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NIGERIA'S FIRST FRIDAY NEWSPAPER

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OUT THIS SUNDAY
26TH FEBRUARY, 2023
DON'T MISS IT.



Nigeria Decides
2023
1 Day To Go

» **BRIEFING:** » **Trending:** U. S supports Nigeria with \$25m for 2023 polls » **Numbers** Naira May fall to N900/\$, says business advisory » **History Today** » PAGE 2

7TH PRESIDENTIAL POLL

87.2m Voters Decide Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, Kwankwaso, Others' Fate Tomorrow 4

- Tension pervades the land over what promises to be most intriguing poll
- Citizens to elect 5th president since 1999 ■ INEC insists on 'No PVC, No Voting'



L-R: Proprietor, Augustine University Ilara (UAI) and Archbishop of the Metropolitan See of Lagos Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins; Chancellor, Femi Otedola; his mother and former first lady of Lagos State, Lady Doja Otedola, chairman, Board of Trustee and chairman, AUI Fund Raising Committee, Sir Steve Omojafor, and pro-chancellor, AUI, Chief Gilbert T. Grant, during the inauguration of the completed first block of the Faculty of Engineering complex and the laying of foundation for block 2 and 3, donated to Augustine University in Epe by Femi Otedola, in Lagos on Wednesday .

NAIRA SWAP PMB Didn't Overrule Supreme Court – Malami

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH, Abuja

As the crisis of Naira redesign persists, the attorney-general of the federation and minister of justice, Abubakar Malami, has dismissed insinuations that President Muhammadu Buhari overruled the Supreme Court order on the new naira .

He disclosed this yesterday during

» PAGE 7

BUNI EMPOWERS 100 NURTW MEMBERS, 68,000 VULNERABLE PERSONS PAGE 14

WHY POLITICIANS ARE DESPERATE TO BUY VOTES – IGINI PAGE 6

MIXED REACTIONS IN SOUTH EAST OVER SIMON EKPA'S ARREST PAGE 7

Osinbajo Inaugurates Ogun Cargo Airport, Boards Maiden Flight



MAKING IT, SPENDING IT: MAKE OR MAR MONEY CHOICES

Increasing Finances Through Egg Hatchery Business (1)



Chicken is nowadays, a staple on the tables of most Nigerians, so also is their products. Hence, any business connected to these, are regarded as high-yielding investments that gives quick returns even though it seems capital intensive.

Those in the poultry business patronise egg hatching. They hatch some of the eggs into chicks for poultry farming. It is a flourishing business in the country.

Currently, a number of poultry hatcheries and incubators in the country cannot meet the demand of the poultry farmers, and therein lies the opportunity to fill in this gap.

To be successful in hatchery business, one would need to follow some steps.

Farmers book for day old chicks at the existing hatcheries and wait for weeks or months before they can collect and most times, it is by allocation.

Therefore, you will need to acquire skills in this business to set up and become employers of labour.

Market Opportunity

The market for day old chicks is guaranteed. The present operators operate what we call 'sellers market', as they cannot meet the demand of their buyers. The project entails installation of incubators where fertilised eggs are kept for a period of 21 days and they are hatched to day old chicks. The day old chicks are then sold to poultry farmers. The fertilised eggs are earlier procured from already established grand parent stock poultry farm.

In essence, an investor will need to establish a grand parent stock farm

where fertilised eggs are produced. The eggs are later transferred to incubators where they will be hatched within 21 days. Serious minded investors can be assisted in the establishment of the project.

Hatching eggs are a great way to easily earn an income from your chickens, if you have the setup for maintaining a purebred flock and quality chickens.

Speaking with me, an expert, Dr Christopher Adeyemi, says, as an insider who has been in the business for several years, he can boast of its quick

investment returns.

Business Requirements

According to Adeyemi, whose poultry and hatchery business is based in Ondo State, there is need for adequate preparation for a suitable site, hatchery machines and workers. He states that it is very critical to get committed, trustworthy and reliable workers that have passion and fear of God to do the work without hitches.

"I am giving the warning because, I have seen some investors who failed in this business due to lack of enough preparation, unreliable workers or poor management. Thus, to avoid failure, investors must carefully study the business environment before coming into it. Hatchery business, when well organised, can create a multiple chain of businesses," he indicated.

Before investing in a hatchery, he says investors should, at least, consider the following questions: what species of (chicken breeds) to hatch? Where do the eggs come from? Where is the hatchery built? What facilities are needed? Are the funds sufficient? And so on.

TRENDING
THE UNITED STATES ON THURSDAY DONATED \$25M TO SUPPORT NIGERIA IN CONDUCTING FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS. THE US AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, MARY LEONARD, MADE THIS KNOWN IN A ROUNDTABLE CHAT WITH JOURNALISTS IN ABUJA ON THURSDAY. LEONARD COMMENDED NIGERIA FOR UPHOLDING A PEACEFUL AND CONSISTENT DEMOCRACY, ADDING THAT THE US HAS WORKED WITH THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION AHEAD OF THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION. SHE STRESSED, "SO, WE HAVE LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA AND PROBABLY WE ARE SPENDING ABOUT 25 MILLION DOLLARS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THIS ELECTION."

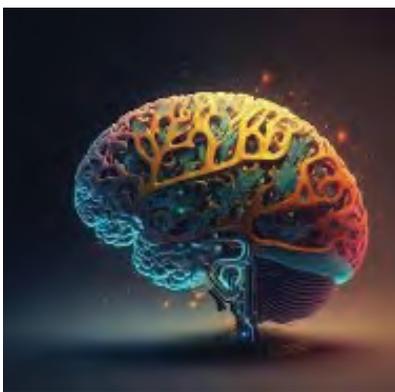
NUMBERS:
900
ANDERSEN, AN INDEPENDENT TAX AND BUSINESS ADVISORY FIRM HAS SAID THAT THE PARALLEL RATE OF THE NAIRA MAY FALL TO N900 IN 2023 FROM DEMAND PRESSURE IF MITIGATING MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN.

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA: DURO OLOWU
DURO OLOWU IS A LONDON-BASED, NIGERIAN BORN FASHION DESIGNER. HE HAS BOTH NIGERIAN AND JAMAICAN ROOTS AND IS A HOUSEHOLD NAME IN BOTH THE NIGERIAN AND GLOBAL FASHION INDUSTRY. HE IS FAMOUS FOR HIS UNIQUE AND COLORFUL AFRICAN PRINTS.

HISTORY TODAY
ON THIS DAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015, A SUICIDE BOMBER DETONATED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING TO BOARD A BUS AT DAN-BORNO BUS STATION IN POTISKUM, KILLING 17 PEOPLE, INJURING OVER 30 AND DESTROYING THE BUS.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CAPTIVITY
BETHEL BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL, KUJAMA'S KIDNAPPED STUDENTS HAVE SPENT 675 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY.

Science, Discovery And Uses



'Muscle Memories' Get 'Zipped And Unzipped' In The Brain, Like Computer Files

Tapping into your "muscle memory" to tie your shoes or play an instrument may feel automatic — but to execute these learned motions, the brain erupts into a flurry of activity, rapidly "unzipping" and "zipping" all the key information about the movement being performed, a new study suggests.

In A 1st, Scientists Grow Stem Cells That Could Show How Bats Harbor Lethal Viruses Without Dying

For the first time, scientists generated stem cells from bats that can give rise to any type of cell found in the animals' fuzzy bodies. These cells, the researchers say, may help explain how bats can carry so many viruses that are lethal to humans but cause the flying mammals no harm.

COVID-19 Linked To 40% Increase In Autoimmune Disease Risk In Huge Study

Catching COVID-19 may raise the risk of developing autoimmune disease by 43% in the months following the infection, according to the largest study of its kind. "The new research, which has yet to be peer reviewed, was posted January 26 in the preprint database medRxiv.

Culled From: www.livescience.com

SEVEN TIPS ON: HAPPY MOVIES

Here are some movies to help de-stress at the weekend.

THE MARTIAN

It starts with high drama as Matt Damon's Mark Watney is left for dead on Mars by his astro-colleagues. But the process of his figuring out how to survive and the way his NASA colleagues on Earth and spaceship Hermes rally round to save him will have you cheering.

GROUNDHOG DAY

Proof that feel-good doesn't have to mean saccharine. Bill Murray is the cynical weather reporter who gets stuck living the same day over and over again, until he eventually learns to enjoy the little things and stop looking for reasons to be unhappy.

PADDINGTON 2

"If we're kind and polite, the world will be right." Everything about Paddington 2 exudes positivity — it's a film that abounds with sheer delight. Even Hugh Grant's luvvie villain Phoenix Buchanan is gloriously entertaining.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Gene Kelly will dance all your cares away as he goes splashing down the street, giddy with love for Debbie Reynolds. Singin' In The Rain is a bold, primary-coloured rush of unabashed enthusiasm. There is no room for misery here.



baddies qualities of a great sports movie,

ETRE ET AVOIR

This 2002 documentary will make you weep, but in a very happy way. It follows one year at a school in small-town France, where one teacher, Mr Lopez, looks after 200 children of varying ages. It's a beautiful account of how much one person can affect the lives of so many.

PITCH PERFECT

Set in the highly competitive world of a capella singing competitions, this sleeper hit is sold by a charming comic cast, led by Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson. It has the against-the-odds, little-guys-versus-the-big-

CRAZY RICH ASIANS

After years of rom-com wilderness came Crazy Rich Asians — delivering a swoon-worthy couple in Constance Wu's Rachel and Henry Golding's Nick, laugh-out-loud gags from Awkwafina, and a visual vibrancy that makes the genre come alive again. It'll leave you beaming — with a little happy-crying at the Mandarin cover of Coldplay's 'Yellow'.

By James Dyer, Ben Travis

Culled From: <https://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/best-feelgood-movies/>

SPORTS ON THE GO: WHAT'S IN THE NEWS!

NOVAK DJOKOVIC 'CANNOT CALL' CARLOS ALCARAZ BIGGEST RIVAL AHEAD OF FRENCH OPEN AS IT 'IS STILL RAFAEL NADAL'

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic has addressed the current rivalry that is being hyped up between him and Carlos Alcaraz and insisted that he still considers Rafael Nadal to be his "biggest rival" on the ATP Tour.

Djokovic has already broken Roger Federer's record of 310 weeks as men's world No. 1 and is set to surpass WTA Tour legend Steffi Graf's remarkable tally when he moves to 378 weeks at the top on Monday.

The 35-year-old is currently tied with Rafael Nadal on 22 Grand Slam singles titles and is constantly being compared to Alcaraz with the pair locked in a head-to-head battle at the top of the ATP rankings as the clay-



court season gets into full flow ahead of Roland-Garros.

But looking ahead to the second Grand Slam of the season in Paris and beyond, Djokovic has reiterated something he has said

many times before, that Nadal is the player he considers to be his greatest rival in the sport.

"Alcaraz is playing at a great level," Djokovic told members of the media in Belgrade. I mean, especially after several months of absence from the tour with injuries that he was struggling with.

"I cannot call him my main rival. My main rival is still Nadal, you know, even though Alcaraz is obviously No. 2 [in the world rankings]. He was No. 1, he has won a Slam.

By Dan Quarrell

Culled From: www.eurosport.com

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

As Nigerians Go To The Poll

Nigeria is on the cusp of yet another historic moment as 87.2 million citizens prepare to head to the polls to elect a new president tomorrow.

It is instructive to note that President Muhammadu Buhari has completed his second term in office and it will be the second time since the dawn of democracy in 1999, that an incumbent completes his two terms in office.

In the considered opinion of this newspaper, the outcome of this election will have far-reaching implications not just for the country but for the African continent as a whole and the reasons are not far fetched.

The outcome of this election will determine the direction that Nigeria takes for the next four years, and it is essential that all stakeholders work together to ensure a free, fair and transparent election.

Nigeria is a country of immense potential, yet it has faced numerous challenges that have impeded its progress. Corruption, poverty, insecurity and a lack of infrastructure are some of the challenges that Nigeria faces. These challenges can only be addressed through good governance, and the first step towards good governance is a free and fair election.

It is gratifying to note that candidates from 18 political parties participating in the presidential election signed a peace accord recently agreed in Abuja.

By the text of the peace accord, presidential candidates make a commitment to “accept and abide by the outcome of the 2023 presidential election and if issues should arise”, to “deploy constitutional means and appeal to the courts rather than other unconstitutional means”.

Indeed, the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC) has a critical role to play in ensuring that the election is conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. The commission must ensure that all electoral materials are delivered to polling stations on time, that there is no vote buying, and that the votes of every citizen counts.

INEC should also ensure that its officials are non-partisan and that they conduct themselves in a professional manner. The commission should also be proactive in addressing any challenges that may arise during the election, such as malfunctioning of voting machines, and ensure that they are resolved promptly.

Political parties, on the other hand, have a responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that promotes peace and stability. They must ensure that their members and supporters do not engage in any form of violence or thug-

gery.

Candidates should also be ready to accept the outcome of the election and channel any grievances through the appropriate legal processes.

Security agencies, particularly the police, have a critical role to play in ensuring that the election is peaceful. They must provide security at polling stations and ensure that citizens are not intimidated or harassed while exercising their civic duty. Security agencies should also be proactive in preventing any acts of violence, including the use of force when necessary. However, security agencies must operate within the ambit of the law and respect the fundamental human rights of citizens.

We recall that President Buhari had charged the Nigeria Police Force to perfect operational plans that will guarantee a credible 2023 general elections to ensure that the

outcome reflects the will of Nigerians. He urged police personnel not to help any of the candidates rig the polls but to remain apolitical, firm, and loyal to democratic values. That must be their watchword.

Similarly, civil society organisations also have a crucial role to play in ensuring a peaceful election. They must monitor the election, and report any cases of violence or malpractice real time.

Furthermore, citizens themselves must recognise the importance of a peaceful election and do their part to ensure that it happens. They must shun violence and other forms of electoral malpractice, including vote buying. Citizens should also go out to vote and protect their votes from being manipulated.

They should also report any cases of violence or malpractice to the appropriate authorities.

Consequently, this presidential election is a critical moment for Nigeria, and it is essential that all stakeholders work together to ensure that it is peaceful and violence-free. This will require the active participation of the electoral commission, political parties, security agencies, civil society organisations, and citizens themselves.

The international community is also watching Nigeria closely, and it is important that the election is seen as free, fair and transparent. Nigeria is a key player in the African continent and the world, and a peaceful election will enhance its reputation and credibility.

In view of the foregoing, we must all be mindful of the fact that the future of our great nation is at stake, and a peaceful election is necessary for our collective progress. We, therefore, call on all stakeholders to play their part and ensure that the election is a success.

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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!

7th Presidential Poll: 87.2m Voters Decide Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, Kwankwaso, Others' Fate Tomorrow

BY TUNDE OGUNTOLA, Abuja

About 87.2 million Nigerians will tomorrow throng polling booths across the country and cast their votes to elect their next president in the 7th presidential election since the return of democracy in 1999.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced yesterday that a total of 87,209,007 permanent voter cards (PVCs) were collected by eligible registrants ahead of the 2023 general election in which the 5th president of Nigeria in the current democratic dispensation will emerge.

In the past few weeks up to today, being the eve of the presidential and National Assembly elections, the country had been enveloped in apprehension and anxiety, even as tension has pervaded the land, as the citizens prepare for what has been described as the most intriguing polls analysts believe would either improve or wield back the country's burgeoning democracy.

A total of 18 candidates will participate in tomorrow's presidential poll, but the electorate would likely be out to determine the fate of four major contenders: Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the governing All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria People's Party.

Since 1999 when it morphed from years of very tough and dictatorial military rule, Nigeria has sustained periodic elections, but the 2023 polls which begins tomorrow are the first in which Nigerians born in 1999 will participate in as eligible voters.

Although INEC had said it registered 9,518,188 new voters, bringing the total number to 93,522,272, indicating a massive interest in voting by Nigerians, only about 82 million Nigerians who collected their PVCs will vote in tomorrow's polls.

But there is tension in the country, with most citizens saying they are disturbed about the likelihood of the elections being marred by insecurity, including banditry, terrorist attacks and abductions that have continued unabated.

The declaration of a five-day sit-at-home order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) had proved to be a hurdle for INEC in the South East until yesterday when the IPOB leader, Simeon Ekpa, was arrested by Finland security operatives.

Before his arrest, Ekpa had declared that there will be no polls in the zone, meaning that the South East was to boycott the polls.

But the Chief of Defence Staff, Lt-Gen Lucky Irabor, had assured voters that the military will take control and ensure peace for the conduct of the elections.

Also creating tension in the country ahead of the polls is the federal government's Naira swap policy, which many believe was to stop politicians from buying votes, ensure a level playing field for all candidates, curb corruption, and make kidnapping-for-ransom unattractive.

Many Nigerians wonder how the election would fare in a cashless Nigeria for the first time in the country's checkered history.

INEC's Resident Electoral Commissioner for the Federal Capital Territory Yahaya Bello had said that the cash crunch caused by the policies have also affected INEC operations, as most of the expenses are settled in cash.

Meanwhile, INEC said yesterday that a total of 87,209,007 permanent voter cards (PVCs) were collected by eligible registrants ahead of the 2023 general election in which the 5th president of Nigeria in the current democratic dispensation will emerge.

A document released by the commission's chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu, at the daily briefing held at the National Collation Centre in Abuja showed that uncollected PVCs as of February 5, 2023 stood at 6,259,229.

Leading the pack for the number of PVCs collected is Lagos State with 6,214,970.



Yakubu

Kano is second with 5,594,193; Kaduna came third with 4,164,473; followed by Katsina having 3,459,945; and Rivers came fifth on 3,285,785 PVCs collected as at 5th February 2023.

While 1,476,451 registrants collected their PVCs in FCT, Ekiti State recorded the least PVCs collected with 958,052.

The INEC chairman said the idea is to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information about the process and preparedness of the Commission.

Unfortunately, he said due to last-minute consultations conducted by the Commission in the last two days, we were not able to commence the daily briefings on Monday 20th February 2023 as we intended.

Noting that the general election commences in the next 41 hours, he said the commission has meticulously prepared and implemented its Election Project Plan, learning from recent elections.

"It is important to keep the sheer magnitude of Nigeria's general elections in mind. The voter population of 93,469,008 is more than the total number of registered voters in all the other countries of West Africa put together. In addition, we shall be deploying to 176,606 polling units (excluding the 240 polling units without registered voters) simultaneously," he said.

He said the election is a huge logistical deployment, adding that the Commission has painstakingly procured, organised, and delivered all the materials to the States for deployment.

"We commenced the delivery of non-sensitive materials over two months ago and they have been batched down to Registration Area/Ward and Polling Unit levels. Sensitive materials have been delivered to the states and are presently being delivered to our Local Government Area offices.

"As such, these materials are only between one and two levels away from the Polling Units. We have achieved this by learning from our recent difficult experience with logistics. We have completed arrangements with the transport unions for the final leg of the movement of personnel and materials to the Polling Units. They have assured us of their readiness to provide all the vehicular needs of the Commission for the election," Yakubu noted.

He said a major part of the preparation for the general election was the establishment of additional 56,872 polling units across the country, the first time of doing so since 1996.

With this, he said the commission expanded voter access to polling units in Nigeria by over 32 per cent, making it possible for voters to have improved opportunities for casting their votes.

Unfortunately, he said voters have not taken full advantage of this opportunity, resulting in 240 polling units without voters, and prompting the Commission to further move some voters out of congested Polling Units to less populated ones.

He continued: "I implore all voters to cross-check their polling units before the election. However, only seven per cent of voters are affected by this movement.

"This means that the vast majority of voters will still vote in their usual polling units. We sent bulk phone text messages (sms) to the affected

voters, tasked our state offices for publicity in local languages, and offered two unique ways by which voters can locate and confirm their polling units before election day by sending a normal text message to dedicated telephone numbers or by visiting our website. The detailed procedure is uploaded to our social media platforms.

"Staff to be deployed for the elections have been trained, the last being Collation and Returning Officers, who will complete their training shortly.

"An essential part of this training has been the emphasis on the neutrality of staff and the need for them to be committed and dedicated throughout the duration of their assignments. The Commission shall carefully monitor the performance of all staff involved in the election and ensure that both recognition and sanctions are applied wherever applicable".

Yakubu further said the commission has completed all the testing of our technologies to be deployed for the election, particularly the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BIVAS) and the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IREV).

"On 4th February 2023, we tested the BIVAS in a mock accreditation exercise and uploaded the results to IREV. We are satisfied with the performance of the BIVAS, which has been confirmed by several groups that observed the exercise.

"Lessons learnt from the exercise have helped us in the training of 10,600 Registration Area Technical Support Staff (RATECHS). They will provide the necessary support to ensure that the deployment of the BIVAS is without hitches.

"Let me reiterate that the procedure for voting as provided in the Electoral Act 2022, clearly makes the use of the BIVAS mandatory. So also, the use of the permanent voter cards (PVCs).

"The NO PVC, NO VOTING rule subsists. In the last few months, we made 13,676,907 PVCs available for collection for new voters and applicants for transfer and replacement of lost/damaged cards.

"While we are pleased that the rate of collection is higher than in previous years, there are still, unfortunately, many cards that were not collected. Before the end of this briefing, we shall make public a summary of the numbers of collected and uncollected PVCs in each State of the Federation. The detailed breakdown by Polling Units will be uploaded to the Commission's website latest tomorrow Friday 24th February," he said

He noted that it will not be inappropriate to comment on the national register voters.

"With 93.4 million records with names, addresses, passport photographs, and biometrics (fingerprint and facial), it is the largest database of citizens in Africa and one of the largest in the world.

"However, like all databases, it may not be perfect but the core of the register is solid. Going forward, the Commission will continue to clean it using technology and citizens' involvement as provided by law.

"Through the Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS), millions of ineligible registrants have been removed from the register. In addition, citizens have helped to clean up the register further during the display of the hardcopy for claims and objections in the 8,809 registration areas/wards and 774 local government areas nationwide for a period of two weeks (12th-25th November 2022) as provided by law.

"Nigerians should therefore continue to have confidence in the register as a national treasure and work with the Commission to continuously improve on it as provided by law."

He lamented that vote buying remains a major threat to our democracy.

He continued: "We have worked closely with enforcement agencies to ensure that this is eliminated from our electoral process. We are convinced that our joint operations before and on election day will vastly reduce the prospect of voter inducement, which is not only illegal but immoral.

"The ban on the use of mobile phones and photographic devices at the voting cubicles, is still in place. Some voters have used these devices

in previous elections to snap their marked ballot papers for vote transactions. However, citizens are permitted to come to the Polling Units with these devices, as long as they do not take them to the voting cubicles.

"Our arrangement of placing the ballot box near the voting cubicle and away from party agents remains. Our staff has been trained in the administration of the Polling Units and their attention should be drawn to any deviation from that training.

"In the last few weeks, we have been in consultation with other critical agencies and institutions in the administration of the general election. We met with the judiciary about arrangements for post-election adjudication. Last year, we worked with development partners and the Court of Appeal to conduct workshops for prospective Election Petitions Tribunal judges.

"We have been assured of arrangements for timely post-election adjudication. We have also met severally with security agencies, mainly under the auspices of the Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES). They have assured us of their preparedness to adequately secure the elections. This is very important as it will assure voters of their safety during the elections, which is cardinal to voter turnout.

"In the build-up to the general election, several of our facilities were attacked by unknown assailants in various parts of the country. I am pleased that we have fully recovered from those attacks, and we have been further assured that our facilities, staff, voters, observers, and citizens will be safe during the election.

"As a result of recent developments in the economy, we have also had to consult with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) on the fuel situation. As you all know, we require Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) to power vehicles and boats for land and marine transportation as well as our generators during the election.

"We are pleased that the NNPC Limited assured us that it will ensure the availability of the products for the polls. Likewise, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has assured us that it will provide us with the small amount of cash we require from our budget to cash payments to some critical service providers for the election. I must reiterate that the bulk of payment for works goods and services are still paid for by electronic transfer.

"On election observation, the commission has accredited 229 groups deploying 146,913 observers. As I said at the briefing for election observers on Tuesday this week, this is the largest deployment of observers in the history of elections in Nigeria. Similarly, the Commission has so far accredited 457 national and international media organisations deploying 8,882 journalists. We encourage them to freely observe and report the election within the restraints of our laws and international good practice.

"There are 18 political parties fielding candidates for 1,491 constituencies in this election. As provided by law, parties are required to submit the list of their agents for polling units and collation centres nationwide who are individually accredited by the Commission. To make the process easier, we have created a dedicated portal for parties to upload their lists along with names and passport-size photographs of their agents."

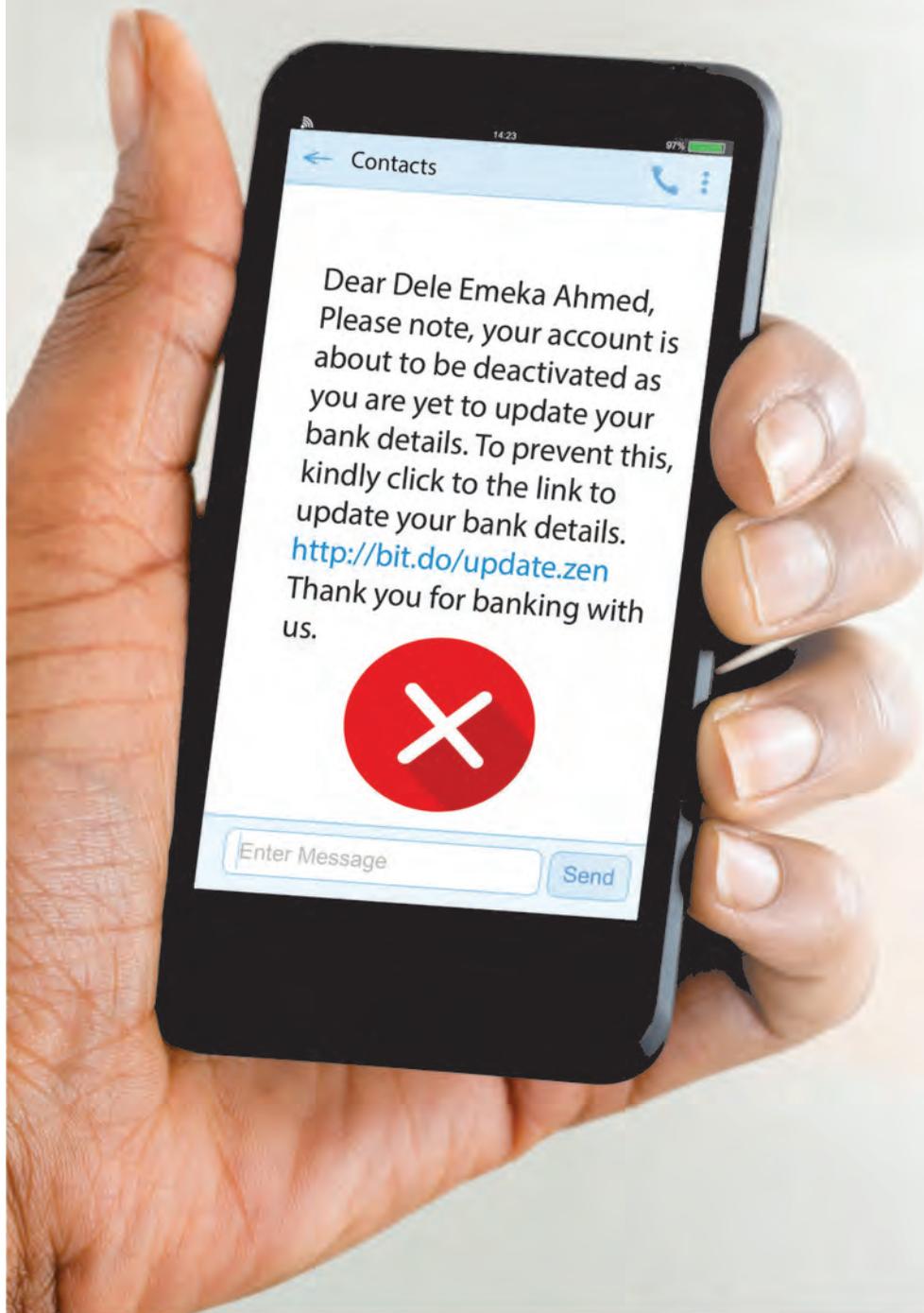
In all, he said the commission has printed and delivered 1,642,385 identification cards to our state offices for collection by state chairmen of political parties. The softcopy of the summary of the list has already been uploaded to our website and social media platforms.

