reports that the Plateau state governor was in Lagos on Christmas day along with other members of the Nigeria Governors Forum.

Vice President Kashim Shettima was also at the meeting with the governors from Kwara, Benue, Katsina, Bauchi, Kano, Kaduna, Rivers, Lagos and Imo among others.

"The purpose of the visit was to apprise the President of the escalating security challenges in the state and to seek prompt intervention from the Federal Government.

"The visit was not for revelry but a sincere effort to draw attention to the security crisis, distinct from past situations.

"Prior to the Lagos visit, the governor had granted interview on Channels and Arise Televisions, and declared his intention of meeting with the President to solicit support over the renewed security challenges in the state.

"He had earlier visited Mangu Local Government Area (LGA) which had been ravaged by severe attacks. Following this, he held a meeting with the Commander of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) and issued a directive to secure affected communities," he said.

Bere, who expressed dismay at criticisms on social media, said that the governor had proactively responded to the Christmas eve attacks in Bokko and Barkin-Ladi LGAs.

"The decision to meet with Mr. President was aimed at briefing him on the renewed violence for appropriate action.

"His discussions with the President and other governors yielded positive results, and consequently, Vice President Kashim Shettima, National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, and other Security Chiefs were dispatched to Plateau to assess the security situation.

"Following the briefing, the President ordered security personnel to apprehend the perpetrators and mobilised relief materials for surviving victims," he said.

Firm Splashes Gifts On Loyal Customers

BY CHRISTY ABOGHE

NO fewer than 700 households have received free refilled gas cylinders, gas cookers, gas lighters and other cooking equipment for their consistency in patronage from the management of Bina E Cooking gas & Oil The company CEO, Alexander Okunbor made this known to our reporter during the event which took place in Asaba at the weekend.

Speaking while distributing the cooking gas cylinders and other cooking appliances, Mr Okunbor, said the gesture was part of Bina E gas corporate social responsibility.

Mr Okunbor said, "Today, our gas plant is giving out free refilled cooking gas cylinders, gas cookers, gas lighters and other cooking appliances to our customer. It is our own corporate social responsibility to our customers," he said. Describing itself as customer friendly and the "People's gas plant", the company said that a similar gesture would happen in its plants at 74 Junction Asaba again during 2024 Easter period.

The beneficiaries which were drawn from Asaba, Illah, Akukwu Igbo, Infant Jesus, 74 camp area, some hotels in Asaba. Hotels and restaurants including Lake town hotel, Pepper Rice Restaurant, Golden Tulip Hotel, Top Rank Hotel, Springs Hill Hotel, First Empire Asaba, Saint Patrick College Asaba also received the Bina gas gift.

Highlight of the event was the massive turnout of beneficiaries at the company's premises to benefit from the gesture.

Police Confirm Death Of Family Of 8 In Imo Accident

THE police in Imo, have confirmed the death of eight members of a family in an auto crash at the Amanwozuzu junction, Ikeduru Local Government Area (LGA) of Imo.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in at the weekend. Ahiole said that the accident which occurred at about 3.00p.m on Friday resulted in the death of all eight persons in a Sienna car conveying the family.

He said the Sienna vehicle collided with a stationary truck carrying rods, resulting in the death of the victims.

"Eight died and we have taken them to a morgue. We had to break the Sienna vehicle to bring out the dead bodies," he said.

NBM Ogwashi-Uku Zone Holds End Of Year Get-Together

THE Neo Black Movement of Africa (NBM), Ogwashi-Uku Zone in Delta State has held its 2023 end of year get-together, featuring social and humanitarian initiatives.

The group said that the activities were aimed at greater bonding of members and to impact on the development of the area.

There was however, a novelty football match between the Ogwashi-Uku and Asaba zones, held at the Jay Jay Okocha Stadium, Ogwashi-Uku.

The Delta Regional Head of the NBM, Prince Henry Itse-Orughoh commended members for their participation, saying that their well-being through sporting and recreational activities were part of the NBM's vision.

The group also engaged with the National Drug Law

Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on how to eliminate the intake of illicit drugs among youths. After a pep talk by Mr. Omobhude Silas, an assistant state commander of the NDLEA, Itse-Orughoh promised that the NBM members would help to disseminate the information to members of the public.