He, however, assured Nigerians that we are adequately prepared for this election. We remain fully committed to a free, fair, and credible process.

"I want to once again declare that our allegiance is only to Nigerians. Our commitment is to ensure that in this election we put everything in place for free choice, fair contest, and credible outcome," he stated.



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CSOs List Key Issues That Will Determine Polls' Outcome

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Centre for Democracy Development (CDD) and Yiaga Africa have listed some of the key factors that will determine Saturday's presidential election.

With Nigerians preparing to head to the polls to elect a President and National Assembly members on Saturday, elite think tank, CDD has outlined five key issues, which would determine the voting patterns and the outcome of the election.

This came up at the opening of the CDD Election Analysis Centre (EAC) and pre-election press briefing held at the Transcorp Hilton in Abuja on Thursday.

CDD, which said it is deploying a total of 4,993 trained and accredited observers, data clerks and fact-checkers and social media monitors for both the presidential, legislative and governorship elections, assessed the election as one that will be closely contested with four candidates – Ahmed Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party and Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) – likely to have a significant say in the outcome which, at this stage, remains difficult to predict.

Addressing journalists, the chairman, Election Analysis Centre, Professor Adele Jinadu, and the CDD director, Idayat Hassan, said the five issues which could determine the elections are insecurity, fuel and currency crisis, INEC and Security agencies, information disorder and inter and intra-party squabbles.

To enhance the credibility of the 2023 Nigerian elections, CDD-EAC said the government should ensure INEC and the security agencies – have the necessary resources at their disposal to roll out their comprehensive plans for election day operations that ensure polls take place in a safe, free and fair environment.

“Political parties should ensure that their members and supporters adhere to the conditions laid out in the National Peace Accord through the voting process and after the announcement of results.

“INEC should continue to communicate regularly with Nigerians about the ongoing election process and is as transparent as possible during the collation and announcement of results.

“The Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security must ensure that all security personnel on electoral duty adhere to the agreed code of conduct and rules of engagement.

“Social media companies should support the work of fact-checking organisations by promptly taking down digital content that promotes political disinformation or hate speech that relates to the election.

“Nigerian voters, and citizens in the diaspora, should critically assess information that they receive about the elections before sharing to help prevent the spread of malicious information about the elections,” CDD added.

Why Politicians Are Desperate To Buy Votes – Igini

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISIAIAH, Abuja

A former commissioner with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Barrister Mike Igini, has given reasons why politicians are desperate to buy votes in Saturday's elections.

He advised Nigerians to choose wisely the kind of persons they will entrust their destinies into in the next four or eight years.

Igini, who was the immediate past resident electoral commissioner (REC) in-charge of Akwa Ibom State, admonished Nigerians to bear in mind that there would be consequences for the choices they would be making in choosing their candidates.

In a statement titled: “A reminder on what Nigerians need to know about INEC procedures”, he said votes of the people now count more than ever before and that is why politicians are desperate to buy votes

He said, “The votes of the people now count more than ever before and that is why politicians are desperate to buy votes. We must all bear in mind that there will be consequences for the choices that you will make in all these elections for the next four or eight years.

“You must be guided in your decision of your choice by the kind of Nigeria you want to see and leave and those who can lead the way for us collectively to achieve our desires in this country. You all must come out to vote and fix the politics in order to fix the economy.”

“The outcome of the 2023 election will be determined emphatically by the youths of this country who are above 70 million (70,473,990) on the voter's register. Similarly, the entire presiding officers/assistant presiding officers, 707,384 of the total one million plus ad-hoc staff that will man all polling units and conduct the Saturday election are currently serving youth corps members (NYSC) who are themselves youths that are demanding a new deal on the leadership challenge of our

country.

“This Saturday election will tell how history and posterity will record the youths of Nigeria, whether they will betray or fulfill the mission and challenge of their own generation given their demographic voting strength and the fact that they are the ones to conduct the election.”

He further said, “The 2022 electoral Act, INEC'S innovations and procedures have put effective power on Election Day on voters to determine the winner of election, power has been returned to the Nigerian people, all the provisions of the Electoral Act since 2002 such as sections 49,53 and 65 (2010) that promoted and supported election rigging and manipulation for over twenty years have all been repealed.

“Accreditation with the use of the BVAS machine is mandatory and compulsory to ensure the principle of one-person-one vote. There is no more use of ‘incident form’ because confirmation of a voter is made easy with “facial accreditation” and four other methods. There is nothing like ‘pre-loading’ of BVAS machines that fraudulent ICT so-called experts on the streets and perhaps some unscrupulous staff of INEC have been telling politicians to make millions from them.

“The BVAS makes it impossible for election riggers to use difficult terrain whether in upland or riverine areas to produce fake votes that are not real. Under the current system, all species of fish like catfish, tilapia etc that used to vote in previous elections must appear before the BVAS machine on Saturday and subsequent elections for accreditation.

“The polling unit is now where elections are won and lost, the era of someone losing elections at the polling unit but suddenly becomes a winner at Ward and LGA collation centres are gone and over under the current system. Polling units are the places where Nigerians will vote on Saturday to decide the future of Nigeria. At the end of the election at each polling unit on Saturday, a new register of voters based accreditation at

every polling unit will emerge irrespective of the total number of registered voters.

Under section 51 of the 2022 Act, computation of total number of valid votes and over-voting are now based on total Accreditation number instead of Registered number of voters as was the case in the repealed Act that politicians used for two decades to subvert the will of Nigerian voters through rigging and manipulation of the outcome of election.

“The law has changed and Politicians can no longer use “total number of Registered voters” to vote on behalf of those who have died, “Jappa” and un-interested citizens whose names are on the national register of voters.

“In the current system, it is only those who actually came out to be accredited that matter and that is the reason Nigerians have not been hearing of “inconclusive” elections that was almost becoming the norm sometime ago. Thus, no “bankable” votes for anyone but votes of those who actually came to the polling unit and were accredited to vote on Saturday.

“Every result declared at the polling unit will be uploaded to the public election result viewing portal for the whole world to see which makes it difficult to change or alter. That is why all candidates by now should have set up their situation rooms for their party agents that will be at polling units given duplicates of election result FORM EC8A to immediately snap same and send to their respective situation rooms for collation without having to wait for INEC but they cannot make a declaration of the winner of election.

“The BVAS has eliminated the fraudulent practice/organized crime of sharing “un-used ballot papers” thumb printed and arbitrarily allocated by party agents in connivance with poll officials after the close of the poll. The effective power to lead and govern has been restored to the Nigerian people and hope is re-born in you to use this election to bring about a re-birth of a new Nigeria.”

He said that he was impressed by the current unprecedented level of awareness, the energy and determination by Nigerians, many of whom returned to the country from different parts of the world to use this forthcoming Saturday elections to make a bold statement to the empirical world that they will no longer accept the misfortune created by our elites as their fortune.

“Collectively, we all must put an end to the struggle to build individual paradises yet we live in a common hell. We must go about this election peacefully and eschew violence that has no place in a democracy. The greatest promise of democracy is peaceful transfer of power from one government to another.

“The president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces has at different fora charged officers and men of the various Security agencies to be neutral, apolitical, firm, protect and defend this democracy. The anti-democratic activities of thugs and other extra-constitutional actors that will undermine the integrity of our elections must be contained.

“The greatest legacy that will be written down by historians for President Muhammadu Buhari and for which he will be remembered by history would be that of a free, fair and credible election that produces an outcome that reflects the will of the Nigerian people. As I have said repeatedly, my interest and votary at all times is a credible, fair process while the electorate determines outcomes.”



Igini

APC Planning Violence In Kano, Borno, Yobe, Kaduna To Cause Staggered Elections - Atiku

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, Abuja

Presidential candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, has raised the alarm over plans by some elements in the All Progressives Congress (APC) to foment violence in a few states in order to force the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to postpone Saturday's election.

He added that the alternative plan was to hold a staggered election whereby elections would not be held simultaneously across the country.

In a statement issued in Abuja yesterday Atiku's special assistant on Public Communication, Mr. Phrank Shaibu, the PDP presidential candidate, warned that failure to hold elections on the same day across the country would be an invitation to rigging.

He added that the violence in Kano was a prelude to this plan.

Shaibu added, “Today, there was serious violence at the Kwanar Dangora on the outskirts of Kano City. This is a state where the APC

holds sway. They have already started with the violence as they did in 2019, where they forced a rerun and then used violence to win.

“We also have it on good authority that this will happen in Borno, Yobe, Kaduna. Kaduna, in particular, must be singled out because the Governor, Nasir El-Rufai, has been prodding his people to disobey President Muhammadu Buhari. He has also been running from pillar to post since his plan to unleash the old naira notes on voters was scuttled by the federal government.”

Atiku's aide commended the Nigeria Police Force for arresting and arraigning APC federal lawmaker in Rivers State, Hon. Ephraim Nwuzi, who was caught on video discussing plans to attack electoral officials in the state.

The PDP candidate asked the police not to leave any stone unturned ahead of the election, especially in Rivers State, which is one of the most volatile during elections.

He added, “We commend the

police for arresting and arranging the lawmaker representing Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon Ephraim Nwuzi. His utterance is evidence that the APC has a grand plan to foment violence on election day. This is their only strategy to hold on to power after failing Nigerians.”

He also asked the police to pay close attention to states like Ebonyi, Cross River, and Imo states where the governors are bent on doing anything possible to ensure that Tinubu gets the 25 per cent requirement.

“Ebonyi, Cross River, and Imo are all traditional PDP strongholds. However, their governors are members of the APC. They know that they cannot deliver their states for Bola Tinubu, who stands no chance of winning. With vote buying now very difficult, the only option will be to suppress votes through violence.

“The police, the military, and other security agencies must therefore keep an eye on these

states in order to prevent violence,” he says.

The PDP candidate, who commended deployment of sizeable number of security agents in Lagos, said local government areas such as Oshodi/Isolo, Amuwo Odofin, Eti Osa, Ikorodu, Ojo, Ajeromi/Ifelodun and Surulere must be put on high alert to forestall intimidation and rigging.

“There have been complaints about voter suppression in Lagos in the past. In the 2019 presidential election, Oshodi/Isolo witnessed violence, which forced elections to be cancelled in some polling units. Even in Eti Osa today, a council secretary and traditional leader vowed to evict traders if they don't vote for the APC.

“They are doing this to impress their master and godfather, Bola Tinubu, and we hope the international observers are seeing this. We commend the police for summoning those behind the threats against non-indigenes. But more efforts must be channelled towards arresting more of such bigots,” he stated.



Wales: First Target To Tackle NHS Backlog Fails

The first target to tackle the NHS backlog after the COVID-19 pandemic has been missed in Wales.

Almost 75,000 people are waiting a year or more for an outpatient appointment when there should be none.

The Welsh government said it was “disappointed that this ambitious target... has not been met”.

However, ambulance response times, handover delays and A&E waiting times have improved from record lows seen in the previous month.

The number of people waiting for hospital treatment has also fallen for the third successive month.

Anna Prince, from Barry, Vale of Glamorgan had been feeling unwell for several years with bouts of “utter exhaustion” but the crunch point came when she lost the sight in one eye and felt extreme pain.

After various ailments were ruled out she was referred for an MRI scan.

“They put me down as an emergency,” she said. “I had to wait 12 weeks, which is quite long for an emergency, especially when you're in agonising pain.

China's Epidemic 'Basically' Ended, But Not Completely Over

Health authorities in China said on Thursday the country's COVID-19 epidemic has “basically” ended, but it is not completely over as it found seven imported cases of the highly-transmissible XBB.1.5 variant since January 8.

Officials, speaking at a news event with several departments attending, said China's “major decisive victory” over COVID-19 has set an example for populous nations in prevention and control.

Last week, China's top leaders declared a “decisive victory” over COVID-19, claiming the world's lowest fatality rate, although experts questioned data as the virus surged across the country recently after largely being kept at bay for three years.

The country strengthened its healthcare system in anticipation of the virus spreading to rural areas. Officials said at the press briefing on Thursday critical care beds had expanded to 404,000 from 198,000.

Naira Swap: PMB Didn't Overrule Supreme Court – Malami

FROM COVER

the weekly ministerial briefing organised by the presidential communication team at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

According to him, no Nigerian has taken the old notes to the bank and was rejected, even as he insisted that the administration had not breached the apex court.

He also stated that the Naira design was intended to stop moneybags from hijacking the general election, adding that no president had sanitised the electoral process like President Buhari.

"Your question can best be answered within the context of what constitutes the rule of law in the Nigerian situation. Where an order is made by a court, you have multiple options, but let me state before even addressing the issue of the options available at our disposal as a government.

"The fact, clearly, that we are not in breach of any order made by the court, inclusive of any order associated with the naira redesign. We are not in breach. I believe, I'm not a banker, but you have not gone to establish which bank is it that you have gone to present a N1,000 or N500

notes that has been rejected. So we are not breach.

"But then, assuming we are in breach, the fact remains that this matter is sub-judice, as you rightly know. It's being contested before the Supreme Court and when an order is made, you have multiple options within the context of the rule of law.

"One, you are entitled as a matter of right, if the facts and evidence support your position, to apply for setting it aside. The position of the law, legal jurisprudence is clear, once you are attacking and you are seeking a setting aside of an existing

order of the court, cannot be said to be operating in breach when you presented your application for setting aside.

"If the court is not an apex court, you equally have a right of appeal and support the right of appeal with an application for stay of execution order.

"So, the bottom line of what I'm trying to state, if the matter is sub-judice and within the context of the rule of law, we are doing the needful as a government, in terms of ensuring that the right of the government, within the context of the naira redesign, is protected. So, we are not in breach," he said.

Mixed Reactions In South East Over Simon Ekpa's Arrest

BY OBINNA OGBONNAYA, Abakaliki, NNAMDI MBAWIKE, Enugu, OKECHUKWU OBETA, Awka, KALU EZIYI, Umuahia AND ANGELA NKWO-AKPOLU, Owerri

Mixed reactions yesterday trailed the arrest of the factional leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Mazi Simon Ekpa by the Finnish government.

A section of residents of Abakaliki the Ebonyi State, Enugu, Umuahia in Abia State and Owerri, the capital of Imo State applauded the arrest of Ekpa, others said that it portends danger for the people of the South East region.

The police in Finland arrested the leader of the secessionist the Indigenous People Of Biafra (IPOB) Simon Ekpa following his repeated threats to sabotage the general elections in Nigeria scheduled for Saturday, February 25 and March 11, 2023.

The Finland-based Ekpa has threatened to severely punish any person in the South-Eastern part of the Nigeria that tries to participate or vote in the 2023 General Elections, a situation that prompted the Nigerian Government to raise the issue with Finnish government recently when the Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Zubairu Dada met the Ambassador of Finland to Nigeria.

The separatist leader has been suspected to be behind the ceaseless killing by 'Unknown Gunmen', a dangerous armed militia responsible for the deaths of several people and even public officials in the South-East.

Ekpa, a self-acclaimed disciple of Nnamdi Kanu, the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), rose to prominence in July 2021 after he was announced as the lead broadcaster of Radio Biafra.

Ekpa was selected to lead the separatist group to replace Kanu following the re-arrest of the IPOB leader by the federal government. After some weeks, IPOB announced Ekpa's disengagement, as he was accused of refusal to sign the rules of engagement of Radio Biafra.

Sources at the Finnish embassy in Nigeria confirmed Ekpa's arrest to journalists.

Reacting to the development, the chairman of Umuahia North Traditional Rulers Council, Eze Onyebuchi Ibezim, said he was overwhelmed with joy.

He said he had been afraid ever since Ekpa issued the order, describing the arrest as a cheering news for himself, his domain, and the entire South East.

Similarly, his counterpart of Oriendu Autonomous Community, Eze Pastor Phillip Ajomiwe thanked God for answering the prayers of the people for an end to Ekpa's era of inducement.

"Ekpa has caused a lot of problems for Ndigbo anywhere in the country and Igboland in particular. I hope the problems have ended with his arrest."

In his remarks, Comrade Anthony Uzundu (Bravo) described it as good riddance to bad



Ekpa

rubbish, saying Ekpa thought he could continue to take the people for a ride without end.

Jubilation erupted in different parts of Enugu yesterday following the arrest of Ekpa.

Some residents of Enugu, who spoke to journalists, said his arrest will surely restore the economy of Enugu to where it used to be.

They called on the Finnish government to prosecute him and make sure that he faced the full wrath of the law. They accused Ekpa of inciting people to killing innocent people like fowls and expressed hope that the ugly development in the Southeast will end.

In Imo State, the news of the arrest of Ekpa by the Finnish government, has brought calm to the state capital while businesses were open.

Markets were a beehive of activities as customers trooped in their numbers to buy goods especially consumables especially Relief, Ekeukwu Owerri, and World bank markets.

Crowds of people were seen in banks as had been the practice for weeks and ATM centres where people were trying to get cash.

While some people announced the arrest via their social media handles, many kept mute and didn't comment as they normally did.

There was however reduced traffic as the roads were devoid of heavy traffic.

A resident who pleaded anonymity said they were un-bothered about the arrest but he said he won't stay up late night to avoid any sudden uprising.

Despite the directive by Ekpa urging the people of the South East zone to observe a sit-at-home and shun participation in this Saturday's Presidential/National Assembly elections, residents of Anambra State are in high spirits preparing for the polls.

Virtually every activity by everyone in the state, including in the cities and rural areas since the past few days, are toward getting ready to participate effectively in the polls.

Most people who are anticipating that all markets will be closed, including street shops as well as supermarkets, have been engaged in frantic arrangements to purchase food items and other necessary items they may need in their families on the day of the polls.

Those who responded to the factional IPOB leader's sit-at-home order dismissed him as an enemy of Ndigbo, and as one who is on his own.

Vice-president of Ohanaeze Ndigbo and an indigene of Nanka community, Anambra state dismissed Simon Ekpa's influence.

"Ohanaeze Ndigbo has taken a decision on the 2023 general election and has directed all Igbo registered voters both at home and in other parts of the country to go out and vote during the elections. So, Simon Ekpa is on his own", the Ohanaeze Ndigbo leader emphasised.

Similarly, president-general elect, Atani community in Ogbaru local government, Hon. Amobi Nzeli, dismissed Simon Ekpa's sit-at-home order as one coming from nobody in Igbo land.

He said that everyone in his community and in the entire Ogbaru local government area is looking forward to going to cast his or her vote in this Saturday presidential/National Assembly elections.

"People are stocking food items and making other arrangements to make sure that their family members will not lack anything on the day of the election because markets and street shops will not open as everyone will go to cast his or her vote.

"Nobody is listening to Simon Ekpa here, our people are going to participate in the voting", Nzeli stated.

Speaking to LEADERSHIP, the state secretary of one of the leading opposition parties, who pleaded for anonymity, said if supporters of the other parties would not come out, he was sure theirs would.

According to him, he will not leave the premises until the last vehicle which will probably be for Umuahia South local government area has left. For us the election will be held."

In his response, Mr Angus Uduma, a 35-year old businessman said the people have no reason to shun the election "especially in the face of a likely victory for one of their own".

Similarly, Chinenye Iheakandu, a beautician and staunch member of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, noted that "Ekpa or no Ekpa, the people will come out to vote even in the face of cash-runch."

According to Comrade Basil Ejimkeonye, Ekpa is only reading a script written by haters of Ndigbo who want to use the period to undermine them into political irrelevance and obscurity.

The youth, who explained that he is not a supporter of any of the parties, appealed to the people to ignore the order and come out and vote for candidates of their choice.

Madam Lucy Nwafor, who said she lost one of her sons in a crossfire between the police and unknown gunmen, said she will move with caution during the poll.

While some of the residents of Abakaliki who spoke to LEADERSHIP Friday described the arrest as the step in the right direction others expressed the fear that his group might continue

their attack on innocent people of the zone.

A businessman at the Ebonyi State International Market, Mr. Ifeanyi Nnaji expressed the fear that with his arrest, the auto pilot group loyal to him accused of being responsible for the attacks on the people would continue the attack with the aim of securing his release through such attacks.

"Let me believe that the arrest won't cause more harm than good to the people of the South East. The Niger Delta agitators negotiated with the federal government when they continued attacking oil facilities unabated."

"The Boko Haram terrorists gave conditions to the federal government when some of their commanders were arrested and I don't want to envisage that the group loyal to Mr. Ekpa won't continue their terror attack on the people to use it to negotiate for his release.

"The security agencies must be up and doing especially now that Simon has been arrested. This is the time to swoop on them, fish them out and for the Nigerian government to press charges against all his actions and inciting statements which led to the death of many persons.

Last night, the Finnish police released Ekpa, hours after he was arrested and grilled.

The Finnish Central Criminal Police confirmed Ekpa's release on Thursday, according to HS reports.

Ekpa's Background

While Nigerians are shocked over the quick release of Simon Ekpa shortly after his arrest by the Finnish authorities, a source in Finland who spoke to LEADERSHIP Friday on telephone revealed that Ekpa may have been released so fast because he is a Finnish citizen by naturalisation and is also married to a Finnish woman with whom he has raised three children.

The source also revealed that Ekpa has a Ph.D in Law and speaks Finnish language fluently, adding that Ekpa also served in the Finnish military and is thus politically connected.

According to the source, presently he is an elected government official in Finland, holding the position of an equivalent to vice chairman of a local government area in Nigeria.

"He is a local Lahti city councillor, representing the National Coalition Party in Finland," said the source.

The source warned that the Finnish authorities may not do much in helping Nigeria to rein him in, because as far as the Finnish government is concerned, Ekpa is yet to violate the country's law and is thus seen as a law-abiding citizen.

The source, who is a Nigerian living in Finland, said the only way that Finland will take the matter seriously is for the Nigerian government to send the Finnish Ambassador in Nigeria back to her country until Ekpa is arrested and prosecuted in Finland or sent back to Nigeria to face charges of terrorism and instigating the killings of innocent Nigerians in the name of the struggle for the actualisation of Biafra.

Minister Tasks Corps Members On Good Conduct

BY SALIFU USMAN, Abuja

Youth and sports minister, Mr Sunday Dare, has charged National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members involved in the organisation of the 2023 elections to be good ambassadors of the scheme by conducting themselves with maturity.

Thousands of corps members after undergoing several trainings will be deployed as electoral officials across the country for Saturday, February 25 presidential and National Assembly elections and the March 11 governorship and State Assembly elections to manage polls either as presiding or assistant presiding officers.

The minister in a statement issued by his executive media aide, Kola Daniel, challenged the corps members to discharge their responsibilities with fairness.

"The elections are very significant and those of you picked and trained to play such important roles should be firm and fair, shun every temptation and be our good and worthy representatives.

"I am appealing to you to conduct yourselves with maturity, be above board and ensure you carry out the tasks assigned to you with a high level of patriotism and commitment," Dare said.

NPC Tasks Journalists On Credible, Acceptable 2023 Census

BY KAMAL IBRAHIM, Bauchi

Federal commissioner of the National Population Commission (NPC) in Bauchi State, Ibrahim Muhammad Darazo has asked journalists to ensure factual and unbiased coverage of the 2023 housing and population census to make the outcome of the exercise credible and acceptable to all.

The last housing and population census in Nigeria was conducted about 16 years ago. Census in Nigeria was designed to be conducted every 10 years. The commissioner said this in Bauchi yesterday during a capacity building workshop organised for journalists at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) secretariat. He said the overall success of the exercise hinges on the flow of accurate and factual information to members of the public. He said journalists are the conduit pipe of destination information, thus making them critical stakeholders for the 2023 housing and population census.

Darazo said with the current prevalence of misinformation and fake news about Nigeria's demographics for political and oftentimes sentimental reasons, it is a national calling for journalists to fact check and refute such unverified information in circulation. He called on journalists to be professional and unbiased in the coverage of the census.

The chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Bauchi State Council, Comrade Umar Sa'idu explained that the training was the first of its kind in the history of the council, hence the need for participants to apply the knowledge and skills gained. He said the training is critical for effective media coverage of the 2023 census.

2023: US, UK, Japan Hail Presidential Candidates' Commitment To Peace

BY INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

Diplomatic Missions of the United States, Australia, Japan, Norway, Canada and the United Kingdom in Nigeria have welcomed the signing of the second peace accord by the candidates of political parties competing in the upcoming presidential election of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and fully commit to supporting all efforts that will ensure the Nigerian people decide who wins the election.

In a joint statement issued yesterday by diplomatic missions of the countries in Abuja, the countries noted that it is vital for Nigeria's stability and democratic consolidation that the process is conducted and concluded safely, fairly and cred-

ibly.

The major political parties signed the second peace accord on Wednesday and committed to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner.

The statement reads, "We encourage all actors to intervene proactively to calm any tensions and avoid any violence in the periods before, during and after the elections.

"We call on all officials at federal and local levels in Nigeria to respect the human and democratic rights of its citizens. We strongly condemn any actions that undermine the peaceful and transparent conduct of the electoral process.

"We call on parties to respect electoral laws and institutions and take a firm stand against vi-

olence and hate speech by their supporters. We ask the security services in Nigeria to do their utmost to protect that process and prevent and deter attacks against INEC facilities, materials and personnel.

"We call on all officials, including the law enforcement authorities, to ensure a safe and conducive environment for the exercise of public freedoms - including the freedom of opinion and expression, the freedom of peaceful assembly and the freedom of association - all of which are essential in democratic societies, in particular in the context of elections. Law enforcement authorities should remain visibly neutral and respond in a proportionate manner to any election-related incidents.

"We further urge all presidential candidates and political parties to live up to their commitments under the second Peace Accord to accept the results of the election as announced by INEC and to pursue any challenge of the results through the appropriate legal channels."

Finally, the Diplomatic Missions of the United States, Australia, Japan, Norway, Canada and the United Kingdom in Nigeria congratulated Nigeria on its 24 years of democratic progress since 1999, during which it has been a symbol to others of the value of exercising democratic rights for the betterment of society.

"We hope that this year's elections further build Nigeria's democratic tradition," they said.



L-R: Head of corporate development, Richard Emenim; customer service manager, Temiwumi Aganmayo; corporate communications manager, Nancy Nnamdi, and head of operations, Irabor Akonoman, all of Trucks Transit Parks Ltd, at a press briefing to mark the Company's 2nd anniversary in Lagos recently

DSS Begins Nationwide Clampdown On Criminals

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja

Ahead of tomorrow's presidential and National Assembly (NASS) elections, the Department of State Services (DSS) has begun clampdown and arrest of criminal elements across the country.

The Service pledged neutrality, good conduct and professional before, during and after the 2023 general elections.

It also assured of its

commitment to the successful conduct of the general elections, stating that it had made several arrests and seized weapons that would be inimical to the conduct of the election in various states.

In a statement by the spokesperson of the DSS, Dr Peter Afunanya, the Service said suspected gun runners were arrested in Kaduna and Zamfara states, including one Aliyu Yahaya, who runs guns for a suspected

bandit, Kachalla Damina, operating around Dansadai in Zamfara State. The weapons recovered from them included RPMG rifles and caches of ammunition.

Also, on 22nd February, 2023, the Service conducted a legally backed search operation on a property along Airport Road, Nasarawa LGA, Kano State and recovered dangerous weapons including a gun, daggers, swords, jack-knives from the said building.

"Therefore, the accusation that the Service intimidated a particular political party in that state is untrue; otherwise, how come those weapons were found there? Are those objects of violence campaign materials? Whether in Kano or elsewhere, the DSS has provided equal opportunities for all political parties to engage in their lawful activities. We can say this without any form of contradictions or equivocations."

CCB To Monitor Public Officials' Conduct At Polls

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja

Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) has beamed its searchlights on public officers participating in the 2023 general election for any violations of the law.

According to CCB, it is the first time it will be deploying its staff in the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the purposes of monitoring public officers in an election, adding that the aim is to ensure

president Muhammadu Buhari leaves a legacy of free, fair and credible elections.

At a press conference yesterday, the chairman of CCB, Prof Isah Mohammed, said anyone that does not comply or breach the CCB Act would be dealt with.

He said, "The CCB is mandated by the provisions of paragraph 3(d) and (e) of Part I of the Third Schedule to the CFRN 1999 (as amended) thus: '(d) Ensure compliance and

where appropriate, enforce the provisions of Code of Conduct or any law related to;

"(e) Receive complaints about non-compliance with breach of the provisions of the Code of Conduct or any law in relation to the complaint and where appropriate, refer such matters to the Code of Conduct Tribunal";

"In view of the above, monitoring of the 2023 general elections starting from Saturday, 25th February, 2023, is a

commitment towards ensuring that the president leaves behind a legacy of the freest, fairest and credible election ever conducted in the electoral history of this country. The CCB is therefore willing to work with all stakeholders in a harmonious atmosphere to bring about the desired result.

"By this arrangement, the monitoring activity shall be carried out in the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

CSO Affirms Confidence In EFCC Chairman

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja

Civil Society Groups for Good Governance has commended the chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abdulsalam Bawa on his tremendous achievements since assuming office, saying that his works will always be reference points of courage in the task of fighting economic and financial crimes.

This commendation was made

by the president of the groups, Comrade Dominic Ogakwu, when his team paid a courtesy visit to the commission in Abuja.

He said the EFCC under the current administration had done tremendously well, especially with its record of highest number of convictions since inception and that the attacks against the commission are coming from corrupt elements out to demean its good works.

Part of the statement signed by

the EFCC spokesperson, Wilson Uwujaren, said Ogakwu noted that, "There is a civil society group in Lagos saying that they will not stop until the chairman steps down and it behooves us as stakeholders in the Nigerian project, to look into those issues by doing a background check on what necessitated the action, despite the tremendous achievements of this administration.

"We discovered that the campaigns were antics of politicians

looking for a cover-up for their wrong doings," he said.

Responding, the secretary to the commission, Dr George Ekpungu, commended the works of the groups, stating that EFCC was ready to collaborate with any group in the fight against corruption.

He said, "We recognise that the civil societies are the front burners in the fight against corruption and they are the wheels through which a society is mirrored. I can tell you

Labour Party Chairmen Lament Non-mobilisation For Polls

BY TUNDE OGUNTOLA, Abuja

State chairmen of the Labour Party (LP) through their Gombe State counterpart, Alhaji Sani Abdusalam, have alleged that executives of the party in the North were being marginalised. Abdulsalam, who is the coordinating chairman for 36 states of the federation, gave the party leadership 12 hours ultimatum to address the situation. He called for the immediate release of the money budgeted by the party for election logistics.

Alleging undemocratic internal activities of the party's presidential candidate, he said Peter Obi may fail in the polls if the party does not reverse the trends. He lamented that the party has failed to recognise the important role of the 36 state chapters' leadership but would rather choose to work with cronies and support groups.

Abdulsalam who spoke on behalf of others, such as the chairman of Yobe State, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammad Bukar; and the national vice chairman, North East, Alhaji Mohammed Alkaji, during a press briefing, in Abuja yesterday hinted that monies expected to be channeled to polling unit agents through state chairmen or national officers have not been done, stressing the fundamental need to mobilize polling unit agents.

He said, "I speak on behalf of 36 state chairmen of our party in my capacity as the coordinating chairman. We have never been respected by the party leadership and also our presidential candidate has no respect for our party executives at state levels because Mr Peter Obi deliberately mismanaged our goodwill with the imposition of his members and other support groups that decamped with him in May 2022 to our party.

"Of note today, Wednesday, 22nd February 2023, was the meeting we had with the national chairman Bar Julius Abure in the party's head office where the discussion was held about the logistics support for state chapters and national officers towards effective mobilisation of our members for the presidential and National Assembly election on Saturday 25th February 2023.

that there has never been a better fight against corruption than this administration. We have a chairman that is young, visionary, intelligent and ready to do the work but we all know that when you fight corruption, it will definitely fight back. As long as we are here, we will continue to stand up to the fight."

Ekpungu charged the group to continue to stay true and collaborate with the commission as the anti-graft war cannot be won in isolation.

Congratulations on your **Turbanning Ceremony**

We join the family, well wishers and the good people of Adamawa Emirate Council, to rejoice with **Mustapha Dahiru Mustapha** of his turbaning as the (Yerima Adamawa), by **Alh Muhammadu Borkindo Aliyu Mustapha** the Lamido of Adamawa.

This appointment is testimony to your excellent service to your community and humanity in general.

We congratulate you on this epochal event and pray that you continue to increase in grace, strength and wisdom.

May peace and prosperity continue to be the hallmark of your reign.

***Once again,
Congratulations!!!.***

**MUSTAPHA DAHIRU
MUSTAPHA
(YERIMA ADAMAWA)**



Signed.

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Mal.Bashir Abubakar MFR
(Barden Kudun Zazzau) | 7. Hamed Idris Girei. | 14. Yusuf Adamu Baba. |
| 2. Alh Mohammed Kabir (Danmalikin Wudil) | 8. Mr Luca Ferla (WAEP). | 15. Jibrin Alhajjiji. |
| 3. Masud lawal (Marafan Katsina) | 9. Mr Noso Ozomane | 16. Mahmoud Dahiru mustapha. |
| 4. Alh Auwal lawal (Sarkin Sudan Gombe) | 10. Alh Muhd Sani Abdullahi (CEO AMSAJ Grp.) | 17. Auwal tukur. |
| 5. Abdulkadir yamma (Yerima gombe) | 11. Musa Hammanjoda. | 18. Hamed Idris Girei |
| 6. Alh Jamilu Jibrin (chokalin Adamawa). | 12. Hashim Dikko. | 19. Engr.Mohammed minna. |
| | 13. Barkindo waziri. | |

PMB Arrives In Katsina For Presidential, NASS Elections

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday arrived in Daura, Katsina state, in preparation for the presidential elections on Saturday, February 25, 2023.

The president, who was received by Katsina State governor Aminu Bello Masari and director-general of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Amb. Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, will be casting his vote at a polling unit close to his country home in Daura, alongside his wife, Aisha Buhari and other family members.

According to a statement that was issued by presidential spokesman, Garba Shehu, Buhari, Buhari's helicopter landed at 5:25pm in Daura, preparatory to the elections.

President Buhari is not a candidate in the election, but as a voter.

Mr She said the President has made sure that all members of his family, members of the entourage, including security, protocol and other staff are registered to vote in Daura.

Before heading home for the elections, President Buhari had actively participated in the campaigns of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and presented the flagbearer, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, as his preferred successor.

APGA Ward Chairman Shot Dead In Ebonyi

BY OBINNA OGBONNAYA, Abakaliki

Unidentified gunmen yesterday shot and killed the chairman of the All Progressives Grand Alliance, (APGA) in Ohofia Agba ward, Ishielu local government area of Ebonyi State, Hon Monday Idoko.

LEADERSHIP Friday gathered that the deceased was shot on the head at his Onueke village, Ohofia-Agba community at about 11:00pm Wednesday night.

A family source who spoke to LEADERSHIP Friday on the grounds of anonymity amid tears said that the assailants entered the village and dragged out the victim while asleep before shooting him on the head.

"My brother the story is very traumatic. It was a family member that alerted me that some unknown armed persons came to their house just before midnight, broke in and dragged him out before shooting him on the head.

"They wanted to rush him to the hospital but he died in the village. We have been in mourning mood since last night," the source said.

An APGA supporter in the area who also spoke on condition of anonymity disclosed that the Late Idoko was busy making arrangements for a rescheduled visit to the area by the APGA governorship candidate, Professor Benard Odoh before his life was cut short by men of the underworld. He described the deceased as a very industrious young man who gave his all, in service to the party and humanity.

Election: Gunmen Kill Policeman, 100 Corps Members Withdraw In Imo

BY EMMANUEL MGBEAHURIKE, Owerri

Gunmen yesterday killed a police officer rendering security for Saturday's presidential and National Assembly elections in Orlu, Imo State.

The identity of the officer was

not disclosed, but the corpse has been deposited in a nearby mortuary.

The state resident electoral commissioner Prof. Sylvia Uchenna Agu, confirmed the incident after inspecting the vicinity.

The Imo REC has revealed that

the withdrawal of more than 100 trained youth corps members for the elections in that area was a great challenge as she is looking forward to replacing them with students before the commencement of the election.

Orlu in Imo State has been a vol-

atile area in the last one year as gunmen are insisting that there would be no elections in the Southeast.

When contacted the police public relations officer, Henry Okafor, stressed that the command will leave no stone unturned, so as to arrest the suspects.

Commonwealth Upbeat About Free, Fair, Peaceful Elections

BY INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

The Commonwealth of Nations has expressed optimism that Nigeria's political gladiators, institutions and the entire citizens have shown readiness to conduct themselves in the best way to ensure a peaceful, free and fair generation elections scheduled for February 25 and March 11, 2023.

The secretary-general of Commonwealth, Mrs. Patricia Scotland expressed this hope when she led a delegation of Commonwealth election observer mission to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, in Abuja on Wednesday, even as she applauded President Muhammadu Buhari for his commitment to peaceful and transparent polls.

She said, "Nigeria has had a dif-

ficult journey but what they have done is that they have inspired the rest of the world by their fortitude and determination. And I encourage them to stay on that pathway to peace. I am very conscious that there are those who may like to mislead us, try to seduce us to believe that violence is the way forward but Nigerians have always resisted violence. And I hope and pray that they will resist it again now."

The Commonwealth boss added, "We know that more than 93 million Nigerians have registered to vote, more than 70 million of those registered are under the age of 35 and about 46 percent of those who have registered are women. So, their hopes and aspirations are there. I will encourage every single individual to make the pledge that

their leaders have made.

"They have pledged peace, equity transparency and adherence to the rule of law and I hope that every citizen will make their own pledge to peace. So that Nigeria can remain the beacon of hope and tranquility to many."

She noted that Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa, adding that what Nigeria does in terms of aspirations and inspiration feeds the whole of the continent and the Commonwealth.

"We are waiting to applaud and celebrate the next peaceful transition of power from the hands of the incumbent current president to the next individual who will have the burden of looking after this magnificent country for the next few years and I just pledged that I will do anything that I can

lawfully to support this wonderful and brilliant country to make sure that all their dreams come true," she said.

Welcoming the delegation in his earlier remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, said that Nigeria appreciates the role of the Commonwealth in supporting democracy in Africa and other countries of the world.

He said "You are here with your delegation to observe this election and as you know that president Buhari is totally committed to democracy, not only in Nigeria but in the ECOWAS region and indeed in Africa. He is absolutely determined that this should be one of his great legacies to be able to hand over to a successor in the framework of peaceful and transparent elections."



L-R: Chief representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA Nigeria, Yuzurio Susumu receiving some documents from director general, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria, (SMEDAN) Wale Fasanya when the DG visited the JICA Nigeria Office in Abuja, yesterday

252 Terrorists Surrender, Troops Kill 69, Arrest 71 – DHQ

BY TARKAA DAVID, Abuja

Nigeria's Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has said its troops operating in the North East, North Central, North West and South East have neutralized 69 terrorists, arrested 71, while another 252 surrendered in two weeks.

Director of defence media operations Major-general Musa Danmadami who disclosed this during the biweekly update on Armed Forces of Nigeria operations between 9 - 23 February 2023 said 47 civilians held captives by the terrorists were rescued.

In the North-East, he said troops neutralized 27 terrorists and arrested 18 Boko Haram/Islamic State of West Africa Province terrorists' logistics suppliers, spies and informants at different locations within the theatre as well as rescued 20 abducted civilians.

He said 252 Boko Haram terrorists/ISWAP terrorists and member of their families comprising 24 adult male, 79 adult female and 150 children surrendered to troops at different locations within the theatre of

operations.

The troops recovered 17 AK47 rifles, 9 dane guns, 12 AK47 magazines, 86 rounds of 7.62mm special, 71 rounds of 45mm ammunitions and 145 rounds of 7.62mm NATO.

Other items recovered include 132 jerricans of premium motor spirit, six motorcycles, a vehicle, medical supplies, livestock, 28 bundles of mats, assorted clothing materials, mobile phones and other sundry items.

In a related development, the air component of Operation HADIN KAI on February 13, 2023, following intelligent report that revealed the gathering of some wanted terrorists top commanders and leaders who had assembled at Madara Mountains to re-strategize on their terrorists activities, carried out an air interdiction operation at the location.

"Feedback revealed that the airstrike dealt a massive blow on the terrorists as several of the terrorists were reported to have been neutralized including some of key commanders while others escaped with severe injuries.

"A similar operation was conducted at Yuwe fishing pond

area of Borno State, following the sighting of about 50 terrorists in the general area. The location was consequently bombarded with several of the terrorist neutralized in the strike" he said.

In the North Central, he said troops of Operation SAFE HAVEN neutralized one criminal, arrested 18 suspected criminals and rescued 14 abducted civilians.

The troops also recovered, one FN rifle with fully loaded magazine, one pump action gun, three locally fabricated rifles, five rounds of 7.62mm special, four locally fabricated pistols, three motorcycles, eight mobile phones, seven bags of substances suspected to Indian hemp, 76 rustled cattle and other sundry items

Meanwhile in the North West, General Danmadami said troops neutralized 23 terrorists and arrested nine as well as rescued 23 abducted civilians.

In particular, he said troops of Operation WHIRL PUNCH on 14 February 2023 responded to information on the presence of Boko Haram Terrorists/Islamic State of West Africa Province kingpins at Damba community in Chikun Local Government Area

of Kaduna State and arrested 3 terrorists.

He said one of the terrorists arrested was identified as one of the masterminds of the 28 March 2022 terrorist attack on the Abuja Kaduna Train Services and recovered \$5000 among others from him.

The troops also recovered 10 AK47 rifles, 83 rounds of 7.62mm NATO, 238 rounds of 7.62mm special, 2 locally fabricated rifles, one locally fabricated pistol, seven magazines, 19 motorcycles, mobile phones, 30 rustled cattle and other sundry items.

In the South East, he said troops also neutralized 18 Indigenous People of Biafra/Eastern Security Network terrorists and arrested 18 others including a high-profile gunman.

The troops recovered 9 AK47 rifles, one M70AB2 rifle, one AK56 rifle, one pump action rifle, 3,924 rounds of 7.62mm special, 20 cartridges, explosives, mobile phones, 10 motorcycles, 4 vehicles and other sundry items.

All recovered items and apprehended terrorists have been handed over to the appropriate authority for further action.

Aisha Buhari Thanks Nigerian Women For Voting Her Husband Twice

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH, Abuja

Mrs. Aisha, wife of President Muhammadu Buhari, has thanked Nigerian women for voting her husband into power twice and for supporting him throughout the period.

According to a statement by her media office, she offered her appreciation during an event organized to distribute palliatives to women at Daura, Katsina state on February 23, 2023.

"Let me use this opportunity to thank you for giving my husband the opportunity to serve this country, I appreciate the support you gave to us all these years, which strengthened the resolve of the President to do the good work that he did. I want to tell you that he does not take this support lightly."

Mrs. Buhari expressed confidence that Nigerian women will offer the same level of support to their successors in office by exercising their franchise on Saturday, the 25th of February 2023, to elect a new president.

Speaking earlier, the wife of the governor of Katsina state, Hajiya Zakiyya Masari, expressed her appreciation to the First Lady for her women-centered programmes including the distribution of food items, health advocacy, and outreach programmes through the Future Assured programme.

Presidential Poll: Vote Candidate Of Your Choice, ICDA Tells Igala

BY HENRY TYOHEMBA, Abuja

A socio-cultural group in Kogi East senatorial district, Igala Cultural and Development Association (ICDA), has called on Igala people in all the nine local government areas of Kogi State to troop out in their numbers and vote for candidates of their choice in the 2023 elections.

A statement issued signed by the caretaker committee chairman of the group, Dr Ahmed Abdullahi, called on the people to exercise their franchise to choose who should lead the country at both federal and state levels in the forthcoming elections.

The ICDA leader also called on all Igala voters to shun violence, and advised the people against exposing themselves to violence during the polls.

"As Nigerian Nation goes into leadership recruitment processes called elections from 25th Feb 2023, ICDA wishes to remind all Igala people that they should turn out en masse with their PVCs to exercise their franchise and to participate in these very important civic responsibilities.

"Vote wisely for the candidates of their choice taking into consideration the campaign promises in the manifestos and above all the Candidate's character.

"Avoid anything that will vitiate or render useless your votes. Avoid violence throughout the duration and after the electoral processes because it will not serve anyone useful purposes," he said.

The presidential election is slated for Saturday, February 25, while the governorship and state Houses of Assembly elections are scheduled to hold on March 11, 2023.

However, in Kogi State, there will be no governorship election, until a later date this year.



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FUND (ITF)

No. 6, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Maitama, Abuja P.M.B. 126, Garki, Abuja

www.itf.gov.ng

IN COMPLIANCE WITH

Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Act 2005 & National Policy on Public Private Partnership (N4P)

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) FOR THE CONCESSION OF ITF'S UN-UTILIZED LANDED ASSET LOCATED ALONG SHEIKH JA'AFAR ROAD, DORAYI, KANO STATE.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Industrial Training Fund was established in 1971 with a primary objective to provide direct training, vocational and apprentice training, research and consultancy service, reimbursement of up to 50% training contribution paid by employers of labour registered with it, and administers the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES).

Over the years, pursuant to its statutory responsibility, the ITF has expanded its structures, developed training programs, reviewed its strategies, operations and services in order to meet the expanding, and changing demands for skilled manpower in the economy. In a bid to improve its services with regards to the implementation and execution of its mandate, and in line with the Federal Government's policy encouraging Ministries, Departments and Agencies to become self-sustaining; the council has sought to generate internal revenues from alternative sources rather than depending only on contributions made by employers and the FGN.

Based on the fore mentioned, the ITF is desirous of inviting interested firms or consortiums to participate in the qualification process for the selection of a concessionaire through a competitive bidding to Design, Finance, Build, Operate & Transfer of the landed asset of the Council in Kano State.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVE (SCOPE OF WORK)

The ITF invites interested suitably qualified and competent private investors to express interest in partnering with the council on the commercial development of its 23 Acres landed asset located along Sheikh Ja'afar Road, Dorayi, Kano State. The overall objective of the selection process would be the successful procurement of a concessionaire with the experience, managerial capacity, technical and financial resources to design, finance, and commercially develop the aforementioned landed asset whilst also managing and operating the asset under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. The proposed structures are for commercial and residential purpose.

The terms and conditions for the project implementation with the selected concessionaire will be set out in the Concession Agreement to be mutually negotiated.

3. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

Interested firms and/or consortium of firms may submit their qualification proposals in response to this RFQ Notice, wherein firms and/or consortia will be shortlisted for issuance of a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP).

Details of the project, Application submission process and requirements have been set out in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) document.

PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The procurement process will be evaluated under a PPP Procurement Process in two stages; the current Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage and the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage. Full details of the concession plan will be disclosed at the RFP stage.

- Evidence of track record of successful completion of similar projects

- Evidence of available financing/access to credit lines to execute the project.
- All firms in a consortium MUST provide evidence of the following statutory documents obtained locally or country of origin:
 - Certificate of Incorporation or Equivalent Registration Documents, Copies of Memorandum and Article of Association and Form CO7.
 - Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) and Returns to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in the last three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) valid till 31st December, 2022.
 - Most recent audited financial statements from last three (3) years of firm or firms within the consortium (2019, 2020 and 2021).
 - Evidence of Pension Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2022.
 - Evidence of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2022.
 - Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2022.
 - Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants, and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring on 31st December, 2022 or valid certificate issued by BPP.
- Sworn affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the ITF or the ICRC is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder, that the company is not bankrupt, in receivership or under liquidation or involved in any litigation which can potentially affect the company's ability to effectively discharge their responsibility if engaged and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Construction, Technical, Operational and Financial Capability including:

- Detailed Company/Consortium Profile:
 - Full Name and Nationalities (Countries of Registration of Firms or Consortia).
 - Overall contact Person(s), email addresses, facsimile and Telephone Numbers
 - Profile of firm or firms (if in a consortium); including ownership structure and role of each firm; with full contact details (including phone numbers and email addresses)
 - Letter of association or participation in the Consortium, and a clear role and responsibilities of each firm in the consortium.
- Experience of undertaking similar projects illustrated by the following:
 - General experience in the development, operations, and investment financing of large scale Real Estate projects globally/locally (list all relevant track records)
 - Specific verifiable experience and track records of Designing, Financing, Construction, Operations, Maintenance and Management of large scale Real Estate projects globally/locally
- Evidence of Financial Capacity; in support of the company or consortium's ability to undertake the construction and commercial development

of the aforementioned landed asset in Kano State with the Project Sponsor; ITF illustrated by:

- The average turnover per annum in the last three (3) years of at least Three Billion Naira (N3,000,000,000)
 - Evidence of adequate financial resources to finance investment: interested applicants must have a minimum net worth of at least One Billion Naira (N1,000,000,000) or its equivalent as shareholders' equity contribution
- d. Experience and Expertise of Key Personnel as illustrated by Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project including copies of their relevant Academic/Professional qualifications.

4. METHOD OF SUBMISSION

An original copy and five (5) other copies of Request for Qualification and one digital copy in PDF format stored on a readable digital media preferably flash drive (no CDs or DVDs) shall be delivered in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for Qualification for the Concession of the ITF'S UN-UTILIZED LANDED ASSET LOCATED ALONG SHEIKH JA'AFAR ROAD, DORAYI, KANO STATE" and "Name of Prospective Bidder" and delivered to the address below not later than 12.00p.m. on 15th March, 2023 at the designated tender box.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FUND (ITF) NO. 6, ADETOKUNBO ADEMOLA CRESCENT, MAITAMA, ABUJA P.M.B. 126, GARKI, ABUJA

OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The technical bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of submission at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 15th March, 2023 at the Corporate Office Board Room, No. 6, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

Prospective bidders and interested applicants may obtain further information at the address above between 9:00am and 4pm, Mondays through Fridays (except public holidays), or through the following contact details: +2348036369741; procurement@itf.gov.ng

ONLY SHORTLISTED BIDDERS WILL BE CONTACTED. IMPORTANT NOTICE

- Interested international parties are encouraged to partner with local firms in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Government of Nigeria local content development policy.
- This notice shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the ITF to award any form of contracts to any respondent(s) nor shall it entitle any organization submitting document to claim any indemnity from the ITF.
- Late submissions will be rejected.
- Submissions shall be in English language only.
- The ITF reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made in the documents submitted by the companies

SIGNED:
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Industrial Training Fund



6,505 Security Agents To Man Polling Units, Others In Niger

BY ABU NMODU, Minna.

Assistant inspector-general of police (AIG) for Zone 9, Isaac Akinmoyede, who is overseeing Niger State has said 6,505 men and officers will provide security during 2023 general election in the state.

He told journalists at the State Police Headquarters in Minna yesterday that the police would be complemented by 3,358 from other security agencies excluding the military and Department of State Services (DSS).

The AIG said the police have discovered flash points in Munya, Rafi, Shiroro, Paikoro, Gurara and Mariga local government areas. He however assured that they will be professional in discharging their duties as well as ensuring safety of INEC workers, journalists and other staffers who are on essential duty.

Meanwhile, the Niger State Command of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has disclosed that the corps has deployed 1,450 personnel to Nigeria police for onward posting across the state to provide security coverage during the forthcoming general election.

Missing Benue Varsity Student Found Dead

BY HEMBADOON ORSAR, Makurdi

A 300-level student of the Benue State University (BSU), Makurdi, Erekaa Naomi Dooshima, who was declared missing has been found dead.

Dooshima was declared missing a few days ago and was found dead beside the fence at the second campus of the university.

While confirming the incident yesterday, the Benue State police command's spokesperson Catherine Anene said, "Yes, we received the report of a young female corpse that was picked around the fence of the university. I am yet to get the details of the story, so I don't know whether the victim is a university student or not, I am waiting for the divisional police officer (DPO) in the area to give me the details of the report."

In a telephone conversation with the dean of students' affairs of the university, Prof Emmanuel Otor Eriba, to ascertain whether Dooshima was a student of the school and her department, he told LEADERSHIP Friday, that he can't speak without physically seeing the person who called his mobile line. Eriba later said he was heading for a meeting and the conversation should hold today and switched off his phone.

FCT Police Deploy 17,401 Officers For Presidential Election

BY EJIKE EJIKE, Abuja

Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have deployed 17,401 personnel for the presidential and National Assembly elections in the nation's capital.

This was revealed by the commissioner of police, FCT, CP Sadiq Abubakar, who stated this at a media briefing to announce the commencement of 'show of force' movement within the FCT ahead of the elections.

The CP warned that the 'show of force' was by a joint security team in the FCT, and was meant to send a signal to criminals or those who may wish to cause problems that the security agencies will deal with them when caught. He said the Nigeria police and other security agencies were fully ready for the conduct of the election.

"We are ready and will not leave any stone unturned until we see that the process is conducted peacefully," the commissioner stated.

1.98m IDPs In Benue Have No PVCs – State Govt

BY HEMBADOON ORSAR, Makurdi

Hours to the presidential and National Assembly (NASS) elections, the Benue State government and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) are trading blame on the disenfranchisement of over 1.98 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the forthcoming elections.

This is even as the executive secretary State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Dr Emmanuel Shior, said of the over two million IDPs in the state only a fraction of about 2,000 IDPs got their PVCs to vote, describing the act as violation of their human rights.

Shior, who disclosed this in Makurdi during the monthly distribution of relief materials to the IDPs lamented that thousands of the IDPs who registered, could not collect their permanent voters' cards (PVCs), alleging deliberate plot by INEC to disenfranchise the displaced

persons.

He informed that relief materials to be distributed include food and non-food items like mattresses, 10 trucks of yams, 10 trucks of rice, indomie noodles, condiments among many other items.

But in a swift reaction, the INEC public relations officer (PRO) Terkaa Andyar described the allegation as false, maintaining that such allegation is borne out of ignorance.

According to him, "Everybody is entitled to their opinions. We have records of IDPs. The phenomenon of IDPs is not in Benue alone. There is a national policy of IDPs voting and this will be adopted in Benue. So, Benue INEC will not do anything different or outside the policy. The fact that someone is displaced from his original abode makes him vulnerable."

Speaking further, Andyar said, "The commission went round to capture all IDPs who had voter cards. The

commission profiled them in such a way that the cards could be printed for them. Unfortunately, most of them are rural dwellers. The information we harvested was not good enough to print cards for them.