Itse-Orughoh thereafter presented a Toyota Siena van to the Ogwashi-Uku Police Division on behalf of the NBM Ogwashi-Uku Zone.

The donation was witnessed by the Odogwu of Ogwashi-Uku, High Chief Gabriel Ohai, who expressed joy at the additional mobility given to the police in the area. Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohammed Lawal of Ogwashi-Uku Area Command thanked the NBM for the donation, saying the vehicle would enhance security patrol in the area.



Child Marriage: Bayelsa Govt Summons 4-Year-Old Girl's Parents, 54 Years Old Groom

THE Bayelsa Government has invited parents of a four-year-old girl and the 54-year-old man allegedly involved in a marriage in Akeddei community in Sagbama Local Government Area of the state.

The government's intervention is coming on the heels of media reports of a December 26 marriage between the 'bride' and a 54 years old.

The Bayelsa Government's reaction is contained in a statement provided to NAN in Yenagoa yesterday.

The statement is jointly signed by Dr. Dise Ogbise-Goddy, Chairman, Gender Response Initiative Team (GRIT) Bayelsa and Mr Paniebi Jacob, Director, Child Development in the Ministry of Women Affairs, Children and Social Development. The state government, which frowned at the development, also expressed concern over the "illegal marriage" based on tradition and customs, saying it was repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience.

According to the statement, the Ministry of Women, Children Affairs and Social Development and GRIT have acknowledged the receipt of a

formal complaint from a child rights advocacy group, DO Foundation, on the controversial marriage.

Jacob, Ogbise-Goddy and the state Human Rights Commission, said the traditional ruler of Akeddei community honoured the government's invitation and promised to produce the child, her parents, the groom, the youth leader and the chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC).

The statement noted that the Bayelsa Government did not support child marriage under any guise.

"That is why the state government did not hesitate to assent to the passage of the Bayelsa State Child Rights Law. "We are taking steps to rescue the child from all the key actors in relation to this illegal ceremony that they tagged a 'mere spiritual' affair.

"The law is clear on issues of tradition and customs that are repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience and working with the Bayelsa State Police Command, we shall ensure incidents like this do not occur in the state again.

"On behalf of the governor of Bayelsa State, we express our gratitude

to all the non-governmental organisations, including FIDA and DO Foundation that have risen to the rescue of this innocent child.

"Bayelsa State is children-friendly and this case will be pursued to a logical conclusion."

However, NAN learnt that the alleged marriage involving the man, simply identified as Elder Akpos, was at the instance of the girl's parents.

According to a source, who pleaded anonymity for fear of penalty for desecrating traditions, the parents of the girl claim that the 54-year-old man was her husband in their previous life?

According to the community source, the girl claimed that the man was her husband who died mysteriously in their previous life.

The toddler has narrated that over the years, she has been moving from place to place, to be given birth to by different parents, searching for her former husband.

The source said: "The little bride said if she was not allowed to marry her husband, she would have no other business in Akeddei community, and that she was going to die peacefully and go her way.

Correctional Service Decorates 120 Newly Promoted Officers In Edo

THE Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) has decorated 120 newly promoted officers at the Edo Command with various ranks.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the decoration was part of the ongoing nationwide promotion exercise in the service.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Comptroller of Correctional Service, Edo Command, Philomena Emehimola, charged the officers to see their elevations as a call to more work, which they must justify.

"Those of you that have been promoted, you must be ready to do more work, for the rewards for promotion is more work. You have been called to duty and you have to prove to the Nigerian Correctional Service that you are up and doing that your promotion was not a mistake."

"So, my advice for all of you is to be diligent in your job and those of you who were not promoted, by the grace of God, next time you will have your own share of the promotion," Emehimola said.

She commended the Comptroller General of NCS, Halliru Nababa, for ensuring that officers of the command were among those promoted in the service, just as she assured that the promoted officers would live up to their responsibilities.

Expressing her joy for the promotion, Ayemien Otasowie, a newly promoted Deputy Superintendent, said that the new rank called for greater responsibility.

"I am so happy for the promotion as people usually say and as I know, promotion comes from God and he has done it again. Among the multitude of persons, God picked me out of them. So, I am so very happy," Otasowie said.