"So, the fault was not from the commission but from IDPs as they could not give sufficient information to enable us print cards for them."

He claimed that the commission did not make any deliberate plan to disenfranchise the IDPs in the state even as he asked what it will benefit the commission after spending money and time to disenfranchise the IDPs?

The commission's spokesperson who had earlier asked LEADERSHIP to call him back in an hour to get the total figure of IDPs that will vote during the election, said the head of statistics department was still trying to assess the figure of the IDPs that will vote in the forthcoming elections.



L-R: Special adviser to minister, Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Affairs, Richard Agura, Ph.D; director general, National Lottery Regulatory Commission, Lanre Gbajabiamila; executive secretary, National Lottery Trust Fund, Dr. Bello Maigari, and MD, National Lottery Nigeria, Mr. Layi Onafowokan, at the official launch of the National Lottery Nigeria platforms, in Abuja on Wednesday. PHOTO BY REMI AKUNLEYAN

7 Killed, Scores Injured As Gunmen Attack Benue Communities

BY HEMBADOON ORSAR, Makurdi

Less than 48 hours to the 2023 presidential and National Assembly elections, gunmen in separate attacks in four local government areas in Benue State have killed seven farmers and injured scores of others.

The executive secretary of the Benue State

Emergency Management Agency, Dr Emmanuel Shior who disclosed this in Makurdi during the flag-off of the distribution of food and non-food materials to the displaced persons named the affected LGs and communities as Agagbe in Gwer-West, Ikobi in Apa, Tyulen in Guma and Logo.

LEADERSHIP Friday gathered from some locals in Guma that one of the victims

Tyover Adzoo who was killed during the attacks was a younger brother to Governor Samuel Ortom's aide, Frank Adzoo.

A message on Frank Adzoo's Facebook wall reads, "I am announcing the death of my younger brother, Timothy Tyover Adzoo who was attacked and shot dead by the marauding herdsmen at Tyulen Village early hours of Tuesday, 21st February.

"The wake and burial is as follows: Thursday, 23rd February, 2023, wake at St Michael Catholic Church, Agasha while burial is Friday, 24th February, 2023, at Tse-Adzoo Compound, Tyulen Village, Agasha, Guma LGA."

When contacted the police public relations officer Catherine Anene said she was yet to receive a report of the attacks from the DPOs of the affected LGs.

Northern APC Stakeholders Agreed On Power Shift – Ketso

BY ABU NMODU, Minna

A few hours to the presidential election, the deputy governor of Niger State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Ketso has said there was gentleman agreement between the legacy parties of All Progressives Congress (APC) on zoning.

He said Northern stakeholders of the legacy parties and those of the

Southern opposition parties merged to form the APC and agreed that there should be a zoning agreement.

Ketso who was then of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and now the state coordinator of the Tinubu-Shettima Grassroots Independent Campaign Council (ICC) made this disclosure at Mokwa local government APC

stakeholders' meeting.

He said the agreement was reached in Borgu, Niger State, adding that ICC will mobilise 632, 000 votes for the APC presidential candidate, Ahmed Bola Tinubu.

He added that the Northern APC critical stakeholders were honourable people and that they will honour that agreement without any ill feelings,

saying that it was the reason some APC governors from the Northern states were committed to ensuring that the agreement was honoured.

"There was an agreement that after the tenure of the North, the South should produce the next president. They have given us Tinubu and we will work for his victory," he said.

FCTA Mobilises Garki, Wuse Residents For Polls

BY IGHO OYOYO, Abuja

In continuation of its sensitisation of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) residents on peaceful conduct during the elections, the FCT administration has taken its enlightenment train to residents in Garki, and Wuse districts of the Federal Capital City.

The week-long exercise, which commenced Monday, seeks to awaken the consciousness of residents on peaceful and orderly conduct before, during, and after the polls, this Saturday, February 25, 2023.

The director of the FCT Department of Information and Communications, Mr Sule Hazat, who spoke

through the deputy director of Public Enlightenment in the Department, Mrs Josie Mudasiru, noted that it was imperative to sensitise residents of the FCT concerning the forthcoming election, as the exercise can only be carried out successfully, in a peaceful condition and environment.

"What we have come here

to do is to appeal to the people to go and cast their votes on Saturday, in a peaceful and orderly manner. There is every need for residents to eschew arguments and quarrels that could trigger violence, which undermines the smooth conduct of elections.

"As Nigerians, we must comport ourselves in an orderly and decent manner.

Minister Urges FCT Residents To Be Law-abiding

BY IGHO OYOYO, Abuja

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) minister, Malam Muhammad Bello has called on residents of the FCT to be on their best behaviour for the success of the 2023 elections in the FCT.

In a statement signed by the director of press, office of the minister, Anthony Ogunleye, Bello gave the charge in a message to residents on the 2023 general election scheduled to take place across the country on Saturday, February 25, 2023.

The minister also urged residents to perform their civic duty of voting for candidates of their choice in a peaceful and orderly manner and respecting all laid down electoral and security regulations.

"I want to appeal to residents to be peaceful, law-abiding and go out en masse to cast your votes because it is by your votes that you will determine who will represent you in the National Assembly. I do not doubt that you will all make us proud by being disciplined and obeying all regulations as set by INEC as well as the security agencies," he said.

Bello also commended residents across all the political parties for their peaceful conduct and decorum during the electioneering campaigns over the past few months, saying that this was an indication that the culture of democracy has matured in the FCT.

"I want to commend all residents across all political parties for the tremendous decorum and peaceful electioneering campaign that has taken place over the last few months in the FCT.

"This has continued to show that democracy has matured in the FCT, where all contestants, irrespective of the political party, played by the rules and campaigned with decorum, discipline, and above all with respect for one another," he said.

Naira Scarcity: Gov Sule Distributes Palliatives In Nasarawa

BY AHMED TAHIR, Lafia

Nasarawa State governor Abdullahi Sule has directed for the distribution of palliatives across the 13 local government areas of the state to cushion the hardships being experienced as a result of the cash swap policy. The palliatives included rice, spaghetti, noodles and maggi among others.

The governor issued the directive during a meeting with local government chairmen, State Working Committee of the APC and Engr. A. A. Sule coordinators at the Government House, Lafia, the state capital.

According to the directive, each local government and development area will receive 1000 bags of rice (10kg), as well as unspecified quantity of spaghetti, noodles and maggi, for onward distribution to less privileged people who may be finding it difficult to access money to buy food.

The governor said the gesture was part of the decisions taken by governors of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), in their bid to alleviate the plight of the less privileged members of the society.

He cautioned the officials against diverting the palliative but to ensure the food items get to those who are in dire need because of the scarcity of money.

He used the opportunity of the meeting to present the flag of the party to Hon. Abdulmumini Mohammed Ari, who emerged as the candidate of the party for Nasarawa/Toto federal constituency, following the recent Supreme Court judgement.

Public Disclosure of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for The Africa Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Foods Safety (ACEMFS) Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.

This document is available for public scrutiny, reviews, and comments for the period of 27 March to 27 April, 2023. ACEMFS project aims to construct an ACEMFS centre comprising of a new building office accommodation, laboratories, class rooms, conference rooms and associated structures.

The overall goal of the proposed new construction of the ACEMFS centre and associated structures is to strengthen the centre in training personnel in food safety, toxicology, molecular biology and bioinformatics that will impart better food and safety culture, and ensure safer foods for healthy living in Nigeria and across Africa.

The ESMP presents a detailed framework for managing the environmental and social impacts and risks associated with the project. The document describes the instruments that will facilitate full compliance with the World Bank (WB) Social and Environmental Standards (SES), which are the safeguard standards to be implemented for this project.

The overall objectives of the ESMP is to ensure project compliance with applicable national environmental and social legal requirements and the WB's environmental and social safeguards. The ESMP also aims to identify environmental and socio-economic benefits of the project as well as identifying potential adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The ESMP document emerged from a series of laboratory and field investigations, intensive interactions, interviews, and public consultations, involving experts, relevant government organs, local community representatives, University representatives and other stakeholders. More than 30 representatives participated in the process.

The ESMP document is made up of seven Chapters comprising a background to the project justification, project description, environmental description of the project area, assessment of the potential environmental and social impact of the project, grievance redress mechanism, mitigation and monitoring plan of the various project activities, the associated costs required for implementing the ESMP, and recommendations to ensure full compliance.

The ESMP document can be downloaded here:
ACEMFS Website: www.acemfs@futminna.edu.ng

Kindly send all written comments or queries to Prof. Hussaini A. Makun. Centre Leader, Africa Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria (hussaini.makun@futminna.edu.ng)



YOBE STATE UNIVERSITY

(Office of the Registrar)
KM7, Gujba Road, P.M.B. 1144 Damaturu, Yobe State

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Yobe State University Law as Amended 2012, the Governing Council of Yobe State University, is inviting interested candidates with requisite qualifications and experience to apply for the post of University Librarian which is vacant.

Position of University Librarian

The University Librarian shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the overall administration of the University Library, its branches and extension and for providing library services for the entire University community.

The Person

The University Librarian is a Principal Officer and is the head of the University's Library. Candidate for the post should be visionary and have the ability to provide good leadership; must possess proven integrity and demonstrate transparency in private and public life; must be able to command the respect and loyalty of staff of the University.

Qualifications

Candidates for this post should;

- Be professionally qualified and be practicing librarian with a minimum academic rank of Senior Librarian.
- Possess at least Second Class (Honours) Lower Degree and PhD in Library and Information Science from a recognized University at least fourteen (14) years working experience in the library, out of which, eight (8) years MUST be from teaching experience at the University level.
- Have contributed to knowledge through research and publications in reputable journals, as well as possess proven records of sound administrative leadership;
- Dissemination of knowledge through academic and professional activities.
- Have strong evidence of contributions to library and information field through research and publications in research journals.
- Be registered member of the Library Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN)
- Be Computer literate and proficient in relevant computer applications.

Salary and Condition of Service

Salary and conditions of service of the University Librarian shall be as obtainable in Yobe State University.

Each application must be accompanied by not more than 500 words of vision statement of the candidate for the University in the twenty first century.

Method of Application

Applicants should forward one (1) soft and fifteen (15) hard copies of their typed applications, attached with photocopies of certificates claimed, list of publications, curriculum vitae and names of 3 (three) referees to Vice-Chancellor, Yobe State University and marked "CONFIDENTIAL; for the attention of the Vice-Chancellor" at the left-hand corner of the envelope to reach him not later than **six (6) weeks** from the date of this advertisement.

Late applications will not be entertained and only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The curriculum vitae should contain such personal details as follows:

- Full name (surname first in Capital Letters)
- Place and Date of Birth
- Marital status
- Number and Ages of children
- Email and GSM number
- Postal address
- Permanent Home Address
- Nationality
- State of origin & Local Govt Area
- Schools attended & qualifications obtained with dates
- Promotions obtained through the academic cadre with dates
- List of Publications
- Membership of professional body
- Names and addresses of 3 (three) referees

Signed
Dr. Kalli Alkali Yusuf Gazali
Registrar/Secretary to the Council

Zulum Shares N734m, Books, 6,330 Bags, Food To 4,945 'Almajiri' Schools

BY FRANCIS OKOYE, Maiduguri

Governor Babagana Umara Zulum on Thursday shared N734m alongside books and grains in thousands of bags to over 4,945 traditional Islamic schools referred to as 'Sangaya' in Borno State, and more famously called 'Almajiri' system across Nigeria.

The 4,945 schools were drawn from across the 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State.

The support came from Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) through a collaboration with Borno State Universal Basic Education Board (BOSUBED) and Borno State Arabic and Tsangaya Education Board (which regulates the almajiri schools).

The distribution took place at the Ramat Square in Maiduguri and it was attended by thousands of Sangaya and Islamiya teachers and students.

Governor Zulum made a symbolic presentation of cheques bearing the grants to beneficiaries.

The funds were to improve conditions of learning at benefiting Sangaya schools in Borno State.

Zulum explained that about 190 Islamiya and Sangaya centres, each of them with over 400 students, was allocated N300,000, 527 centres with between 201 to 400 students received N250,000 each; 2,540 centres with between 51 to 200 students received N150,000 each while 1,649 centres with 50 students and below, each received N100,000.

Besides the monetary support, each of the 4,945 Sangaya schools benefited from 6,330 bags and cartons of food which comprised of over 2,000 bags of rice, 1,100 bags of maize, 850 cartons of Spaghetti, 1,600 cartons of Macaroni, 480 gallons of groundnut oil and 300 gallons of palm oil.

Aside food, other materials were distributed and they included 29,480 copies of the Holy Quran, 1,800 copies of Hadith, 30,068 pieces of mats, 112,892 sets of school uniforms, 41,300 mosquito nets, 8,100 pieces of slades (allo), 424,896 pieces of exercise books and 450 packs of pencils.

Other items included 12,300 copies of books 1, 2 and 3 (Bintu wa Dal) Kanuri language textbooks,

69,300 copies of a textbook (Mukoyi Karatu Da Rubutu), 8,100 Kanuri mathematical textbooks, (Kitwu Isawube Fuwurawabe) and another 11,000 Kanuri textbooks called Kitawu Kirabe Fuwurawabe.

The executive secretary of the Universal Basic Education Board (UBEC), Dr Hamid Bobboyi who was represented by the northeast zonal coordinator, Abdullahi S. Jarma commended Governor Babagana Umara Zulum for his outstanding reform of basic education in Borno.

The executive chairman, Borno State Universal Basic Education Board (BOSUBED), Prof. Bulama Kagu, and chairman of Borno Sangaya and Islamiyya Board, Sheikh Arabi Abulfatahi, in their separate remarks, expressed appreciation to the governor, for according special attention to their establishments by approving their respective demands whenever necessary.

The event was attended by the secretary to the state government (SSG) Usman Jidda Shuwa, commissioners, special advisers and other top government officials.



Binani Inaugurates Hospital In Adamawa

BY HUSSAINI
HAMMANGABDO, Yola

All Progressive Congress (APC) governorship candidate, Senator Aisha Dahiru Binani has inaugurated 20 bed hospital capacity in Ngurore area of Adamawa State.

Performing the ceremony yesterday, Binani said the hospital was built in response to the request of health needs by the people of the area.

"We have decided to build this hospital in response to the request by the people of Ngurore in this case and other benefitting communities as well that there is need for the hospitals at the locations cited.

"Therefore, it is my firm belief that this community will take full ownership of this facility and ensure it serves our people very well," she said.

Recently, she provided the Ngurore community with transformers aimed at addressing the problem of electricity following months of black out experienced by the inhabitants.

She said: "From the day I assumed office in 2019, we have achieved a lot with your kind support.

"In the case of Ngurore, I remember when I got a distress call from your leaders informing me that Ngurore has been in total black out for months and all efforts to have it addressed proved futile.

"With your kind prayers, we immediately provided this community with transformers thereby addressing the problem for good."

Police Cancel Political Rallies To Avert Clashes In Kano

BY ABDULLAHI YAKUBU, Kano

Following mounting tension in Kano fuelled by the resolve of about three political parties to organise grand finale rallies for electioneering campaigns, ahead of Saturday's presidential and national assembly elections, the commissioner of police, Mr. Muhammad Yakubu, Thursday Morning, announced the cancellation of all political rallies cum procession in the state.

Speaking to journalists at the Police Officers' Mess, Bompai, CP Yakubu, stated that already, after due consultations with leaders of the political parties to stop their rallies, "they agreed, but one of them insisted

on going on with the rally."

But journalists probed further on what will be the Police next line of action if any political party holds the Thursday rally and he said: "we are apolitical. We are ready. We have advised them accurately.

"All of them applied for the rally, and it was not even approved. From their antecedents, if they meet at a place, they must clash.

"I have ordered them to suspend the rallies, some of them agreed, but one didn't. If they insist, we know what to do when we get there."

CP Yakubu, however, urged residents to move about their daily businesses without fear, as the Police and sister-security agencies are

working in synergy to maintain law and order.

He said that about 18,000 trained police officers are already on ground to ensure peaceful, credible and violent-free elections.

The assistant inspector-general of police in-charge of Zone 1, Kano, AIG Sani Bello Dalijan, who spoke to journalists briefly, also said he breezed in to encourage his men and officers at the command to remain resolute and apolitical.

However, a letter signed earlier by the deputy commissioner of police in-charge of operations, DCP Mu'azu Mohammed, on behalf of CP Yakubu, had advised all political parties to stop the Thursday rallies.



President Muhammadu Buhari with his daughter, Halima (right), and his grandchildren as the President arrives Daura, Katsina State ahead of the 2023 presidential and National Assembly elections, yesterday.
PHOTO BY STATE HOUSE

2023: North Has No Anointed Presidential Candidate – Group

BY MOSES ORJIME, Abuja

Joint Action Front of Civil Society Organisations of Nigeria (JFCSON) has reacted to the announcement by a northern committee purporting that the North has endorsed the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar as the sole candidate of the North ahead of the February 25, 2023 presidential election.

The national president of the group,

Barnabas Bala Yock in a statement made available to LEADERSHIP Friday, yesterday, in Abuja, said no credible association of concerned northerners or stakeholders was aware of such endorsement or, for that matter, the northern committee that made the announcement.

He said that throughout recorded northern history, the region has never consciously voted in one direction or deliberately adopted a sole candidate.

He described the endorsement

claim report as fraudulent, mischievous, unfounded, unwarranted and made in bad taste to contradict the recognised and accepted northern tradition.

He said that it is important to point out that to date, none of the competent representatives of northern groups such as the Arewa Consultative Forum, the Northern Elders Forum and other significant credible youth associations, has announced the endorsement of a sole

candidate for the region, preferring to leave it open to individual preferences.

He said, "Such announcements from unknown entities hiding behind mushroom, obscure and unidentifiable groups should therefore be discountenanced and treated as the frivolities they are.

"It is ridiculous for a group that has never been heard speaking up in the North throughout when it was in the stranglehold of dangerous

insurgents, rampaging banditry or against the hardships caused by damaging government policies such as the current currency shortage and other conditions that have made life difficult for the northerners to now claim the right to decide the way the North votes.

"As far as the North is concerned and in accordance with the democratic tradition of its people, the region has not adopted or endorsed any of the candidates."

NCCSALW Recovers 10,000 Small Arms, Others Across Nigeria

BY FRANCIS OKOYE, Maiduguri

National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) has recovered over 10,000 illegal arms and light weapons from non-state actors in various operations in a bid to ensure violence-free elections in the country.

The national coordinator of

the centre, Major General Abba Dikko (ret'd), who disclosed this to newsmen yesterday in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, said the recovery, was part of ongoing efforts of the centre to stop the circulation of illicit firearms in the country, particularly during this year's general elections.

According to him, the centre is determined to ensure that only

authorized persons possess weapons targeting at ensuring violence and criminalities are reduced to minimum level during the conduct of 2023 general elections.

"Not less than 10,000 small arms and light weapons were recovered from the hands of non-State actors, insurgents, bandits in various theatres of operations and also the police.

"So far, we have recovered Over 10,000 small arms, weapons to ensure violence free elections.

"We are doing all these in order to remove illicit weapons from circulation which are not targeted at a peaceful election but targeted at violence and criminalities are reduced to the barest minimum across Nigeria," Dikko stated.

Dikko reiterated the commitment

of the centre to identify and break the supply chain of the gun runners in Nigeria.

He appealed to help the centre in the fight against circulation of illicit arms and weapons, saying that "it is a collective responsibility and efforts must be sustained, especially by members of the media in this fight against the spread of small arms and light weapons in our society".

Buni Empowers 100 NURTW Members, 68,000 Vulnerable Persons

BY ALIYU MUSA, Damaturu

Yobe State governor, Mai Mala Buni has empowered 100 members of the National Union of Road Transport Union (NURTW), with new Toyota 'Avenis' vehicles at a subsidized rate of N2, 000, 000.00 procured by the Ministry of Wealth Creation, Empowerment and Employment Generation (MWCEEG).

Buni who flagged off the distribution in Damaturu, equally said a total of 68, 000

small and medium-scale businessmen and women, orphans, widows and vulnerable persons will be empowered with cash aimed at enhancing their economy and livelihood.

The governor stated the empowerment programme initiated by his administration was part post insurgency recovery plan to support the less privileged and the businesses affected by the decade-long insurgency across the state.

He said, "As part of our empowerment

drive, we have procured 100 units of Toyota 'Avenis' brand cars at a total cost of N461, 125, 000 to be offered on loan to 100 beneficiaries at a subsidized rate of N2 million each payable within a 2-year duration.

"The ministry of Wealth Creation, Empowerment and Employment Generation is hereby directed to liaise with the Yobe Microfinance Bank to work out modalities for payment by the beneficiaries of this package.

"Similarly, in furtherance of the humanitarian gesture of this administration, we are distributing sewing, grinding and vulcanizing machines, among others, to the less privileged to improve their livelihood. Along with these materials is another empowerment package of cash support to 400 widows, 254 vulnerable persons and 1600 small and medium-scale businessmen and women. Government is providing another cash support of

N1,356,000,000 to 68,000 beneficiaries.

"All these measures are taken as part of the State recovery plan to support the less privileged and the businesses affected by the decade-long insurgency in the State".

The commissioner of wealth creation, empowerment and employment generation, Hon Abdullahi Bego while speaking, said the empowerment was part of governor Buni's commitments towards promoting self-reliance across the state.

HOW BUHARI'S INTERVENTIONS SAVED GOVERNORS FROM EMBARRASSMENT, AVERTED ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS IN STATES

BY BASHIR AHMAD

...Supported them with bailout funds, only for them to betray him.



MUHAMMADU BUHARI

President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
Federal Republic of Nigeria

There is no doubt that the present administration, under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari, came into power at a time when the country was bedevilled with a lot of crisis, including economic hardships, security threats of Boko Haram insurgents and other challenges obstructing the smooth running of the country. That's to the extent that, at the time, many recognized National and International agencies predicted that if not for President Buhari, Nigeria would have plunged into a serious crisis.

The situation had put the elites and the masses of the majority states of the country, if not all, into serious economic backwardness, with some giving up on paying salaries. Many state governors resorted to borrowing money despite the federal allocations to pay salaries and run other governmental responsibilities.

To some extent, some state governors resorted to hiding behind the hardships as reasons to abscond from running contracts, infrastructural development, and capital expenditures, among many other developmental activities. They indeed lost hope in providing assistance to the masses and their states.

However, with the coming of President Muhammadu Buhari, as a true democrat, who always put the masses first, the president introduced many interventions to the state governors, irrespective of their parties or region, mainly to bail them out and rescue them from collapsing. As such, several states are now afloat because of the financial reliefs the Buhari administration provided for them.

The Bailout Funds

From the start, N477 billion in bailout funds were

released at the instance of the President through which most states sustained themselves. Additionally, no fewer than 24 states, across party lines, had demanded and received refunds from the federal government for works done on federal roads and bridges, and records show that the refunds were to the tune of about N500 billion. Those claims certainly were not based on works done during the Buhari administration only, but also in previous administrations. This is a little of what the federal government has done between 2015 and today to ensure that states stay afloat. Honestly, without the federal government bailout, most states would have gone under.

Apart from these refunds that were made, when President Buhari came in, 27 states could not pay salaries, and the federal government had to bail those 27 states out. Not only did he give them money to pay salaries, but he also gave them a bailout to pay arrears.

The Paris Club Funds

Consequently, upon seeing the reality and the fact that the states were in difficulties and could not start any new projects, in terms of infrastructure, the federal government also gave each of them N10 billion. When the price of oil again, collapsed, and states were in trouble, the federal government gave out a bailout of a billion naira per month to each state for eight months and N800 million per month, per state, for over eight months.

Nigerians can also recall that when the states complained that they did not benefit from the Paris debt refund, the federal government gave the states their own share of the Paris Fund. I know of a northern state, where the governor, if not for Buhari will not go anywhere, received N40 billion of this Paris Club Refund.

Again, when states complained to the federal government for deducting what they owed the federal government, Mr. President also said they should be refunded because times were hard even though there were so many corruption allegations against the governors, as to whether they used the money judiciously or were diverted for something else.

COVID-19 Interventions

During the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected the economy of the whole world, particularly developing countries, President Buhari supported the governors with a series of interventions targeted at saving them from doing nothing while the masses were suffering.

Although some states could not appropriately use the intervention as some of them diverted them to their personal gains, the gesture cut across the country and made a significant impact. Some governors were alleged to have kept them to use during campaign periods. The availability of the Covid-19 interventions is to the extent that some states failed to utilize them and carelessly dumped them where they were affected by rain and other adverse weather conditions.

The political angle

Apart from saving the governors through such interventions, I believe Nigerians will remember how almost all the governors, especially under the platform of APC, benefitted from the popularity, patriotism, trust, and respect Nigerians have for President Buhari to win elections in their various states.

Many of them are ignorant of the fact that without him, by now, they would have been in prison. He was there for them when the masses doubted trusting them. He encouraged the masses and urged them to vote for them with the assurance that they also were like him and only wanted to get to the position to serve them. In 2019 he had to visit all the 36 states, some twice to encourage people to vote for some of these governors.

Recall that President Buhari went around the states in previous campaigns raising hands of these same APC governors, encouraging people to vote for them. A lot of them wouldn't have been elected without that support from the president.

It is shocking, to say the least, that these people whom president Buhari helped are now turning their back against him because of a government policy whose aim is to address issues of corruption, insecurity as well as improve the economy. What we expect of them is to rally around the president, educating the people to bear with the unintended pains for bigger gains.

What Nigerians should know:

The new Naira redesign policy is not intended to cause hardship to any Nigerian. Government has taken every step to address and alleviate any unintended hardship associated with the policy. The cashless policy of the CBN is in line with global best practices for sustainability and economic prosperity.

I want Nigerians to know that President Buhari means well for all us. He does not take the trust Nigerians gave him lightly. He will continue to uphold the constitution and adhere to the oath of office he took. No government policy is without hitches in implementation. These hitches are temporary and are being addressed. Nigerians will certainly celebrate the numerous gains and benefits of these policies.

Posers...

Why is it that a selected group of politicians is suddenly allergic to this policy? Why is the loudest noise against the policy coming from this quota? What happened to their voices when policies that affected the masses were being implemented? Are they really for the masses or for their political goals? I wonder!

BASHIR AHMAD, is the Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari on Digital Communications

CSOs Urges Full Participation Of Nigerian Electorate

BY ANDREW OJIEZEL, Lagos

Civil society organisations (CSOs) comprising the Committee for the Protection of Peoples Mandate (CPPM), Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21ST) and Campaign for Dignity in Governance have urged eligible Nigerians to participate fully in the presidential poll scheduled for Saturday in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The CSOs who stated this at a crucial press briefing on the state of the nation ahead of the 2023 polls urged Nigerians to vote for candidates of their choice to consolidate democracy for the continued progress and prosperity of the federal republic of Nigeria.

The CSOs in a communiqué signed by Comrade Nelson Ekujumi of Committee for the Protection of Peoples Mandate (CPPM), Comrade Titilope Akosa of Centre for 21ST Century Issues (C21ST) and Razaq Olokoba, Campaign for Dignity in Governance said, "Our appeal to Nigerians is predicated on our responsibility as societal watchdogs and democrats desirous of deepening democracy through advocacy for the active participation of citizens in the electoral process.

"We are not unaware of the excruciating pains and discomfort occasioned by the implementation of the Naira redesign policy, but call on Nigerians not to despair or be weary but to remain calm and peaceful with abiding faith in democracy. We encourage Nigerians to be hopeful that there is indeed light at the end of the tunnel.

"We urge Nigerians to continue to persevere and not pander to the antics of undemocratic elements whose motive is to take advantage of the prevailing situation to lure citizens to violence which could truncate the democratic process. We earnestly admonish Nigerians to be committed to sustaining the momentum of democratic participation for the collective good of the society; no matter the provocation.

Synagogue Donates £10,000 To Türkiye, Syria Earthquake Victims

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

The Synagogue Church Of All Nations (SCOAN) and its Emmanuel TV Partners have donated £10,000 (N9million), as a relief support to the victims of the recent earthquake that devastated some parts of Turkey and Syria.

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake occurred on February 6, 2023 shocked the world with its volume of destruction to lives and properties. This was followed by other devastating twin earthquakes, which leaves thousands dead, injured and homeless.

Commenting on the earthquake, the SCOAN leader, Pastor Evelyn Joshua, who was visibly sad at the disaster, described it as a 'great humanitarian calamity'.

She however called on all true human beings to partake in bringing relief to our fellow human beings now in critical life conditions as a result of these terrible earthquakes.

"God is love, we are His image and we must live and lead in love. Every kindness you heartily show at this period of their needs illustrates clearly the place of love in human affairs as a tool of human relationships and good neighborliness."

Assuring that SCOAN would continue to sustain the lofty legacy of humanitarianism and altruism of its founder, Prophet TB Joshua, she said the foundation of the church was Love as shown in the Commission's logo.

Akeredolu Laments Biting Effects Of Fuel, Naira Scarcity On Ondo Residents

BY TOPE FAYEHUN, Akure

Ondo State Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu on Thursday lamented the biting effects of fuel and naira scarcity, charging the people of the state to rise strong and defeat the frustrations at the filling stations and the ATMs, occasioned by the problems.

The governor who stated this in a state broadcast yesterday pointed out that the ill-timed cash swap policy and the artificial scarcity of fuel are both

lethal injections deliberately administered to de-market the All Progressives Congress (APC) government, create an uncontrollable crisis in the nation and finally frustrate the 2023 general elections.

He described the cash swap policy and the artificial fuel scarcity as a dagger drawn at the heart of the ruling APC on the eve of the elections in order to destroy it and the governments it controls at the federal and state levels.

Akeredolu disclosed that the presidential candidate

of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu is at the center of all the darts and arrows of the current misnomer in Nigeria.

The governor, who said Tinubu represents the new Nigeria the people envisaged, revealed that the central purpose of the controversial cash swap policy and artificial fuel scarcity was to frustrate the popularity and renowned acceptability of the APC Presidential candidate across all tribes and religions in this country.

"The goal is to truncate the election and deny the country the service of a true patriot, an endowed visionary with a proven record of character, knowledge, leadership and performance.

"It is also an attempt to abuse the principle of rotational presidency by denying a section of this country its legitimate right thereby fuelling ethnic disaffection and creating a grave constitutional crisis in the country." Governor Akeredolu said.



L-R: Ogun State first lady, Bamidele Abiodun; wife of the vice president, Dolapo Osinbajo; her husband, Prof Yemi Osinbajo; Governor Dapo Abiodun; former Ogun State governor, Olusegun Osoba; former Speaker, House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole and Ogun State commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Engr Ade Akinsanya unveiling the 4.2km runway at the maiden test flight of commercial airplane landed at the Gateway International Agro Cargo Airport at Ilishanperu Road, Ikenne LGA of Ogun State, yesterday

Cash Crunch: Lagos Traders To Partner CBN On e-Naira

BY GEORGE OKOJIE, Lagos

As Lagos residents and traders groan and queue for long hours in bank premises in the state due to the current scarcity of cash caused by transition from a predominantly cash-based economy to a cashless one, the traders have expressed their preparedness to partner with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Bullnet Group on eNaira to cushion the effects of the cash crunch.

The president of Balogun Business Association (BBA), Mr. Oscar Odogwu, revealed this yesterday in Lagos at a media parley on the current cash crunch and how the services introduced by Bullnet Group on the USSD Channel of the e-Naira launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2021 can solve the problem.

Odogwu said the eNaira powered by Bullnet Group is a welcome development, saying, "We will partner the CBN and Bullnet on eNaira. I believe it will

be more of a help to the traders. It will surely enhance our trades and businesses and settle the hassles we are currently going through. You know we traders don't have time to stay endlessly in the banks waiting to cash money.

"With this eNaira, I believe it will go a long way to improve our businesses and at the same time it will curtail theft. We move around the markets and its environs with huge sums of money. With this eNaira, it will curtail theft. We will key into this CBN cashless

economy because we the traders are the victims. We will do our best to sensitize the traders on the eNaira. The Bullnet too will be of help to us."

In his address, the founder and chief executive office of Bullnet Group, Mr. Bayo Akintoye, said, "The CBN has employed the services of indigenous tech firms and start-ups with innovative ideas and proposals that are relevant to the specific Nigerian market conditions, are economically viable and

operationally feasible within the CBDC ecosystem thus showing their relentless support for home-grown talents.

"One such homegrown start-up is the patented Bullnet Platform that was given the chance to use its technology to proffer solutions to peculiar needs and requirements of the Nigerian masses as it adopts and uses the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as the main medium for payments, settlements and remittances."

We Are Ready To Conduct Acceptable Census –NPC

BY ALO ABIOLA, Ado Ekiti

National Population Commission (NPC) has expressed its readiness to conduct a hitch free census that will be widely accepted for the development of the country.

The federal commissioner representing Ekiti State in NPC, Mr. Ayodeji Ajayi, who stated this yesterday in Ado Ekiti at a one-day capacity building workshop

organised by the commission for journalists, said the agency had put machinery in motion to conduct a successful exercise.

The workshop was designed to sensitise the journalists operating in the state on the commission's preparedness towards the population and housing census slated to hold between March 29 and April 3, 2023.

He said the commission would

continue to engage the media and other relevant stakeholders on all its activities, especially towards the forthcoming census.

The federal commissioner said the workshop would keep stakeholders abreast with the conduct of the exercise and improve the quality of media content on the exercise.

Earlier, the Ekiti State director of NPC, Mr Ademola Oladapo, said the

programme was targeted at creating awareness on the preparation and the activities of the NPC towards the exercise.

He solicited for the collaborations of the various media outlets operating in the state for publicity and advocacy of the members of the public, saying the move would further make the organization to conduct a credible exercise.

Islamic Scholar Decries Campaign Of Calumny Against Tinubu

BY ADEBAYO WAHEED, Ibadan

An Islamic scholar, Sheikh Muhammad Jamiu-AbdulGafar has berated some Yoruba leaders over their campaign of calumny against the presidential candidate of the ruling party, APC, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Jamiu-AbdulGafar who is the founder, Ar-riddoh Islamic

International Foundation and the Proprietor, Ar-riddoh International Islamic Institute, Ibadan in a statement tagged "An Open Letter To Political Musketeers In Nigeria" and made available to journalists in Ibadan decried the way some Christian leaders have continued to work against Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

He alleged that the leaders

have been whipping up religious sentiments calling on their followers not to vote for him in this Saturday's presidential election all because he is a Muslim.

"To religious faithful, the Nigerian Christians especially should know that we Muslims are not their rivals in any way. We are not their competitors in any way and for anything, we

Muslims believe that religion is an instrument of unity and peaceful coexistence but unfortunately, some Nigerian Christian leaders seem to be antagonistic, intolerant and all assuming in most cases".

According to him, the series of viral videos of rivalry and religious bigotry that have been unleashed testify to their unwillingness

to naturally allow Muslims to assume leadership positions in Nigeria.

He said, "In the history of Nigeria as a nation, Southern Nigerian Muslims have been deprived of the presidency unlike in the North where General Yakubu Gowon, a Christian, once ruled. Even the position of vice president has never been conceded to us.

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10 Documents That Changed History

We're taking a look at ten monumental documents that have changed the course of history

We know documents run business. From sales proposals and contracts to employee offer letters, documents are at the core of every business transaction. But what about governments, schools, families, and even entire social movements? When you look at any defining changes or actions that have taken place throughout history, from the highest government levels all the way down to individual families, documents are at the core of each one.

We're taking a look at ten monumental documents that have changed the course of history, from medieval ink on parchment, to the digital recordings of Supreme Court rulings.

Magna Carta, 1215

The first official document to broach the subject of human rights and liberties stems back to medieval England. The Magna Carta, which was created through negotiations between King John and his barons, included a famous clause that, for the first time, gave all "free men" the right to justice and a fair trial. And while that applied to very few people at the time—most people in 1215 were unfree peasants ruled by their landlords—this single clause has influenced governments, lawmakers, and rulers of all kinds in the centuries that followed. Both the United States' Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contain the ideals originated in the Magna Carta—the belief that everyone, including our leaders, must obey the law.

Gutenberg Bible, 1455

Religion aside, it's an indisputable fact that the Bible is one of the most influential documents in our history. The Gutenberg Bible, named after its creator, Johannes Gutenberg, is the first complete book printed from movable type. This document set the stage for print production moving forward.

Declaration of Independence, 1776

Perhaps the most well-known document in American history, the Declaration of Independence was completed on July 4, 1776. This historical document granted Americans independence from the British Crown and to this day, American independence is still celebrated on July 4. The document is comprised of an introduction, a preamble, a body divided into two parts, and a conclusion, the contents of which bear great importance on human history. The Declaration of Independence marks the birth of a nation, with the threads of that nation's history, its impact on the world and the growth of democracy all running back to this one single document.

Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, 1787 & 1791

The Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation with a new form of government in 1787. It created a federal system with a national government composed of three separated powers, with principles covering checks and balances, individual rights, liberty, limited government, natural rights theory, republican government, and popular sovereignty. Not all states ratified the Constitution immediately, however. Many were calling for greater constitutional protection for individual liberties, which eventually led to the passing of the Bill of Rights in December of 1791 (which was, of course, inspired in part by the Magna Carta).



Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

While the American Civil War began as a conflict focused around the preservation of the Union, it eventually transformed into a battle for human freedom. Abraham Lincoln personally viewed slavery as abhorrent, and about a year into the war, abolition had become a sound military strategy. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, stating that in all states still in rebellion as of January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves free.

While the Proclamation itself was an effective war measure, Lincoln recognized it might have no constitutional validity

once the war was over, meaning the legal framework of slavery would still exist. Lincoln and the Republican party then committed to creating a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery. By December 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified, which ensured that forever after "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States."

Treaty of Versailles, 1919

The signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919 officially ended World War I. The treaty was negotiated among the Allied powers, with little participation by Germany. The document was lengthy, consisting of 15 parts and 440 articles,

which reassigned German boundaries, assigned liability for reparations, and reduced Germany's armed forces to very low levels. Part I of the treaty created the Covenant of the New League of Nations, a diplomatic group created to solve disputes between countries before they escalated to war.

The 19th Amendment, 1920

The 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, giving women in the United States the right to vote for the first time in the nation's history. The women's suffrage movement actually began in 1848, but it would take another 50 years for Nineteenth Amendment to pass. This was the single largest extension of democratic voting rights in U.S. history, achieved peacefully, through democratic processes and set into action with the signing of one document.

Brown v. Board of Education, 1954

This milestone Supreme Court decision ended racial segregation of children in public schools, nearly 60 years after the "separate but equal" ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson. The decision, which found separation on the basis of race to be unconstitutional, served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s.

Obergefell v. Hodges, 2015

Another landmark civil rights Supreme Court case makes the list, with the ruling of Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015. The court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The ruling enforces the same terms and conditions, as well as all the accompanying rights and responsibilities, that apply to marriages of opposite-sex couples to apply also to the marriages of same-sex couples.

How the future of documents is transforming

The most important moments in history have been recorded, ratified, and overturned in documents, in one form or another. As technology continues to transform the way we document and consume information, it's safe to assume that documents—even in digital formats—will remain at the core of all decisions.

Part of that is dependent upon the change agents in our organizations—those who drive the transformations, including the shift to digital documents. Agents of change have always been here, working behind the scenes and questioning the way things work. Many of the history-altering documents above surely stemmed from the ideals of change agents. And today, these free-thinking, problem-solving, and inspirational innovators are still vital to pushing business forward as they question the status quo. Learn more about how real companies are transforming in our latest eBook, How Agents of Change transform business: A real-life guide to conquering obstacles.

By Kelli Blystone

Social and Blog Manager Conga

Culled From: <https://conga.com/resources/blog/10-documents-changed-history>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: TO IMPROVE COGNITIVE FUNCTION

1	R	2	O	3	C	4	K	5	Y
6	A	M	O	R	E				
7	J	A	M	E	S				
8	A	N	I	M	E				
		9	I	C	E	S			

ACROSS

- 1 Like some roads and relationships
- 6 Casanova's love
- 7 Chauffeur ordered to go "home"
- 8 Genre with large-eyed characters
- 9 Cousins of snow cones

DOWN

- 1 Indian royal
- 2 Dweller by the Strait of Hormuz
- 3 Clowing sort
- 4 Boston ___ (Dunkin' Donuts option)
- 5 One of two piles made by an RSVP counter

Source: www.washingtonpost.com

 **CHANGE OF NAME**
 **CHANGE OF NAME**
 PAGE ii

 **LOSS OF DOCUMENT**
 PAGE VII

 **COMPANY TRUSTEES**
 PAGE VIII

MAKAMA

I, formerly known as **MAKAMA JENIFER A** now wish to be called and addressed as **MAKAMA JENIFER AKKU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MARY

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

EMMANUEL

I, formerly known as **OWOICHO MARY EHI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **EMMANUEL MARY EHI** and my actual date of birth is 26-08-1996, and not 10-05-1986. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authority and general public take note.

ABDULKADIR

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

SHAMMAH

I, formerly known as **SHAMMAH ISAAC GIDEON** now wish to be called and addressed as **SHAMMAH GIDEON LIVINUS**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADAMU

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

EMMANUEL

I, formerly known as **OWOICHO MARY EHI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **EMMANUEL MARY EHI** and my actual date of birth is 26-08-1996, and not 10-05-1986. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authority and general public take note.

GAJIES

I, formerly known and addressed as **YUNANA GAJIES MOSES**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GAJIES MOSES**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note

OLEDIBE

I, formerly known as **MISS ESENAKIFE EDITH OROMBA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MISS OLEDIBE EDITH OGOCHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TIMOTHY

I, formerly known and called **EBONYI GLORIA OOJA**, Now wish to be known and called **TIMOTHY GLORIA OOJA**. All former documents remain valid. General public and bank to take note

ZINO

I, formerly known as **ADIAH MAUREEN** now wish to be called and addressed as **ZINO OKOGHO MAUREEN ADIAH**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

KAWAI

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

IKUVBOGIE

I, formerly known as **MISS AYESINGHAN, EBIDEGHABOFA CHRISTIANA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. IKUVBOGIE, EBIDEGHABOFA CHRISTIANA**. Please, all former documents still remain valid, general public take note.

SAMAILA

I, formerly known as **SARAYA ANYMUWA SAMUEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMAILA SARAYA ANYMUWA**. All former documents remain valid. GT BANK PLC, concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CYNTHIA

I, formerly known and addressed as **CYNTHIA CHINEMEREM UGWUEKE** now wish to be known and addressed as **CYNTHIA CHINEMEREM NWODO**. All former documents remain valid. General public and authorities concerned should please take note

SALIHU

I, formerly known as **SALIHU Y SALISU** now wish to be called and addressed as **SALIHU SALISU YAKUBU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

UMMI

I, formerly known as **UMMI BALA KOSAWA** now wish to be called and addressed as **UMMI AHMAD YARO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SAMAILA

I, formerly known as **SARAYA ANYMUWA SAMUEL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMAILA SARAYA ANYMUWA**. All former documents remain valid. GT BANK PLC, concerned authorities and the general public should please take note

BALA

I, formerly known as **GODIYA BALA** now wish to be called and addressed as **BALA GODWIN DOB : 02/02/1991**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

NKIRU

I, formerly known and called an **ONU NKIRU OKECHUKWU**. Henceforth wish to be known and called as **NKIRU OKECHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MARYAM

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

IREKPITA

I, formerly known and called as **UMOREN SPENCER COMFORT**. Henceforth wish to be known and called as **IREKPITA SPENCER COMFORT**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OCHEJA

I, formerly known as **ILEMONA SAM OCHEJA** now wish to be called and addressed as **OCHEJA MARY ILEMONA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

HAFSAT

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

ODIOBARA

I, formerly known as **JOHNSON CHARITY BLESSING WRONG DOB:10/9/1979** now wish to be called and addressed as **ODIOBARA BLESSING CHARITY CORRECT DOB: 10/2/1979**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME

THE LEGAL NOTICE OF LATE MR DANIEL SOLOMON IN THE BLUEPRINT NEWSPAPER OF 29TH & 30TH JAN 2022 HAVE TWO APPLICANTS. THE SECOND APPLICANT, **MAGDALENE SOLOMON IS ALSO KNOWN AS MAGDALENE DAVID**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID CONCERNED AUTHORITIES SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

FALODUN

I, formerly known as **AGAEN ODUWE** now wish to be called and addressed as **FALODUN ODUWA COLLINS**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

RECONCILIATION OF NAME

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

CHRIS

I, formerly known as **ANIABI MERIT UGOCHI** now wish to be called and addressed as **CHRIS-NWANKIRE MERIT UGOCHI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

HARUNA

I, formerly known as **HARUNA YUNUSA SHABA & YUNUSA HARUNA S** now wish to be called and addressed as **HARUNA YUNUSA D.O.B: 01-01-1994 INSTEAD OF 01-05-1994**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SULEIMAN

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

JOHN

I, formerly known as **FRIDAY JOHN** now wish to be called and addressed as **JOHN FRIDAY OVEY**. My correct date of birth is 10-10-1996 and not 10-10-1994. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

AGIYI

I, formerly known as **SALIU MOHAMMED** now wish to be called and addressed as **AGIYI MOHAMMED AMBI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ABIGAIL

I, formerly known as **MARTHA DAVID** now wish to be called and addressed as **ABIGAIL DAVID**. My correct date of birth is 10-10-1992 and not 10-10-1988. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TUKURA

I, formerly known as **KAMALUDEEN DAHIRU USMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **TUKURA ABDULKARIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ONOJA

I, formerly known as **ONOJA ABAH**, now wish to be called and addressed as **ONOJA ABAH ALPHONSUS**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authority and general public take note.

ESTHER

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

AMADU

I, formerly known as **AHMADU JINGA ASSEL** now wish to be called and addressed as **AMADU JINGA ASSEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ABDULRAZAQ

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

ALIYU

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

DAHIRU

I formally known as **DAHIRU SANI** now wish to be called **DAHIRU MUHAMMAD** and my date of birth is 22/1/1995 not 1/1/1992 All FORMER DOCUMENT REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE take note.

AKUNA

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

BASHIR

I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD 10/12/1999** now wish to be called and addressed as **BASHIR JAFAR. 01/03/2002**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUSTAPHA

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

YAKUBU

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

WADATA

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

JUDITH

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

BENEDICT

I, formerly known as **ABAH CHRISTIANA BENEDICT** now wish to be called and addressed as **BENEDICT QUEEN ABAH**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ONUMA

I, formerly known as **OBETEN GLORY OKOI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **ONUMA GLORY**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUSBAHU

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

SANI

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

HABSATU

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

SULEIMAN

I, formerly known as **SULEIMAN USMAN IBRAHIM** now wish to be called and addressed as **SULEIMAN LADAN IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FARIDA

I, formerly known as **FARIDA A. SHUAIBU** now wish to be called and addressed as **FARIDA SHUAIBU ABDULKARIM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MADAKI

I, formerly known as **ONUMA PAULA IHUDIYA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MADAKI PAULA IHUDIYA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IYOGWOYA

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

OGUNDELE

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

IDRIS

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

OLOWO

I, formerly known as **ADEJOLA HANNAH ABOSEDE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **OLOWO HANNAH OLUWARANTIMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

GIFT

I, formerly known as **JOY DANIEL GEORGE** now wish to be called and addressed as **GIFT DANIEL GEORGE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. CHIDINMA

I, formerly known as **MISS. AKUBUO CHIDINMA JOY** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. CHIDINMA GEORGE-OKATA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

BALA

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

MRS AFOLABI

I formerly known and addressed as **MISS OGUNYEBI OLUBUNMI FUNMI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS AFOLABI, ADEMOLA OLUBUNMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note

SANI

I, formerly known as **SANI ADAMU A** now wish to be called and addressed as **SANI ADAMU ALHAJI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SHAFIU

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

FATIMA

I, formerly known as **FATIMA YAKUBU BELLO**, now wish to be called and addressed as **FATIMA YAKUBU MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

NSIKAN

I, formerly known as **TONYE SAMPSON**, now wish to be called and addressed as **NSIKAN UFOT SAMPSON**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. ASAMOLE

I, formerly known as **MISS. ONYEBUCHI FRANCIS CHINEMEREM**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. ASAMOLE FRANCIS CHINEMEREM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IKECHUKWU

I, formerly known as **IYKE FAVOUR**, now wish to be called and addressed as **IKECHUKWU FAVOUR AGBAKURWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

EKANEM

I, formerly known as **TOM MBOUTIDEM**, now wish to be called and addressed as **EKANEM, MBOSOWO CHRISTOPHER**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

DAVID

I, formerly known as **ELEMELE MIRIAM ILARISIGH**, now wish to be called and addressed as **DAVID MIRIAM ILARISIGH**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. PETER

I, formerly known as **MISS. CHUKWUMEZIE RITA CHIZOBA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. PETER CHIZOBA RITA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. WARDER

I, formerly known as **MISS. BEELA LUCY GIOBARI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. WARDER, LUCY GIOBARI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. ANUKAM

I, formerly known as **MISS. AMEH OGWA CHRISTIANA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. ANUKAM OGWA CHRISTIANA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. IMAOBONG

I, formerly known as **MISS. IMAOBONG ESHIET UMOHFIA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. IMAOBONG LOVETH ALLEN**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

UCHENNA

I, formerly known as **UCHE CHISOM EMMANUEL** now wish to be called and addressed as **UCHENNA CHISOM EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

That during the registration of my Bank Verification Number (BVN) and opening of my Bank Account, my name/date of birth was wrongly written as **OZIRIBGO NGOZI JOY/28th day of January, 1992** instead of **OZIRIBGO, NGOZI JOY/28th day of May, 1993**. That my correct name is **OZIRIBGO NGOZI JOY** and date of birth is 28th day of May, 1993. All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should take note.

MRS. EDE

I, formerly known as **OLUJOLA BLESSING OLUWANIFEMI**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. EDE BLESSING OLUWANIFEMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

THEOPHILUS

I, formerly known as **NNADI, GIFT**, now wish to be called and addressed as **THEOPHILUS, GIFT ONYINYECHI**. That my correct date of birth is 21st day of August 1995. All documents bearing my former name and date of birth remain valid general public should take note.

MRS. EKA

I, formerly known as **MISS. AGBOLECHI RITA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. EKA UJUNWA RITA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. AJURUNWO

I, formerly known as **MISS. WOSU, FAVOUR AURORA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. AJURUNWO FAVOUR AURORA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. NDAH

I, formerly known as **MISS. ELENDU TOCHUKWU** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. NDAH TOCHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. ANOZIE

I, formerly known as **MISS. MONG MARY KALU**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. ANOZIE MARY KALU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHUKWUEMEKA

I, formerly known as **CHUKWUEMEKA NWANAKA NDEDI** now wish to be called and addressed as **CHUKWUEMEKA NWANAKA HELINE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. ARIT

I, formerly known as **MISS. ARIT ASUQUO ESSIEN**. Now wish to be known as **MRS. ARIT ANIEKAN ETIM**. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public take note.

MONDAY

That my BVN details was wrongly captured as **MONDAY GIFT ONYEKACHI**. My correct name is **MONDAY GIFT**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAM

That my details was wrongly captured as **AMURUCHE, PRINCEO EKEOMA** on my BVN/ Bank. My correct name is **AMURUCHE, PRINCEWILL EKEOMA**. That **AMURUCHE, PRINCEO EKEOMA** is same person as **AMURUCHE, PRINCEWILL EKEOMA**. And my correct date of birth is 2nd. October. General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

That during the time of my NIN my name was wrongly capture as Nyejerika Obioma, that my correct name is Charlie, Happiness Aniekan, And my state of origin was wrongly capture as Rivers state instead of Akwa Ibom state

MRS. SULAIMON

I, formerly known as **OLASUNKANMI SHAKIRAT OLAWUMI** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. SULAIMON SHAKIRAT OLASUNKANMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**AKANDE**

That my name was wrongly written as **BISI AKANDE OMOWUMI**. Now wish to be known call and address as **AKANDE ADEBISI**. All former documents remain valid banks and general public take note.

BALARABE

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

AHMADU

I, formerly known as **AHMED IBRAHIM DATE OF BIRTH 05-6-1965** now wish to be called and addressed as **AHMADU SULEIMAN IBRAHIM DATE OF BIRTH 01-04-1969** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ZAINAB

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

MANSUR

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

AGWAI

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED SAFIYA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be called and addressed as **AGWAI SAFIYA MOHAMMED** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ALIYU

I, formerly known as **YUSHA'U HASSAN**, now wish to be called and addressed as **ALIYU MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

FELIX

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

JUSTINA

I, formerly known as **JUSTINA ANIFIOK FRIDAY** now wish to be called and addressed as **JUSTINA ANIFIOK EFIK** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

EMMANUEL

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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MASS BURIAL

Authorities of the **SACRED HEART HOSPITAL LANTORO ABEOKUTA OGUN STATE** wish to inform the general public that, there will be a mass burial for all unknown and unclaimed bodies in its mortuary within the next **TWENTY ONE** days of this publication. It is the routine measure to decongest the Hospital's mortuary. These bodies have been in the morgue for varying periods ranging from one to 5 years. The Hospital is therefore, using this announcement to once again urge families who have the bodies of their relatives in our mortuary to come for them. Thank you.

EMENIKE

I, formerly known as **CHINWEZE PATIENCE CHIOMA** now known as **EMENIKE PATIENCE JANABA**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ADEGBOYEGA

I, formerly known as **SURNAME ADEGBOYEGA FIRST NAME: AMOS MIDDLE NAME: ADEBIBIGBE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SURNAME: ADEGBOYEGA FIRST NAME: ADEBIBIGBE MIDDLE NAME: AMOS DATE OF BIRTH 13/10/2004** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OLAJOJU

I, formerly known as **OLAJOJU OGUNMOLA, O. OGUNMOLA AND MOSES ELIZABETH OLAJOJU** now wish to be called and addressed as **OLAJOJU ELIZABETH MOSES**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ANYANWU

That ANYANWU JULIET CHIOMA AKUM, ANYANWU JULIET AKUM, JULIET ANYANWU, ANYANWU JULIET, ANYANWU JULIET C. AKUM, ANYANWU JULIET AKUM CHIOMA, ANYANWU JULIET A. C. and ANYANWU C. JULIET AKUM refer to one and same person. All documents bearing any of the said names remain valid. General public should take note.

ZAINAB

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

JUSTINA

I, formerly known as **JUSTINS NZETE** now wish to be called and addressed as **JUSTINA KONYENASUA ANYAMA** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

LAWAL

I, formerly known as **MAIBARKONO LAWAL SULEIMAN** now wish to be called and addressed as **LAWAL SALMANU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OKPANACHI

I, formerly known as **AWOYO TEMITOPE GRACE**. Due to marriage, I now wish to be known and addressed as **OKPANACHI TEMITOPE GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

YAKUBU

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

KHADIJA

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

YUSUF

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

MANYOU

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

OJOMUGBOKENYODE

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

FRANCO

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

MARK

That in my (BVN) Enrollment, my name and DOB was wrongly written as **PAUL MARK CHIBUZO** and 12/12/1991 instead of **MARK CHIBUZO PAUL** and 12/07/1992. That my correct name and DOB is **MARK CHIBUZO PAUL** and 12/07/1992. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

MRS. AMAJOR

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS NGWAKWE OGECHI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. AMAJOR OGECHI**. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general Public should take note.

MRS. OKORIE

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS EWUZIE CHIOMA PRECIOUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. OKORIE CHIOMA PRECIOUS**. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general Public should take note.

MOSES

I, formerly known as **BABAJI MANTARI DEPPE, OLD DATE OF BIRTH: 15/2/1981 & 3/4/1999** now wish to be called and addressed as **MOSES DEPPE MASHI, NEW DATE OF BIRTH: 1/9/1988** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OGOLEKWU

I, formerly known and addressed as **OJOMA GLORIA OGOLEKWU** now wish to be known and addressed as **OGOLEKWU OJOMA** All former document remain valid. Concern authorities and general public should to take note.

IBRAHIM

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **IBRAHIM DANMASUGARI**, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **IBRAHIM DAN MASUGARI**. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAINS VALID, BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

EMILIA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **EMILIA AYEOKPOM OKON**, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **EMILIA UKOT UKOT**. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAINS VALID, BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

JOHN

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **PRINCE DANIEL IKAN**, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN, CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS **JOHN DANIEL IKAN**. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAINS VALID, BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

AMINA

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

ONAH

I, formerly known as **ONAH AMBROSE KENECHI** now wish to be called and addressed as **ONAH KELECHI AMBROSE** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MUHAMMED

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED BABANJIDA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MUHAMMED BABANGIDA ALHAJI** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IBRAHIM

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

REMOVAL/ ADDITION OF NAME

I, formerly known as **IBE NNAMDI NNAMDI** on my National Identity Card (NIMC). Now, wish to be known and addressed as **IBE NNAMDI KINGSLEY** as written in my Documents. General public and NIMC should take note.

IWARISO

I, IWARISO AKEUTOOL EDWIN. That I am the bonafide owner of the under listed lost documents. NYSC Certificate in 2022, IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY of Education (BaEd 4) in English Education and (BED) in English and communication Arts in 2019. SSC Certificate Community Comprehensive Secondary school Okpden, 2015, FLSCE State Oghore, Abua central school 2009.

SAMUEL

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

ABDULGANIYU

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

MRS BETHEL

I, formerly known as **MISS ARIRIERI CHIOMA CONFIDENCE**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS BETHEL CHIOMA CONFIDENCE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS UZOMAH

I, formerly known as **MISS OBAJE MIRIAN CHINUOLUM**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS UZOMAH MIRIAN CHINUOLUM**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

OBIJURU

That my names was wrongly written as **BLESSING NNEOMA OBIJURU** instead of **OBIJURU CHINYERE BLESSING .N**. My date of birth was wrongly captured as 16th/11/1976 instead of 1st/01/1974. I wish to state that my correct names is **OBIJURU CHINYERE BLESSING .N**. All former document remains. The general public take note.

TSAROMAN

I, formerly known and addressed as **NWAZORMI MENE VICTOR** now wish to be known and addressed as **TSAROMAN VICTOR MENE**. All former document(s) remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME

This is to confirm that, **ECHIE EBUBECHI OKECHUKWU** and **ECHIE EBUBECHUKWU ROWLAND OKECHUKWU**, which appears in my various documents refer to one and same person but now wish to be known and addressed as, **ECHIE EBUBECHUKWU ROWLAND OKECHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

JOHN

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

HADIZA

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

NANKUR

I, formerly known as **NDAM NANBYEN** now wish to be known and addressed as **NANKUR NANBYEN**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MISS COKER

I, formerly known as **MISS COKER TITILAYO ANNABEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS JEREMIAH TITILAYO AYIWULU**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IRENE

I, formerly known as **YAKUBU ADEJO** now wish to be known and addressed as **IRENE YAKUBU ADEJO**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

CHRISTY

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

ANONGO

I, formerly known as **ANONGE MARTHA MARTHA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **ANONGO MYUEGA MARTHA** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MOMODU

I, formerly known as **MOMOH AGBOMEME WILLIAMS**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MOMODU AGBOMEME**. DOB is 18/1/1992 not 18/1/1991. Former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public should please take note.

ISIAKA

I, formerly known as **YUSUF JIMOH IBRAHIM**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ISIAKA SHERIF JIMOH**. Former documents remain valid. Authority concern and general public to pleased take note.

MRS JAMES

I, formerly known as **MISS ADEBOYE BASIRAT OMOWUNMI** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS JAMES BASIRAT OMOWUMI** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IORNEM

I, formerly known as **SOLOMON SEDOO VERA** now wish to be called and addressed as **IORNEM SEDOO VERA**. All former documents remain valid. First Bank and the General public should please take note.

PEACE

I, formerly known as **PEACE JOSEPH ESSIEN** now wish to be called and addressed as **PEACE GODSWILL URANG** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TYOKUMBA

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

ONYINYECHUKWU

I, formerly known as **ONYINYECHUKWU CHINAZA OKPARA** now wish to be called and addressed as **ONYINYECHUKWU CHINAZA AHUMIBE**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

NAZIRU

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

FAVOUR

I, formerly known as **FAVOUR CHINELO NNEJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **FAVOUR CHINELO AMANZE** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

GRACE

I, formerly known as **GRACE GINIKA NNEJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **GRACE GINIKA AMANZE** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MERCY

I, formerly known as **MERCY NKECHINYERE NNEJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **MERCY NKECHINYERE AMANZE** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

JOSHUA

I, formerly known as **JOSHUA SOMTOCHUKWU NNEJI** now wish to be called and addressed as **JOSHUA SOMTOCHUKWU AMANZE** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

JOSIAH

I, formerly known and called **OJERHGHAN ERONMHONBHENLE TIMOTHY**, Now wish to be known and called **JOSIAH ERONMHONBHENLE TIMOTHY**. All former documents remain valid. General public and bank to take note.

OLASINDE

I, formerly known as **OLASINDE TAIWO OYEKUNBI** now wish to be called and addressed as **OLASINDE TAIWO SAHEED**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ZAINAB

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

MRS. ESINEBASII

I, formerly known as **MISS ESINE GODSWILL JOSHUA**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. ESINEBASII CLEMENT AKPABIO**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

MRS IVEREN

I, formerly known as **MISS BLESSING IVEREN CHIA** now wish to be known as **MRS IVEREN BLESSING DZUNGWENEN**. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public to take note.

OKHAKUMEN

I, formerly known as **EWIGBE MARY ODEGUA**. Now wish to be known as **OKHAKUMEN MARY ODEGUA**. All former documents remain valid. All authorities concerned and general public please take note.

EIMIEHO

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **OKERE MEEKNESS CHIMEZURUM**. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **EIMIEHO MEEKNESS CHIMEZURUM**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

CHANGE OF NAME & CORRECTION DOB

I, formerly known as **CHUKWUOCHA LOVELYN CHIAMAKA** now wish to be called and addressed as **CYPRIAN LOVELYN CHIAMAKA OLD D.O.B 24/6/1978 NEW D.O.B 24/7/1978** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

EMMANUEL

I, formerly known as **YAKUBU HELIN** now wish to be called and addressed as **EMMANUEL HELEN** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CELESTINA

I, formerly known as **CELESTINA OKEOGHENE OMATE** now wish to be called and addressed as **CELESTINA OKEOGHENE OMATE-ABUTU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CHORBE

I, formerly known as **NICHOLAS MOURICE** now wish to be called and addressed as **CHORBE WUNGAK** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

YAHAYA

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

RABI

I, formerly known as **ALI RABI OSE** now wish to be called and addressed as **RABI OMAKU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

VOU

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

ABDULRAHMAN

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

YAU

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

OCHE

I, formerly known as **OCHE ADAKOLE MICHAEL** now wish to be called and addressed as **OCHE MICHAEL OGBADIBO** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ROSE

I, formerly known as **IRO ROSE UKAHA** now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS ROSE VICTOR KALU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

ZAINAB

I, formerly known as **ZAINAB BELLO G** now wish to be called and addressed as **ZAINAB IBRAHIM BASIT** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

I, **TYOKYASE GODWIN TERFA** wish to notify the general public that my correction of Date of birth is **23/8/1985** not 15/3/1985. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

MRS. RUTH

I, formerly known as **MISS. RUTH ILIYA. TABAT**, now wish to be called and addressed as **MRS. RUTH ONYEIYU** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

TYAV

I, formerly known as **PIRJA EUNICE TORKUMA** now wish to be called and addressed **TYAV EUNICE TORKUMA** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

IORNONGU

I, formerly known as **IORNONGU MOSES SAANDO** now wish to be called and addressed **IORNONGU MOSES AMOS** All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

SULEIMAN

I, formerly known as **S**

LEADERSHIP

Loss Of Document

EXOTIC DIAMOND BROTHERS CHARITY FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020

TRUSTEES (S):

1. Umeadi Chisom- Trustee/Chairman
2. Mbaezue Ikenna Oliver- Trustee
3. Ozoekwo Oluebube Victor- Trustee
4. Aroh Anthony Ebuka - Trustee/Secretary
5. Ugochukwu Precious Ekene - Trustee

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance charity and good works.
2. To ensure the good welfare of members.
3. To promote mutual understanding, interaction and close relationship among members.
4. To celebrate with and support members in events such as; wedding or traditional marriage, child dedications, birthday celebration, house warming and burial.

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**

MARKAZUL HIKMATIL QURANIYAH FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020

TRUSTEES

1. ABDULRAHEEM ABDUL-GANIU
2. AZEEZ SAMIAT AJOKE
3. JIMOH ISMAIL OLASUNKANMI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO FOSTER UNITY, GOODWILL, AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG MUSLIMS AND TO CULTIVATE TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, COLOR, GENDER, AGE OR BELIEFS. TO ESTABLISH FACILITIES OF LEARNING, WORSHIP, AND CARE SUCH AS CENTERS, MOSQUES, SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS, HOUSING AND LIBRARIES.
2. MARKAZUL HIKMATIL QURANIYAH SHALL BE ENGAGED IN TEACHING ARABIC AND ISLAMIC MORALS.
3. TO ESTABLISH THE TENETS OF ISLAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOLY QUR'AN. MARKAZUL HIKMATIL ILAHYIAH WILL EDUCATE MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM USING ALL HALAAL (LAWFUL) MEANS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CLASSES, LITERATURE, MAGAZINES, NEWSLETTERS, DISCUSSIONS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS.
4. TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A SPECIAL FUND TO AID THE POOR AND NEEDY.
5. TO PERFORM ANY OTHER HALAAL (LAWFUL) FUNCTIONS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION.
6. TO REFLECT THE BACKGROUND, TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE OF THE FOUNDATION AND PRIMARY MEMBERS IN ALL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.
7. TO OPERATE AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAWS OF NIGERIA.
8. TO ADOPT POSITIONS IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHT.

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 PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

OLORO CENTRAL MOSQUE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.

TRUSTEES

1. SANUSI IBRAHIM TUNDE. CHAIRMAN.
2. AMBALIYU IBRAHIM OLATUNJI. SECRETARY.
3. OJEKUNLE ABDULAZEEZ SHOLA. MEMBER
4. AROWOLO TOYIN RANTI. MEMBER.
5. YUSUF OLAJIMOH OWOENI. MEMBER.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. to observe five times daily prayers
2. to advance the islamic religion in mazamaza and its environs.
3. to observe jumuah weekly prayer.
4. to organise public lectures.
5. to engage in public celebration of religious festivals.
6. to organize and promote quranic education.
7. to assist the needy and the less privileged members

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 PUBLICATION.

Signed: **SECRETARY**

DJ ELECTRA CHARITY ORGANISATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE named has applied to the corporate affairs commission for CHANGE OF ITS TRUSTEES under part c of the company and allied matters ACT 1990

TRUSTEES:

1. FAITH STEVENS
2. LYNDA OCHUNU
3. MARYAM DICKSON (REMOVED)

No 3 should be replaced with ELENA WOOLHOUSE

1. FAITH STEVENS
2. LYNDA OCHUNU
3. ELENA WOOLHOUSE

Aims and objectives remain the same

Any objection to this APPLICATION should be forwarded to the registrar general corporate affairs commission plot 420 tigris crescent maitama abuja withing 28 days of this publication

Signed:
Lynda Ochunu
Secretary

MAISANDA SUSTAINABLE HEALTH INITIATIVE.

The general public is hereby informed that the above named organisation has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 2020.

TRUSTEES:

- 1). Hasaana Yakubu Maisanda
2. Wahama Iliya
3. Today Yakubu
4. Billison Agwala
5. Madeh Yakubu

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- (1) To reduce the rate of hardship among the people living with severe poverty by 50% before 2030.
- (2). To have qualitative and quantitative and protective education by 60% before 2030.
- (3) To have effective and consistent health care services through relief responses.
- (4). To provide relief services to people affected by disaster such as IDPs refugees, etc.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar -General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

CENTRE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITY CAC/IT/NO: 23286

This is to notify the general public that the above named, has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for Change of Trustees under part 'F' of Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1, MRS EZINWANYI KEN-AHIA | (RETAINED) |
| 2, MRS TITILOLA EDITH ADEBAYO | (RETAINED) |
| 3, MR OSAZE LANRE NOSAZE | (REMOVED) |
| 4, MR DAVID OBINNA ANYAELE | (RETAINED) |

NEWLY APPOINTED TRUSTEE:

1. OSANIFE CHUKS

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES REMAIN THE SAME

Any objection to this application, should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission Tigris Crescent, Maitama District, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

EZEAGU DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION SOKOTO

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the corporate affairs commission (CAC), Abuja for registration under part 'f' of companies and allied matters act, (CAMA 2020).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE INDIGENES OF EZEAGU LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE MEMBERS.
2. TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND PROTECT THE INTEREST OF MEMBERS.
3. TO LIAISE EFFECTIVELY WITH OUR PARENT BODY ENUGU STATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SOKOTO.

PARTICULARS OF TRUSTEES

1. MR CHIJIJOKE OBINNA CYRIACUS (CHAIRMAN)
2. MR OFFOR SUNDAY (SECRETARY, TRUSTEE)

EMAIL ADDRESS: lovethmorka00@gmail.com

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

OGIDI- ELA MUTUAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the corporate affairs commission (CAC), Abuja for registration under part 'f' of companies and allied matters act, (CAMA 2020).

TRUSTEES

- 1) THOMAS OLORUNDARE SUNDAY
- 2) OLUPEKA RECHAE BOSEDE.
- 3) IPINMISHO BABATUNDE OLUFEMI
- 4) AKANDE OLONIYON FELIX
- 5) MUNDI ASIAWU FUNMILAYO
- 6) IBILEKE ADEBAYO JOSEPH
- 7) IBETAN OMONIYI PAUL
- 8) OLADIMEJI EMMANUEL OLASANYA

AIMS

1. TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED AND NEEDY
2. TO EQUIP HEALTH CENTRES AND SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES.

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

PILLARS OF STRENGTH WOMEN INITIATIVE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT OF 2020

TRUSTEES

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| VERONICA NWANDU | - CHAIRMAN |
| ESTHER JOSHUA OBAJE | - SECRETARY |
| AISHA ALLOTEY | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET. PMB 198, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020 (CAMA)
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

JAMES BAY ENERGY NIGERIA LIMITED
RC: 1013286

(MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)
NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 641(2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the Final General Meeting of the above named Company will be held at 198A JDF OXIS STREET, VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS on the 24th day of March, 2023, for the purpose of laying before such meeting the final account of the company thereof.

Dated 21st Day of February, 2023

By order of the liquidator:


IDEAVOR ALODAYE ESQ.
Liquidator

Note: A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead, by completing and sending in a PROXY form in the usual form to the Liquidator at Suite 204a, 2nd Floor Samfa Plaza, Ndola Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, at least forty eight hours before the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020 (CAMA)
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

CRESTAR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED
RC: 1139067

(MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)
NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 641(2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the Final General Meeting of the above named Company will be held at 2, ORIFLUX CLOSE OSBORNE FORESHORE ESTATE IKOYI LAGOS on the 24th day of March, 2023, for the purpose of laying before such meeting the final account of the company thereof.

Dated 21st Day of February, 2023

By order of the liquidator:


IDEAVOR ALODAYE ESQ.
Liquidator

Note: A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead, by completing and sending in a PROXY form in the usual form to the Liquidator at Suite 204a, 2nd Floor Samfa Plaza, Ndola Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, at least forty eight hours before the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

OSIOYAANE CARE FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED FOUNDATION HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF COMPANY AND ALLIED MATTER ACT (CAMA) OF 2020, CAC/COM/2023/1676976492892.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| MICHAEL DESTINE MICHAEL | - PRESIDENT |
| AGBOGUN OLUKAYODE JOHN | - VICE PRESIDENT |
| TOYIN TEWOGBOLA INUKAN | - TREASURER |
| AGNES BIODUN AGBOGUN | - FINANCIAL SECRETARY |
| ADEBUTE ELIZABETH TUNRAYO | - DIRECTOR GENERAL. |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Fostering an inclusive, empowered society through humanitarian aid and allied services.
2. Provide humanitarian needs
3. Alleviate suffering, maintain human dignity, rendering humanitarian aid.
4. Provide support to children, adults who are poor or struggling economically, under-educated, orphans or mentally & physically challenged persons.
5. Engage in provision of relief materials to persons and communities in distress and/or natural disaster across Nigeria.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, AGUIYI IRONSI, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE PARTICIPATION IN MASSHOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WITHIN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY AND CONVEY THE APPROVAL OF GRANT OVER PLOT NO. 96, CADASTRAL ZONE D05 KARSANA NORTH WITH FILE NO. MISC 117973 MEASURING APPROPRIATELY 77176.97SQM WITH DATE OF OFFER : 5/31/2012, BEARING **AM - PM GLOBAL NETWORK LIMITED .**

ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE SAID MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION, (FCTA), ABUJA. CONCERNED AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

AKPAKIP ORO YOUTH UNITY FORUM

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA, FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE :

1. MOSES EDWARD ABIA.
2. BASSEY KINGSLEY EFIONG.
3. EKPO OKON EFFIONG.
4. AKAN PRINCE ENYENIHI.
5. ENYONGEKERE EMMANUEL OKON.
6. ISAAC NDUONYI ETIM.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

TO CREATE SENSE OF COOPERATION, INTEGRATION AND UNITY AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY.

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 PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY.**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THE MISSING OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY BELONGING **MATO MOHAMMED 'M'** OF ENG'S OFFICE S.D.B.BAUCHI STATE. HE DISCOVER THAT HIS C OF O NO.BA/7108,GOT MISSING. ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE SAID C OF O PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND PLEASE RETURN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION OR BAUCHI STATE MINISTRY OF LAND AND SURVEY. ALL AUTHORITY CONCERN AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

**DOXA CITY OF WONDERS' INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP MINISTRY**

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED INITIATIVE HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT (CAMA) 2020

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. SUNDAY ADAKOLE AUGUSTINE
2. LUKA SOLOMON ALU
3. SULEIMAN RAKIYA MAZADU

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO PREACH AND TEACH THE TOTAL GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD TO THE TOTAL MAN
2. TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN LOCAL CHURCHES BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE NIGERIA FOR THE PREACHING AND TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD
3. TO BUILD, ESTABLISH AND/OR MAINTAIN BIBLE AND THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS/COLLEGES, SECULAR SCHOOLS AND OTHER CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FREE TRAINING OF CHRISTIANS AND OTHER INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS
4. TO TRAIN, LICENSE, ORDAIN, SEND OUT OR ACCEPT MISSIONARIES, PASTORS AND CHRISTIAN WORKERS
5. TO ASSIST WIDOWS, ORPHANS AND LESS PRIVILEGE PEOPLE IN THE SOCIETY, BY PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP, FREE EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI WAY MAITAMA FCT ABUJA, WITHIN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

INCORPORATED TRUSTEE NAME ENUGU CHRISTIAN WORSHIP CENTER

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE LIST OF TRUSTEES ARE:

- 1) UGWU ALPHONSUS ONYEMA (CHAIRMAN)
- 2) MICHAEL ONYIA (SECRETARY)
- 3) EZE CHIDIEBERE ANTHONY
- 4) UGWU KENECHUKWU CHIBUZO
- 5) OKECHUKWU HENRIETTA OBIAGELI
- 6) OKOYE JOYCE
- 7) ONUIGBO ANTHONY.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
- 2) TO ESTABLISH CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN CENTRES
- 3) TO ENGAGE IN EVANGELISM AND WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST
- 4) TO ESTABLISH BIBLE SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE TRAINING OF MINISTERS AND EVANGELISTS.
- 5) TO DO SUCH OTHER LAWFUL THINGS THAT ARE INCIDENTAL TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI WAY MAITAMA FCT ABUJA, WITHIN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

OLUKAYODE ADELEKE FOUNDATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED ASSOCIATION HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER "PART F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. OLUKAYODE ADELEKE (CHAIRMAN)
2. ADELEKE OTIBHOR BUSAYO (SECRETARY)
3. FRANKA EBI ADELEKE
4. OSEMUDIAME IBUKUN ADELEKE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND OR ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
2. TO PROVIDE SKILLS ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND HEALTH FACILITIES FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
3. TO SUPPORT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI WAY MAITAMA FCT ABUJA, WITHIN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **CHAIRMAN.**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, REV. EMMANUEL BASSEY SHEKWONYA ON BEHALF OF ECWA CHURCH LOCATED AT PLOT 420, ZONE A, GARKI, NEW TOWN, GARKI DCC SECRETARIAT, APO RESETTLEMENT FCT, ABUJA, WISHTO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF THE CHURCH ALLOCATION TITLE BEARING **ECWA CHURCH GARKI PLOT 420, ZONE A GARKI NEW TOWN, FCT, ABUJA**, SOMETIMES IN JANUARY 2023. ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE, CONCERNED AUTHORITIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

QSR CONSULT LIMITED (RC NO: 1165085) IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING - UP

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING OF QSR CONSULT LIMITED IN WINDING UP PROCESS PURSUANT TO SECTION 631 AND 641 OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FINAL MEETING OF **QSR CONSULT LIMITED A COMPANY** IN THE COURSE OF WINDING UP, WILL BE HELD AT THE COMPANY'S PREMISES PLOT H BLOCK 3, OSHODI/OWORONSOKI EXPRESS WAY, ILUJEJU, LAGOS ON THE 27 TH DAY OF MARCH, 2023 AT 10AM IN THE FORENOON. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO RECEIVE THE FINAL REPORT OF THE LIQUIDATOR, TO APPROVE THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE LIQUIDATOR AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LIQUIDATOR TO DISTRIBUTE THE REMAINING ASSETS OF THE COMPANY TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

ALL SHAREHOLDERS ARE HEREBY INVITED IN PERSON OR BY PROXY. ANY SHAREHOLDER WHO WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING BY PROXY SHOULD COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY FORM TO THE LIQUIDATOR NOT LATER THAN MONDAY MARCH 20, 2023.

THE LIQUIDATOR'S FINAL REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE LIQUIDATOR WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY SHAREHOLDERS AT THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY ON MONDAY MARCH 20, 2023, AND COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED BY ANY PERSON ENTITLED TO ATTEND UPON REQUEST.

DATED THIS 23 RD OF FEBRUARY 2023 BY ORDER OF THE LIQUIDATOR

BEMIGHO OLURANTI ELIJAH LIQUIDATOR

ENCLOSURES:
PROXY FORM LIQUIDATOR'S FINAL REPORT FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE LIQUIDATOR

DIVINE ENVOYS OF REVIVAL MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED MINISTRY HAS APPLIED TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. EGONU CHIDI (PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN)
2. CHIDI-EGONU ELIZABETH.
3. CHIMDALU PAUL EGONU.
4. CHIMEMKA CHRYSOLYTE EGONU. (SECRETARY)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. TO PROPAGATE THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.
2. TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI, STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ONE **NAFIU OLAWALE** OF IDU ABUJA REPORTED THE LOSS OF HIS ORIGINAL ROFO DOCUMENT OF **PLOT NO. 568 DAKIBIYU CADASTRAL ZONE B10, ABUJA** MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 6500SQM GOT MISSING AND ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE MISSING DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND KINDLY CONTACT ANY NEAREST POLICE STATION. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

LOSS OF ORIGINAL TITLE DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF ORIGINAL LETTER OF OFFER OF TERMS OF GRANT/CONVEYANCE OF APPROVAL AND TDP GRANTED TO **ASTAJAM PROPERTIES LTD.** WITH RESPECT TO FILE NO: **MISC / 2237, PLOT NO 2 KARU DISTRICT, FCT ABUJA.** PLEASE IF FOUND IT SHOULD BE TAKEN TO AGIS OR NEAREST POLICE STATION. SIGNED DR FATI AKILU .

LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT **(OBA APPROVAL & SURVEY PLAN)** THE PROPERTY ADDRESS NO. 7 ADAKPO CLOSE OFF ETETE ROAD, GRA BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA. BELONGING TO **MRS. EMILY OBIALOR NEE: OTABOR.** ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE DOCUMENT PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND KINDLY RETURN IT TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

WHARF 302 PRODUCTS AND BEVERAGES ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAME HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART F OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. MR ADEYEMI EMMANUEL BAMIDELE
2. MR ADENIJI JOHNNY OLOSOLA
3. MR AKPAN UDOH FELIX
4. MR MOHAMMED ALI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. ASSOCIATION OF DRIVERS AIM AT CREATING AWARENESS ON THE DANGERS OF CARRYING FOOD AND BEVERAGES WITH OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCE
2. AN ASSOCIATION WHICH PROVIDE AWARENESS PROGRAM TO ITS MEMBERS THROUGH EDUCATION ON THE NEED FOR HEALTHY MOVEMENT OF EDIBLE AND NON EDIBLE PRODUCTS
3. THE ASSOCIATION SHALL PROVIDE ADVICE TO ITS MEMBERS WITH IDEAS, PLANS, STRATEGY, ADVICE, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS ON THE LOGISTIC OF FOOD PRODUCT.
4. TO CATER FOR THE WELFARE OF ITS MEMBERS ESPECIALLY THE VICTIMS OF TANKER/TRUCK DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT
5. TO SENSITIZE ITS MEMBERS ON THE HYGIENE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES BEING CARRIED WITH UNHEALTHY SUBSTANCES OR PRODUCT THAT IS UNHEALTHY.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION

SIGN: **ADENIJI JOHNNY OLOSOLA**

ALMUNTARZAR ISLAMIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ORGANISATION HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER "PART F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.

TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ABBA MUHAMMAD SHEHU (CHAIRMAN)
2. MUHAMMAD MALA BUKAR (VICE CHAIRMAN)
3. MUHARI USMAN (SECRETARY GENERAL)
4. ABBA TOR UMAR (FINANCIAL SECRETARY)
5. ALHAJI MOHAMMED BUKAR (TREASURER)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. IS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE, REDUCING VULNERABILITIES, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES
2. PROVIDE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TARGETED SOCIAL COHESION TO HELP THEM REGAIN THEIR DIGNITY AND REDUCE THEIR RELIANCE ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.
3. CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS REDUCING VULNERABILITY AND IMPROVING THE PROTECTION AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
4. TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH ACCESS TO EDUCATION, PEACE, AND STABILITY.
5. TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER HUMANITARIAN/DEVELOPMENTAL PARTNERS' EFFORTS IN TACKLING THE GRASSROOTS CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND CRISIS.
6. TO PARTNER WITH THE GOVERNMENT, INGOS, NGOS, AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL/HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

GOD'S OWN MINISTRY PROPHETIC ADORATION SOLUTION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT (CAMA) 2020.

NAMES OF TRUSTEES

1. OKORONKWO MONDAY NKEMJIKA - CHAIRMAN
2. OKORONKWO UZOAMAKA PROMISE - SECRETARY
3. PATRICK GRACE OLUCHI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST
2. TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

ANY OBJECTION(S) TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR- GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

LEE CHARITY FOUNDATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE TRUSTEE ARE:

1. ALIYU FARUK - CHAIRMAN
2. MURTALA SANI DANALHAJI - SECTARY
3. ABUBAKAR FARUK SHEHU - MEMBER

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. HELPING THE LESS PRIVILEGE PERSONS WITHING AND OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY
2. LIFTING PEOPLE
3. PUTTING SMILES ON FACES OF THE NEEDY

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY.**

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(s) 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
ALHAJI AHMED BABALE OF ZARIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Who died on 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2002 AT HAJI GAMBOSAWABA HOSPITAL ZARIA	SHAFIU .A. BABALE AND ABDULKADIR AHMED OF NO 139 KWARBAI ZARIA CITY LAWFUL SON AND BROTHER
SIGNED: MURTALA JAAFARU ZUBAIRU (ESQ) PROBATE REGISTRAR	

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(s) 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
SALE BIU OF NO 13 WANZAM ROAD KWARU BADARAWA KADUNA, Who died on 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022 AT 44 NIGERIAN ARMY REFERENCE HOSPITAL KADUNA	MUHAMMED SALE AND SULEIMAN SALE OF NO 13, WANZAM, ROAD KWARU BADARAWA, KADUNA LAWFUL SONS.
SIGNED: MURTALA JAAFARU ZUBAIRU (ESQ) PROBATE REGISTRAR	

LEADERSHIP[®] Company Trustees

KUDAN FOUNDATION FOR ZAKAT AND WAKAF

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'F' OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. SHUAIBU BAWA JAJA | -CHAIRMAN |
| 2. ABUBAKAR SANI | |
| 3. ABDULLAHI MUAZU | |
| 4. AUWAL IBRAHIM | |
| 5. DANLAMI IBRAHIM | |
| ABUBAKAR SANI | -TRUSTEES AND SECRETARY |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IN KUDAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
- TO REAWAKENING THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AMONG MUSLIMS IN KUDAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
- TO RETURN ZAKAT, INFAQ AND WAKAF TO IT RIGHT POSITION IN ISLAM
- TO CREATE A CREDIBLE CHANNAL OF DISTRIBUTION OF ZAKAT, INFAQ AND WAKAF
- TO ENSURE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH FOR EMPOWERMENT OF LESS PRIVILEGED ONES.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

PRU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED 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. SANI JAURO | - CHAIRMAN |
| 2. AHMAD SANI JAURO | - SECRETARY |
| 3. ALTINE ABUBAKAR JAURO. | |
| 4. ZAINAB GITAL HASHIM | |
| 5. ABUBAKAR SANI JAURO | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO MEET UP WITH MODERN DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AMENITIES.
- TO PROMOTE COMMUNITIES VOICES AND THEIR CAPACITY TO REDUCE VIOLENCE, IN PARTICULAR BY WORKING WITH DISADVANTAGED WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.
- TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL SYSTEM TO SUPPORT PEACE AND ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICTS.
- TO WORK WITH PARTNERS TO BUILD RESILIENCE, IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY AND STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL IMPACT.
- TO PROVIDE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, LIVELIHOOD AND GENDER/ SOCIAL INCLUSION.
- TO DO ALL SUCH OTHER THINGS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED INCIDENTAL OR CONDUCTIVE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES OR ANY OF THEM.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA, WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

BLESSED FIRE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'F' OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- BATURE JIDONA DANLADI - CHAIRMAN
- IBRAHIM SARAH RAMATU - SECRETARY
- TANKO GABRIEL NYAM

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO PURSUE DIVINE AND NOBLE TRANSFORMATION OF LIVES VIA BIBLE BASE PREACHING AND TEACHING.
- TO STEADILY INCULCATE BIBLE SEEDS FOR HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND NOBILITY.
- TO PURSUE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE, EVANGELISM, CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES
- TO DISARM AND DEPOPULATE THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS
- TO RAISE MORE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, P.M.B 198, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

MUVA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED ASSOCIATION HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- MOHAMMED DATCHU MUVA
- CHAGWA ANDRAWUS SIMON
- BULAMA YAKUBU
- TSAKR ANDY GIWA
- PAUL PHILEMON WAMBANI
- JOSEPH WAKILI MADA
- GADZAMA LUKA SAMUEL

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO CARRY OUT VIABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO STIMULATE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MUVA COMMUNITIES.
TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CATER FOR THE LESS PRIVILEGED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.
TO FOSTER LOVE, JUSTICE, UNITY AND PROGRESS IN MUVA COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP AMONG MEMBERS.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

EDIFICE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACTS, (CAMA) 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| ADAMA SAMUEL GODFREY | - CHAIRMAN |
| ADAMA JOHNSON GODFREY. | |
| EMMANUEL GABRIEL ADEYI | - SECRETARY |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- TO RAISE PEOPLE WITH GENUINE LOVE FOR GOD AND HIS KINGDOM.
TO BUILD AND TRAIN KINGDOM AGENTS THAT WILL EXTEND THE INFLUENCE OF CHRIST IN ALL ASPECT OF HUMANITY.
TO REPRESENT AND RAISE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD'S KINGDOM GLOBALLY

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **CHAIRMAN.**

HASSANATUL KHAIR UNDER PRIVILEGED & ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'F' OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, (CAMA 2020).

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. SHUAIBU UMAR TANKO | - CHAIRMAN |
| 2. MUHAMMAD HASSANA | - SECRETARY |
| 3. TAVARE LAWAL TAGALI | |
| 4. UMAR ALIYU | |
| 5. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL | |
| 6. MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR | |
| 7. MUHAMMAD IKILIMA | |
| 8. BARAU IBRAHIM | |
| 9. SANI ABDULLAHI SAIDU | |
| 10. YAU IMRANA | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- TO MENTOR AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE YOUTH.
- TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR ORPHAN, WIDOWS, AND LESS PRIVILEGED IN THE SOCIETY
- TO EMPOWER AND CREATE SUSTAINABLE IMPACT THROUGH SKILL ACQUISITION
- TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: **SECRETARY.**

Top 9 Legal Documents You Need to Start Your Business

You would be surprised how few businesses actually get the most fundamental legal documents in place before starting up. However, having the right documents in place when you start is essential to your business's success.

What are the most important legal documents needed?

There are nine fundamental legal documents you need to have in place before going into business. This article discusses each of these documents separately and explains why they are important to your business's success.

1. Business Plan

Almost every business needs a little funding to get started. A business plan can help you attract the investment you need and is usually a requirement when you seek finance. When you are creating your business plan, you should be sure of three things: The problem you want to solve, How you plan to solve it, Why your business is best suited to solve this problem. A business plan, is a structured way to present this information and should cover everything a potential investor would want to know, chiefly:

who manages your business,
your products or services,
your marketing and sales strategy,
what you need to operate effectively,
your target market and how you plan to reach it,
what risks there are in the market in which you operate,

rate, and
how your products or services will be delivered to your customers.

In short, your business plan is a clear statement of why you need the money, how it will be spent and how it will be earned back. This way, your potential investors can swiftly make an informed decision whether or not to invest in your business.

Use our business plan template to create your business plan now.

2. Partnership Agreement

Starting a business is often easier when you do it with a partner with whom you can share responsibilities and split the startup costs. On the other hand, there are many issues that can arise from a business partnership, whether it is between two individuals or more.

Therefore, everyone involved needs to understand the terms of your partnership and agree to them ahead of time. Otherwise, legal disputes may arise, which are always a drain on business resources and from which most business startups will not recover.

By addressing the following issues, a partnership agreement will allow you to clearly define the terms of your partnership and avoid costly legal problems in the future:

The names of the partners

The duration of the partnership
Each partner's contributions to the business in terms of money, land, or business equipment

The division of labor and authority
How new partners may be added, if necessary
What happens to the business when a partner dies or otherwise leaves the partnership

While there are no formal requirements for entering into a partnership agreement, certain steps must be taken to comply with registration, filing, and tax requirements. Check with your local Secretary of State's office for more information.

Use our partnership agreement template to create your partnership agreement now.

3. LLC Operating Agreement

Setting up your business as a limited liability company (LLC) offers some advantages that are not available to sole proprietors or partnerships. These advantages relate mostly to limiting personal liability as much as possible. However, there are also significant cash flow and tax advantages, which make operating your business as an LLC even more attractive.

You can form an LLC easily enough. Just go to your local Secretary of State's website and file your articles of organization, which are usually pretty straightforward and easy to do. However, if your LLC has two or more owners, you will want to create a limited liability company operating agreement to define how your LLC will operate and how it should be taxed.



State laws (and the IRS) have established a variety of standard rules and regulations by which you must operate your LLC. With an operating agreement, you can adjust or customize some of these rules and regulations and set a standard for the way you want your business to operate.

Your operating agreement is critically important to your LLC as it defines, amongst other things:

the individuals who own your LLC, how it's going to be managed (who's in charge), each owner's responsibilities and obligations, and whether it should be taxed as a partnership or S corporation.

If you file your articles of organization with the state, but do not create an operating agreement, you may be open to financial liability and civil penalties if someone sues you or you are audited by the IRS.

Use our LLC operating agreement template to create the agreement that you need.

4. Buy/Sell Agreement

In today's competing business environment, small businesses and startups cannot afford to have any problems. One thing that often causes a tremendous amount of problems for a business is the lack of a buy/sell agreement.

A buy/sell agreement is an agreement between a minimum of two parties, such as a business and its owners (and their heirs) and is useful in the following situations:

Business relationships change all the time. You or your partner may choose to leave the business, or a new partner can be brought on board. A buy/sell agreement sets the arrangements up in advance and makes the transition easier on everyone involved.

At some point, you or your partner may want to re-

tire, or one of you may pass away suddenly. If you have an heir, you may want to pass your business on to them. A buy/sell agreement can help you plan ahead and determine:

what will happen to the business when this happens; and whether or not the heir will be able to become a new partner or be required to sell their part of the business.

It will also determine ahead of time the price for which a share of the business can be sold, thereby reducing stress and headaches for all parties.

Situations in your personal life can affect your business as well. You or a partner can get divorced or declare personal bankruptcy. A buy/sell agreement can predetermine the business arrangements should one of these situations arise and can protect everyone from the legal complications involved.

If you or your partner becomes ill or gets injured, you may no longer be able to work or contribute to the business. Creating a mechanism by which the remaining partners can buy you out quickly can be beneficial. Often, this is facilitated by taking out an insurance policy on each partner in your business. This insurance will cover the financial cost of buying back that partner's share of the business if and when that person becomes critically ill or passes away.

5. Employment Agreement

Anytime you have an employee or someone who is doing work for your business, you have an employment contract. It may be oral or implied, but there is a contract.

However, in the absence of a written agreement, the terms of the employment are subject to miscommunication and misunderstanding.

A written employment agreement can clarify what is expected of both employee and employer and help to avoid future conflict by addressing important aspects of the employment arrangement such as:

wages and other compensation, benefits, duties and responsibilities, working hours, position, confidentiality, non-solicit and non-compete clauses, and termination and notice period. Other advantages of having a written employment agreement are as follows:

It provides clarity as to the terms of the employment. It provides a mechanism by which each party can negotiate the terms of the employment arrangement. It can also be used as a means of protecting particular trade secrets, copyrighted material, and other confidential information by means of a confidentiality clause.

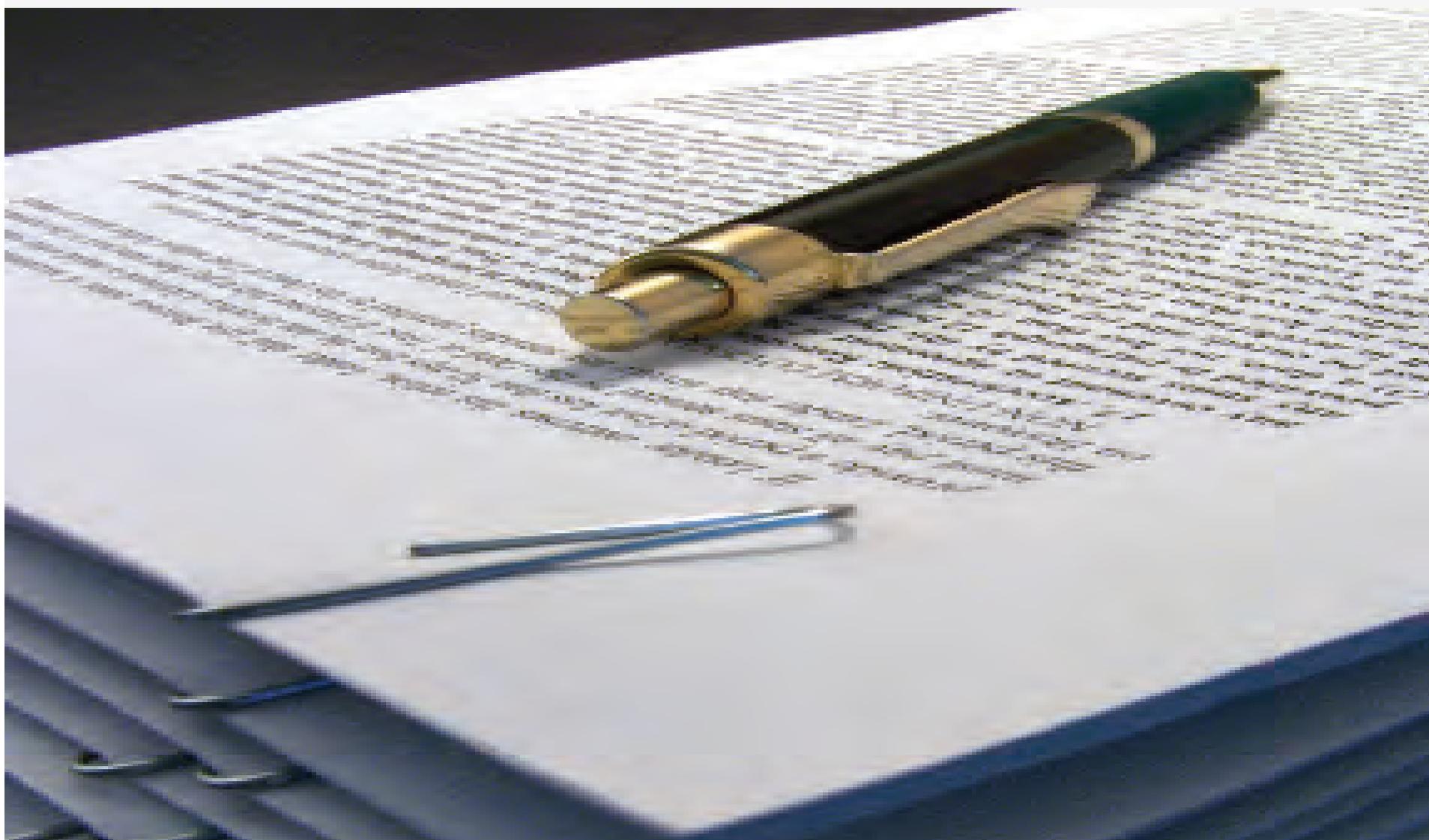
It can be referred to in the future when there is a dispute over any aspect of the employment arrangement such as an employee's duties or notice of termination. It creates a formal relationship and solid foundation between the employer and the employee, as well as a sense of stability and security for both parties. Use our employment agreement template to create your employment agreement right now.

6. Employee Handbook

Regardless of how large or small, running your business without policies and guidelines will be challenging. Having a well-written employee handbook can be extremely beneficial in communicating to your employees their rights and obligations as employees of your company.

Furthermore, an employee handbook can lay out your workplace dos and don'ts and help to establish the relationship between you and your employees.

Business owners are also required to inform their employees of certain rights and obligations as mandated by state and federal regulations. Having these regulations communicated through your employee hand-





book can help you meet these obligations and avoid civil fees and penalties.

A well-written employee handbook should cover topics related to the following issues:

- Employment at-will
- Anti-discrimination
- Harassment
- Compensation
- Benefits
- Leave
- Work schedule
- Standards of conduct
- Employee discipline
- Safety and security
- Equal employment opportunities
- Employee acknowledgment and receipt of the handbook

Your employee handbook will allow you to avoid misunderstandings between you and your employees that can potentially lead to lawsuits. For this reason alone, you should make an employee handbook a business priority and not wait until you are sued to create one.

Use our employee handbook template to create your custom handbook today.

7. Non-Disclosure Agreement

Every business needs to be concerned with protecting its competitive advantage. This means ensuring that whatever proprietary information you share with your employees or business partners will not become public.

A non-disclosure agreement (also known as a confidentiality agreement) can help you protect your business practices and intellectual property, such as trade secrets, from getting into the hands of your competitors.

Non-disclosure agreements prohibit an employee or business partner from disclosing confidential and proprietary information belonging to the company.

Before sharing any confidential information with your employees, you should put your confidentiality expectations in writing so that your employees understand both the duties and privileges of having access to this knowledge.

If an employee breaches your non-disclosure agreement, they may be sued for damages to compensate your business for any lost profits.

Use our non-disclosure agreement template to create your agreement online in just minutes.

8. Non-Compete Agreement

These days, more businesses are requiring non-compete agreements and other restrictive covenants for both their existing employees and new hires. In competitive industries, these agreements, when well drafted, can help a business protect its proprietary and confidential information.

Non-compete agreements typically restrict an employee's ability to work for a competing business within a specified geographic area, for a specified length of time.

For example, a person who is bound by a non-compete agreement and quits their job in Dallas might be restricted from working for a competing firm in Texas for up to two or three years.

The rules governing non-compete agreements vary from state to state, but most state courts will enforce a non-compete agreement if it is valid and reasonable.

When determining if an agreement is valid, one of the factors the court will look for is the existence of a bargain for promise or performance.

This bargain for promise or performance is referred to as consideration, and the general rule, with respect to new hires, is that consideration may exist if an employee enters into a non-compete agreement when he or she is initially hired. In other words, the employer's promise to compensate the employee for his or her work may be sufficient consideration.

In contrast, requiring an existing employee to enter into a non-compete agreement may require additional consideration, such as an increase in wages, a promotion, or a bonus. Courts do not find continued at-will employment to be sufficient consideration.

A non-compete agreement signed by an existing employee may be unenforceable where there is no extra benefit to the employee for signing the agreement.

To determine if such restrictions are reasonable, three

fundamental questions must be asked:

Are the restrictions necessary to protect the business or goodwill of the employer?

Do the restrictions impose greater restraint upon the employee than is reasonably necessary to protect the business or its goodwill?

Will the public suffer from the loss of the employee's services or skills?

How and whether you should use a non-compete agreement are not simple questions. If you are considering the use of a non-compete agreement, consult with an attorney who has knowledge of employment law in your area.

Use our non-compete agreement template to create your non-compete agreement now.

9. Terms of Service/Privacy Policy

Terms of service and privacy policies are two of the most commonly prepared legal documents today. They govern the terms and conditions for using a business's website or mobile application.

As the name suggests, a terms of service policy, also referred to as a terms of use policy, is literally a set of terms by which a visitor can use your business's website or mobile application.

Similarly, a privacy policy tells a user how you will use the data and information that is collected from them whenever they visit your website or use your mobile application.

There are three fundamental reasons why you need to have a terms of service and privacy policy in place:

Online Payments – If you do not have a terms of service or privacy policy, you may not be able to get a payment gateway for your website or mobile application. As a result, you will not be able to accept payments online.

Trust – Most customers will not want their information shared with others under any circumstances whatsoever, and they will not be able to trust you with their information and business if you don't have these policies in place. A privacy policy is essential if you want users to feel comfortable using your website.

Security – You as a business will not be able to take action against a user who misbehaves on your website, for example by hacking or posting offensive, pornographic, or abusive content on your site. Use our customizable privacy policy template and terms of service template to create the legal documents that you need for your business.

Conclusion

Whether your business is large or small, a general partnership, a limited company, or a corporation, having the right legal documents in place when you start can be a huge advantage.

The right legal documents can help you avoid many of the problems that derail new businesses before they get a foothold on the market.

Furthermore, they will allow you to comply with federal and state regulations, and avoid misunderstandings and disputes that can drain your business of its resources and lead to expensive lawsuits.

Culled From: <https://www.legalnature.com/guides/top-9-legal-documents-you-need-to-start-your-business>

NDLEA Raids Edo Forest, Destroys 7,286kgs Of Illegal Drugs

BY EJIKE EJIKE, ABUJA

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), have stormed the Ujiogba Forest Reserve in Esan West LGA, Edo State where they destroyed 7,286 kilograms (72.86 tons) of warehoused skunk and five hectares of its plantation.

NDLEA spokesperson, Femi Babafemi said the special operation carried out on Wednesday February 22, 2023, followed credible intelligence that some cartels had warehoused hundreds of jumbo bags of the illicit substance inside the thick forest of the reserve for distribution to some states ahead of the general election.

He said the operation could however not go on immediately until after several road blocks set up by armed guards of the drug lords were cleared and they were overpowered by the superior firepower of Strike Force officers of the agency in a gun duel.

The NDLEA said after the initial resistance, two rifles, spent cartridges of short guns and an empty shell of AK47 rifle were recovered while a 24-year-old suspect, Calvary Essien, was arrested.

Ugochinyere Petitions FG, UK, US, EU Over Attempt On Life

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISAIAH, Abuja

Spokesperson of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP), Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere has dragged the Imo State governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma before federal authorities in Abuja and foreign missions over assassination attempts on his life.

Also dragged along are the commissioner of police, Imo State Command, Mohammed Ahmed Barde, and the chief personal security officer to the governor, Superintendent of Police Adamu Shaba Gboyako.

In petitions signed by Ugochinyere, the three men were dragged before President Muhammadu Buhari, the National Security Adviser, the Inspector General of Police and the Police, and also to foreign missions including the United States, United Kingdom and the European Union.

In the petition, the CUPP spokesperson accused the Imo State governor, the commissioner of police in Imo State and the chief personal security officer to the governor of being responsible for the attack on his house.

Enugu Lawyers Boycott Courts Over Murder Of LP Senatorial Candidate

BY NNAMDI MBAWIKE, Enugu

Lawyers and judges in the five branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Enugu State boycotted court sittings yesterday to express their anger over the gruesome killing of a former chairman of the association and senatorial candidate of Labour Party (LP) for Enugu East senatorial district, Elder Oyibo Chukwu.

The LP senatorial candidate and his assistant were on Wednesday night shot dead by gunmen in a white Hilux van at Eke-Otu Amechi-Awkunanaw Enugu, and were set ablaze in his vehicle by the assailants.

Angered by the killing of the lawyer, the five branches of the Nigerian Bar Association in the state yesterday gave security agencies in the state 48 hours to fish out the perpetrators or wait actions from all lawyers in the state.

It was observed that no court at the State High Court Complex as well as other courts across the state were sitting. Judges who were not aware of the decision rose immediately the information got to them.

Addressing journalists at the court premises in Enugu, the Oji River branch chairman of the NBA, Seth Nwokolo, said the measure was taken to

urge government and security agencies to apprehend the killers of the lawyer and for human lives to be adequately protected.

"We are here to protest over the gruesome killing of our former chairman, Elder Oyibo Chukwu. Chukwu was also the candidate for Labour Party in Enugu East Senatorial District.

"Elder Oyibo Chukwu, whom we are talking about his death was chairman of Oji River Branch between 2017 to 2019.

"Just this morning, the news filtered in that he was gruesomely murdered and assassinated in the company of his followers around Obeagu-Amaechi Road. We are pained by this news and

we want the security agencies in Enugu State to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are brought to book.

"We are giving them 48 hours to ensure that the killers are brought to justice. The bar in Enugu State is very embittered with this development. If after 48 hours, nothing happens, we will take a very necessary step as lawyers.

"Already, we have started with boycotting court proceedings in all the courts in Enugu State. Those who were not aware of our decision rose immediately the information got to them because an injury to one is an injury to all".

Rivers' APC Accuses New AIG, 4 CPs Of Visiting Wike

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, PORT Harcourt

Less than 24 hours to the presidential and National Assembly elections, the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Rivers State, has accused assistant inspector-general of police (AIG) Abutu Yaro and four commissioners of police deployed to the state to conduct the election, of visiting the private residence of Governor Nyesom Ezenwo Wike.

The four commissioners include Yomi Olanrewaju, Samuel Musa, Lanre B. Sikiru, and Aderemi Adeoye, coordinating the state headquarters of the command.

Addressing journalists in Port Harcourt yesterday, spokesman of the APC Campaign Council in the state, Sogbeye Eli, said based on the visit, the party has lost confidence in the police in the state.

Eli said, "As a corollary to the immediate above, Wike and his foot-soldiers have perfected the art of compromising state institutions with a dubious appropriation of the commonwealth of our state. They dole out billions and hundreds of millions in Naira and hard foreign currency to compromise state actors deployed to the state.

IGP Deploys 4 CPs, Marine Police To Delta

BY FELIX IGBEKYOI, Asaba

The inspector general of police, (IGP) Alkali Baba Usman, has deployed four commissioners of police to the state for Saturday's presidential and National Assembly elections.

According to a statement by the Delta police public relations officer (PPRO), DSP Edefe Bright, they are CP John Babangida posted as election CP, Delta State command, CP Mamman Sanda deployed to Delta North, CP Zachariah Fera to Delta South, CP Adebola Hamzat to Delta Central.

Edefe added: "The command in synergy with other sister agencies has massively deployed personnel across the state to all polling units, RACs, collation centers, and INEC offices to ensure a hitch-free exercise and also protect the electorates and INEC officials."

Continuing, he said that Marine Police have equally been deployed to the waterways to ensure that such areas are also peaceful during the elections.

"There will be restriction of vehicular movement from 0000hours to 1800 hours on 25/02/2023 and 11/03/2023, only officials on emergency and essential duties which include accredited election monitors and observers, will be allowed passage during this time.

"While regretting the inconveniences this will cause, members of the public are therefore advised to adhere to this instruction as anyone found wanting will be made to face the full wrath of the law.

"The ban on VIP escorts during the election still stands.



Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, with the Imo State governor, Hope Uzodimma, during the graduation ceremony of 5000 Imo youths under the SkillUp Imo Project at the Landmark Event Centre, Owerri on Wednesday.

MOSIEND Decries Rising Electoral Violence In Rivers

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, PORT Harcourt

Movement for the Survival of the Izon Ethnic Nationality in the Niger Delta (MOSIEND) has decried the rising spate of political violence ahead of the general election in Rivers State.

The group said the actors of the political violence were politically immature and insensitive to their socioeconomic environment.

MOSIEND president, Kennedy Tonjo West, in a statement made available to

LEADERSHIP Friday in Port Harcourt yesterday, urged Rivers politicians to adopt best political behaviour that can enable them promote their interest without destroying relationship built over the years.

The statement reads in part: "We wish to register our displeasure over the increasing spate of electoral violence across Rivers State ahead of the 2023 general elections. This approach is out of fashion and has summed the actors and players as politically immature and insensitive to their

socioeconomic environment, honestly, we have gone past this stage in our political evolution, over heating the polity and demarketing the state all in a bid to demonstrate political toughness.

"As electorates, we anticipate the finest of political characters, wit and sagacity in wooing supporters and electorates in a non-violence manner, we anticipate a level playing field for all players irrespective of their party.

"We expect issue-based contestation of ideological approach to development, not

inciting statements that triggers violence, hatred and acrimony which is against the ethics and role of the game, election is not a do or die affair. It a game of number not guns or thugs.

"You can't coerce the electorates to vote for you, you can only entreat or persuade them. Elections will come and go, what happens to the relationship you've destroyed for the sake of interest. Rivers' politicians adopt best political behaviour that can enable players promote their interest without destroying relationship built over the years."

2023: Obaseki Optimistic As Police Deploy 11,200 Personnel In Edo

BY PATRICK OCHOGA, Benin City

The Edo State governor Godwin Obaseki has met with security chiefs in the state, assuring that the security agencies are fully prepared to ensure peaceful conduct of Saturday's presidential and National Assembly elections in the state.

Briefing journalists after the security meeting held at the Government House, Benin City, Governor Obaseki said all security agencies in the state are ready to provide safe and secure

environment for the elections, urging voters to come out en masse on Saturday to perform their constitutional duties without fear of intimidation or harassment.

The governor said, "I am quite satisfied with the level of coordination and cooperation among the security agencies. They have made known how they intend to secure each polling unit, ward collation center, local government collation center, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Benin City.

"Our appeal now is for the citizens to come out and fulfill their constitutional duties. It is also time to warn all of those who plan to ferment trouble not to even attempt it because the security agencies are more than ready to deal with anyone who ferments trouble."

He added, "People should come out peacefully, go to their polling units, make sure that they conduct themselves peacefully, go through the accreditation, vote, and leave the polling units until it is time for sorting if they have to be there."

Obaseki further noted, "Citizens should note that from 12 midnight, Saturday 25th, movements will be restricted until 6 pm after elections are over."

On his part, the commissioner of police in charge of elections in Edo State, Ben Okolo noted that over 11,000 security operatives have been deployed to ensure peaceful election in the state.

Okolo said, "We are looking at over 11,200 security operatives. We have made preparations; we have deployed men and logistics and there is a fantastic synergy between all the services."

INFLATION RATE (%)		
	2022	2021
OCT	21.09	15.99
NOV	21.47	15.40
DEC	21.34	15.63

INTERBANK RATES AS AT FEBRUARY 22 2023		
O/N	RATE	CHANGE (%)
1M	13.8000	-2.82
3M	13.4000	-2.47
	14.8500	-1.84

Large-cap Stock Drives Local Bourse To N180bn Gains

BY OLUSHOLA BELLO, Lagos

The Nigerian stock market sustained its bullish run, driven by the share price appreciation of Geregu Power Plc and 27 others.

The All Share Index (ASI) rose by 330.85 absolute points, representing a gain of 0.61 per cent to close at 54,646.38 points. Accordingly, investors gained N180 billion in value as market capitalisation went up to N29.769 trillion.

The upturn was impacted by gains recorded in medium and large capitalised stocks, amongst which are; Geregu Power, BUA Foods, MRS Oil Nigeria, Nigerian Exchange Group and Nigerian Breweries.

Capital market analysts expected that, "sustained bullish sentiments as we anticipate downbeat money market yields till Q2, 2023 and a gradual decline in trading volumes in the coming days.

"However, as technical indicators point to more significant downside potential for equities, we consider buying equities a 'riskier' rather than a 'wrong' strategy while favouring reducing portfolio exposures as the ideal approach. Equity stakeholders can look to book profits off stocks that have crossed the overbought region, as the RSI indicates."

Market breadth closed positive as 28 stocks posted gains while 10 declined. MRS Oil Nigeria recorded the highest price gain of 9.88 per cent to close at N27.80, per share. McNichols followed with a gain 9.09 per cent to close at 60 kobo, while BUA Foods rose by 8.87 per cent to close at N81.00, per share.

Cornerstone Insurance went up by 8.33 per cent to close at 65 kobo, while Transcorp Hotels appreciated by 7.44 per cent to close at N6.50, per share. On the other hand, The Initiates Plc (TIP) led the losers' chart by 9.09 per cent to close at 40 kobo, per share.

Neimeth International Pharmaceuticals followed with a decline of 6.45 per cent to close at N1.45, while Consolidated Hallmark Insurance went down by 6.15 to close at 61 kobo, per share.

Veritas Kapital Assurance lost 4.76 per cent to close at 20 kobo, while AIICO Insurance shed 1.67 per cent to close at 59 kobo, per share.

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Banks Begin Disbursement Of \$350m Cabotage Fund Next Month

...As minister meets lending institutions

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

Barring any last minute changes, shortlisted indigenous shipowners will get the first disbursement of the \$350 million Cabotage Vessels Finance Fund (CVFF), by March 2023 from the Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs).

Also, the minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Sambo, met with the managing directors of the five approved PLIs in Abuja, to discuss the disbursement procedures.

LEADERSHIP reports that the funds available for disbursement was slightly over N16 billion and \$350 million dollars and applicants of the Fund would make an equity contribution of 15 per cent while NIMASA would make an equity contribution of 35 per cent and 50 per cent would be provided by the banks.

However, according to a ministry source, shipowners have applied for the fund with various Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs), with their 15 per cent contributions.

"Beneficiaries have applied with their 15 per cent contributions to the PLIs. Also, first disbursement will be made in March, 2023," the source who craved anonymity said.

Moreover, the Transportation minister has called for a concerted effort by key stakeholders to make the quick disbursement of CVFF a reality.

In a statement yesterday, the Federal Ministry of Transportation, said, the minister disclosed this while meeting with the representative of the heads of the PLIs that include the managing director of Polaris Bank; United Bank of Africa (UBA), Union Bank, Zenith Bank, Jaiz Bank, the director general, Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency

(NIMASA), Dr Bashir Jamoh and the MD Shipping, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and other stakeholders.

The minister reiterated that President Buhari had approved the immediate disbursement of CVFF.

He said, "The President also approved that the two per cent charge that makes up the Cabotage Fund should continue to accrue to the CBN Treasury Single Account (TSA) and each time the account hits \$50 million, the minister of Transportation should, on the recommendation of NIMASA, direct the CBN to release the amount to any of the five banks for disbursement."

The minister noted that it has taken 17 years to get presidential approval for the disbursement and charged the key stakeholders to expedite action on the necessary details to facilitate the quick disbursement of the funds.

"We have received the approval of the President to disburse the funds. It is now left for the key players to actualise the approval by the President," he said.

Sambo said the maritime sector would be a major income earner for the country if properly managed, adding that it was fulfilling for him to lead the historic process of disbursing the CVFF.

Section 44 part VIII of the Cabotage Act 2003 provides for the establishment of the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF) and a 2% deduction on cabotage-protected trade earnings goes into the savings for the development of indigenous tonnage (ships) in Nigeria.

The Bankers and other critical stakeholders had hours of closed-door deliberation after the minister's remark, to chart out a clear course for the final disbursements in the coming days.



L-R: Managing director, Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Ahmad Salihijo, chief operating officer, Creeds Energy, Ruth Atsegbua Moh'd, CEO/Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy (SEforAll), Damilola Ogunbiyi, grantee/chief executive officer, Creeds Energy, Hannah Kadir, commissioner for Energy and Natural Resources, Lagos State, Olalere Odusote and senior director, Universal Energy Facility, (SEforALL), Anita Otubu at the Universal Energy Facility for Stand-Alone Solar for Productive Use Programme in Nigeria launch event held in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: UNIVERSAL ENERGY FACILITY

Elections: Electronic Banking Channels To Remain Open –CBN

... As banks, institutions close early

BY BUKOLA IDOWU, Lagos

Ahead of tomorrow's general election, and amidst the cash crunch in the country, some commercial banks as well as companies will be closing early today, Friday, February 24, 2023.

This is as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) dispelled rumors that electronic banking transactions would not be available all through the weekend.

In email notices sent to customers, some banks said they would be closing for

business by 12 noon on Friday as against 4pm which they normally close. Also, some companies had notified their customers that their physical offices will be closed to customers until after the elections.

A mail by a registrar as seen by LEADERSHIP read: "In light of the presidential elections, please be informed that from the 22nd February to 6th March 2023, our physical office will be closed. During this period, you can access around-the-clock service at your convenience, through our alternate channels."

Meanwhile, rumors that all channels of banking would be shut down during the elections had sent Nigerians into a frenzy, a rumor which the apex bank has dispelled. The fake news which was spread via WhatsApp messages and voice notes had warned that there would be no banking activities during the period of the election as banks would shut down all their electronic channels, and advised that people stock up on food items.

This led to an increased demand for cash as well as a shopping spree in

some major markets in Lagos as people scrambled to stock up on food items and groceries.

Mrs Adebayo, a teacher said he had received the voice note from a family member and a neighbour had also sent her the message via WhatsApp. "I don't want to be stranded because I don't know what will happen during this election."

However, the CBN says the rumour is fake news. On its official Twitter handle, the apex bank warned Nigerians to be wary of such fake news.

ND Western Restates Commitment To Oil Production Growth

BY CHIKA IZUORA, Lagos

ND Western Limited has expressed commitment to prospect for crude oil in the country, despite seeming industry challenges.

The company made the commitment after winning the Independent Company of the Year Award for the second year running at the 2023 SAIPEC Exhibition and Conference recently held in Lagos.

The annual event, which recognises the best-performing companies and individuals has cemented ND Western as the leader in sustainable oil exploration and production.

Hosted by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), in partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and NNPC Limited, the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) is the largest industry-led event in the center of the region's energy, oil, and gas hub.

The award reflects the ND Western's ongoing investments as an independent oil and gas exploration and production company in Nigeria, as well as its exceptional services in delivering value for its customers and shareholders.

Commenting on the award received, chief executive officer at ND Western Limited, Mr. Eberechukwu Oji, said: "SAIPEC is a distinguished platform for many organizations in the industry and it is indeed a great honor for ND Western to be recognized as the Independent Company of the Year. We are grateful to the organizers for recognizing the impact of our commitment to the sustainable operation of the industry."

"At ND Western, we are focused on the growth plans of powering the nation and Sub-Saharan Africa. We remain committed to producing oil and gas for the industrial and power consumers in the nation. We will continue to proactively ensure that our business operation aligns with sustainability goals and builds a healthy environment for our host communities" he concluded.

Naira Crunch: Adopt eNaira To Reduce Demand For Cash – CBN

... NESG urges incentives to promote digital channels use

BY MARK ITSIBOR, Abuja And BUKOLA IDOWU, Lagos

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has urged more businesses to adopt the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-eNaira- for transactions and trade, as queues for cash withdrawals in banking halls and at Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) continue.

This is even as the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) has called on the CBN and the bankers committee to incentivise the use of digital channels for financial transactions to cushion the effect of the cash crunch facing Nigerians and their businesses.

Specifically, NESG said there should be incentives to promote the use of digital channels, such as a re-

duction of charges on transactions associated with digital channels.

However, the CBN said it is in discussions with more telecommunication companies on the adoption of Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) which, it noted, has almost no downtime.

Presently, eNaira transactions are only enabled on MTN and 9mobile networks.

Speaking at a media parley in Lagos yesterday, CBN coordinator on eNaira, Ms. Rakiya Mohammed, who was represented by eNaira Project Giant Team, Otaru Abdulkadir said, the eNaira also came in to create an efficient and resilient environment for Nigeria's electronic payments and transactions.

"Our aim of the eNaira includes reaching out to the financially ex-

cluded and the unbanked. We had to not only do something that works on the smartphone but something that works on any feature phone and with tech companies coming on board, such as BullNet, people with limited internet services can fund their eNaira wallet and have a safe wallet to be able to transact without having to go through the difficulties of having cash at hand.

"With the eNaira, we have a resilient infrastructure that can handle the requirements of the cashless policy and if we are able to drive the adoption of the eNaira efficiently, this will take away the pressure of the current cash crunch and issues with financial transactions in the country.

"We are still in the process of getting more telcos to buy into the

USSD. We have a third-party service and they were able to get us MTN and 9Mobile. We are already speaking to Airtel and Glo as well and soon we will have them on-board with the eNaira," she pointed out.

Stating that, people have been quite receptive to the eNaira, she added that "the figure we have at the moment is a successful growing figure. However, pending when we can have more tech companies, banks, and businesses, then we can have a full ecosystem or create a new eNaira ecosystem."

To her, "hence, we need to create businesses where you can spend with the eNaira and this is what the CBN has been doing in that area to make the innovation to be successful."

N117bn Oloibiri Museum To Correct Historical Oversights – PMB

BY CHIKA IZUORA, Lagos

President Muhammadu Buhari, has applauded the N117 billion Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC), in Bayelsa State, saying, the groundbreaking of the project will correct historical oversights.

The president made the comment on Tuesday at the event that attracted leaders of the Nigerian oil and industry who made firm commitment to the execution and sustenance of the project.

Buhari was represented by the

minister of state for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre, at Otuabagi, location of Shell's Oil Well1 and of the museum project, declared: "by starting work on the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC), we have taken a giant step towards correcting a historical oversight by erecting a befitting monument at the exact ground of Oloibiri Oilfield where commercial quantities of oil were first discovered in Nigeria and production began in 1957."

Recalling how past attempts and foundation laying ceremonies

since the era of late President Shehu Shagari in 1981 yielded nothing, he stated with emphasis, that the 'groundbreaking is different from foundation laying,' adding that, the ceremony he was there to perform signaled the actual take-off of the project as the contract had already been awarded to a reputable construction company.

The executive secretary, NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote explained what makes the present undertaking different from previous attempts, stating that, "key considerations that enabled

us to get to this ceremony we are having today include: credible partnerships, funding model, governance framework, product offerings, project delivery, and long-term sustainability."

In his speech, the managing director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, commended the project promoters, namely; Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), NCDMB, Shell Petroleum Development Company and its Joint Venture Partners, and Bayelsa State government.



L-R Wife of the MD/CEO, PremiumTrust Bank, Ifeoma Emefienim; MD/CEO, PremiumTrust Bank, Emmanuel Emefienim; general overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor E.A Adeboye; chairman, PremiumTrust Bank, Dr. Perez Araka, at the tape-cutting ceremony of Redemption City branch in Ogun State recently. PHOTO BY PREMIUM TRUST

BPE Names 9 Firms To Verify NIPOST Properties Nationwide

BY MARK ITSIBOR, Abuja

The National Council on Privatisation (NCP) under the chairmanship of the Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo has approved nine firms to immediately carry out a nationwide verification of NIPOST

Properties & Development Company Limited.

The firms which are divided into the six geo-political zones of the country are, Oghogho Ayanru, Raji Adewale Associates, Alaba Odunlanmi, Law Field Barristers and solicitors and B.A. Wali

& Associates.

Others are Aliyu Abubakar & Co, Bola Fabola, Tayo Osuntogun & Co and Primal Chambers.

According to BPE, this was one of the high points at the 2nd meeting of the Council in 2023 held at the Presidential Villa, Aso

Rock, Abuja, on Tuesday.

In a statement yesterday, BPE disclosed that the firms are to provide proposals for carrying out the assignment based on, validating the titles of the properties,

This has it's said will determine

if the properties were duly registered at the relevant land registries; determining the ownership status of the properties as well as the type, size, and location of the properties; and providing any additional information that will enhance the audit of the properties.

Premium Trust Bank Starts Operations At RCCG's Redemption City

BY ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna

Nigeria's fastest growing Commercial Bank, PremiumTrust Bank, has officially commenced business operations at Redemption City which would make it the 8th Branch opened by the bank within just nine months of existence.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the general overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church

Of God, Pastor Enoch A Adeboye.

In his opening remarks, the managing director/chief executive officer of PremiumTrust Bank, Mr Emmanuel Emefienim, thanked Pastor Adeboye for his continuous support since the idea of founding the Bank was conceived.

"In 9 months of existence, we have won three awards; LEADERSHIP Most Innovative Bank (2022), BAFI Nigeria's Fastest

Growing Bank 2022, and BAFI Bank of the Year 2022 (Sports Development).

"We were Lead Sponsor/Sole Banker to the 21st National Sports Festival; we co-sponsored and kitted Bayelsa Queens FC who represented Nigeria at the CAF Women's Champions League Competition in Morocco, where they returned with a Bronze Medal.

PremiumTrust also signed on

two world-class renowned Athletes, Tobi Amusan and Ese Brume as brand ambassadors; this was done to encourage them, provide training funds to enable them to compete and excel in their chosen field and do more for our country – Nigeria.

This is in addition to our 3-year partnership deal with the Athletics Federation of Nigeria. All of these put together made us

stand out as worthy winners of these prestigious awards.

"We want to be the number one digital bank in Nigeria by rolling out digital solutions like you have not seen in the history of Banking in Nigeria. These solutions would give our discerning customers access to financial services around-the-clock and from the comfort of their homes."

Stakeholders Advocate Incentives To Drive Real Estate Growth

BY OLUSHOLA BELLO, Lagos

Stakeholders in the real estate sector have emphasised the need for government to provide incentives across the entire real estate ecosystem to reap its potentials of wealth creation, job creation and economic prosperity.

This was stated at the Nigerian British Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) Real Estate Outlook 2023, with the theme; 'Pitching Your Tent Post 2023 Elections' held in Lagos.

The chief consultant, B. Adedipe Associates Limited, Dr Biodun Adedipe, stated that, there is a nexus between the real estate sector and the economy, adding that, a 0.79 correlation existed between the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate and the sector's growth.

According to him, a focused government would give proper attention to the property market, availing as many incentives as can be emplaced for the entire real estate ecosystem.

"The real estate sector is among the big six sectors that drive economic growth and while the sector has showed strong growth, it is contribution to GDP appears to be trending downwards.

"This means there is room for investments to get the kind of impact we need to improve GDP seeing that real estate is systemic to every modern economy if given the right push.

"The 2030 projections for increasing population pegged at 8.5 billion people means the real estate must be properly positioned to create the value across all strata as its expected to be," he pointed out.

The managing director, Alitheia, Mrs Jumoke Akinwunmi, stressed the need for the execution of affordable housing to bridge the housing deficits in the country, saying, "however, its success was hinged on the partnership between the private and public sectors."

Akinwunmi urged government to provide more levers to make affordable housing a reality.

"There is also the need to create institutions that would serve as middlemen between the government and private sector for easy accessibility and to achieve the success it deserves," she said.

Chief executive officer, Sonedis Logistics, Dr Solomon Aigbavboa, pointed out the opportunities for logistics particularly warehousing within the real estate ecosystem.

He noted that the warehousing market size which had an annual growth rate of 11 per cent would worth 170 million dollars by end of 2023.

On his part, Pastor Adeboye, in his opening remark commended the leadership of PremiumTrust Bank for establishing their branch at the Redemption City.

The revered cleric stated that he was present at the Tape Cutting event as he has noted PremiumTrust Bank is committed to impacting lives and communities where they do business.

Oil Production Decline Shrinks Nigeria's Economic Growth

BY CHIKA IZUORA, Lagos

Oil theft coupled with deferred investment in Nigeria's oil industry has caused Nigeria's economy growth to slow to 3.52 per cent in the fourth quarter from 3.98 per cent a year earlier.

The economic shrink was also linked to widespread flooding which destroyed farms and rising costs.

Double-digit inflation and a weaker naira currency also affected the country which has merely recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has now registered growth for nine consecutive quarters, after exiting a recession in 2020.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said, full-year growth stood at 3.1 per cent in 2022, in line with the World Bank's projection.

"Although the agriculture sector grew, its performance was significantly hampered by severe incidences of flood experienced across the country," the NBS said.

"The Industry sector was challenged recording -0.94 per cent growth and contributing less to the aggregate GDP relative to the third quarter of 2022 and the fourth quarter of 2021," it added.

The price of diesel, which many businesses rely on to generate electricity, has soared in Nigeria due to high global oil prices, leading to increased costs of production, while a weaker currency has made imports more expensive.

NGO Launches Campaign To Boost Protein Consumption In Nigeria

BY ROYAL IBEH, Lagos

Access to adequate nutrition, including protein, is a human right, even as a non-governmental organisation, United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), has launched the 'Right to Protein campaign', targeted at advocating for access to protein-rich food sources in Nigeria.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) recommended minimum per capita daily protein intake is 53.8g, with global daily intake at 64g.

However, in Nigeria, 45 per cent of Nigerians are protein deficient as they lack access to sufficient protein and thus do not consume the daily recommended grammage. The daily protein intake is 45.4g as against 53.8g, the Nigerian Protein Deficiency Report 2020 showed.

Country representative, USSEC, Dr. Michael David, at a media roundtable in Lagos, revealed that, 'Right to Protein campaign' aims to foster behavioral change among individuals by spreading nutritional awareness about the need for adequate protein consumption for better nutrition and improved public health.

Pensions: Group Canvasses 100% Employer Contributions For Police

BY MARK ITSIBOR, Abuja

A non-governmental organisation, COPEHRA has called on the incoming administration of the federal government to increase the employer contributions for Police by 100 per cent to ensure their Retirement Savings Account (RSA) is robust enough after serving their country in such critical sector.

Employers contribution is currently 10 per cent, while the employee (police officers) contribute eight per cent monthly to the RSA under the government regulated Contributory pension scheme (CPS). An increase will in-

crease the amount in their retirement account.

Speaking at a press conference in Abuja, COPEHRA's legal adviser, Barr. Oyiminu Audu also urged the incoming government consider the setting up of a second pillar for the pension industry as recommended by the World Bank to increase the protection against retirement poverty.

Police have been angling to exit the contributory pension scheme in line with the Military and Judiciary, a position the National Pension Commission (PenCom) says is an indication of going back to the dark age. COPEHRA says

is simply supporting harmony within the pension scheme.

COPEHRA expressed concern that not much was mentioned about pension or retirement in the manifestoes of the major contenders for tomorrow's presidential election.

It urged any of the eventual winner of the presidential election to make laws for the reform of the pension sector, while also expecting that the sub-nationals follow suit.

Barrister Audu said "We call on states to key into this noble scheme for the happiness of their retirees. Most states that key into the CPS and have their funds managed by the

registered operators do not owe their pensioners.

"We also call on entities that have issues with the CPS to look for solution inside the scheme and not outside—How can you leave where there are funds ready for payment and then move to where loans have to be taken before pension payment!"

The NGO called on all workers in the informal and semi-formal sectors to Key-into the Micro Pension plan (MPP). COPEHRA believes the initiative expanded the implementation of the CPS to the informal sectors such as low-income earners, self-employed, SME's, and artisans.

Customs Agents Disown Association's Caretaker Committee Over Lack Of Licence

BY YUSUF BABALOLA, Lagos

The National Executive Committee (NECOM), of the Association of Nigerian Licenced Customs Agents (ANLCA), has disregarded the interim executive members appointed by the self acclaimed registered Board of Trustees (BoT), of the association as fake.

According to the national secretary of the association, Babatunde Mukaila, in a press statement made available to LEADERSHIP, the appointed interim executive members are non-members of the association because they don't possess valid Customs licence to be a member of the association.

Mukaila said, the acting national president, Pius Ujubuonu; acting national vice president; Adeyinka Isola; acting financial secretary, Waheed Badmus and acting national publicity secretary, Francis Itua were non-licence owners, hence, cannot be members of ANLCA.

He said: "there have been a lot of falsehood, fake news and to put it in a very straight perspective, I believe some ANLCA members who have served at the highest level should know better and be conversant with the association's constitution.

"I believe Taiwo Mustapha who has consistently claimed to be whatever he says he is should be abreast with the provisions of ANLCA Constitution. I will go straight to when Mustapha breaks into the National Secretariat to say he appointed interim NECOM. The constitution of ANLCA is very clear under Section 4, that members of ANLCA shall be limited by Corporate companies, notwithstanding Sub-section (1) and under Section (2).

"It went further to say that no company or firm shall be registered as a member of ANLCA if Section (4), subsection (2a) does not carry on business in the Shipping and Freight Forwarding (b) if not Licensed by the Nigeria Customs. I see it as a mischief or lack of knowledge on the part of Taiwo Mustapha to have violate the ANLCA constitution by appointing people who do not have corporate Company Licenses by the Customs to positions at the national level.



L-R: Director general, Bureau of Public Procurement, (BPP), Mamman Ahmadu, receiving a souvenir from the representative of the director general, Bayelsa State Due Process Bureau, director, Price Intelligent, Richard Afenia, during his recent visit to the Bureau. PHOTO BY BPP

FCCPC Domesticates PBoR In Abuja Varsity Teaching Hospital

BY KINGSLEY ALU, Abuja

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), has domesticated the Patients' Bill of Rights (PBoR) at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada.

The Bill was domesticated at four points in the hospital to ensure full implementation.

Executive vice chairman of FCCPC, Mr Babatunde Irukera, said yesterday that the bill was domesticated also in furtherance of commitment to quality patient care in the country.

Irukera noted that the subject of rights in healthcare is relevant today as it conforms to the global movement towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) which requires that health services are available for all in the first instance.

The executive vice chairman, who commended the hospital as a leading healthcare services provider that has evolved from being a general hospital, to now a teaching hospital, said the management team looked like how a hospital management should be.

He noted that all the Pa-

tients Bill of Rights (PBoR) are not only being respected in the hospital but domesticated there though not in a formal document or formal display but apparently in practice, adding that the formal domestication of the PBoR in the hospital would now help them to formalise their contract with their patients.

"You are saying to us as your regulator and also so to your patients and their families that this our pact with you, this is our commitment to how you should be treated and we are putting it out there so that you can hold us

accountable to it.

"At the end of the day you are still the backbone of excellence may be not in resource but in skills and capacity and so because of that it doesn't matter whether you are well resourced or not, we will still expect magic from you, we will expect that the rights of the patient are part of the magic and so while I commiserate with your deficiencies and congratulate you on your accomplishments, I demand of you even more and at every complaint, we will come after you and assure you will welcome that," he added.

Insurance Critical To Reshaping Financial Service Industry, Experts

BY ZAKA KHALIQ, Lagos

Insurance sector is critical to reshaping the financial service sector as well as enhance national growth and development, says experts.

The experts, who converged at the 2023 Business Outlook Conference, themed 'Reshaping The Financial Sector: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities' and organised by the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) in Victoria Island (VI), Lagos, on Wednesday, however, charged insurance companies

to take rightful place by not just supporting only from the back end but take the lead in financial planning of customers.

The commissioner for insurance/CEO, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), Mr. Sunday Thomas, noted that, this is, however, not without the need to increase understanding of the Customers' businesses and further the course and boost the financial status of insureds.

To him, "it is the deep understanding of the Customers' businesses that aids Insurers to gain insight into the fi-

nancial status of the Customers thereby helping to market the right product, rather than struggling to Sell what had been produced. That is, "Develop Product that could be Sold" but do not "Try to Sell what had been Produced."

The insurance sector, he stressed, has been exposed to the direction of the government through the 2023 budget and the focused industries and as well as strategic expenditures that could enhance the insurers' prioritised markets for appropriate products that will ensure that insurance is seen in every line item

of the budget.

Believing the Nigerian Insurance Industry has the potential to be a major driver of advancing national development through freeing government dwindling resources usually deployed to mitigate losses to citizens arising from fundamental risks and catastrophic events, he added that, it is expected that the ongoing development of the Insurance Industry 10 year development plan will be unveiled in the first half of the year for structured and inclusive growth of the insurance sector.

UNDP, FCMB, CEFTER Support 25 Agritech In AgroHack Challenge

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), First City Monument Bank (FCMB) and the Centre for Food and Research (CEFTER) of Benue State University have supported 25 early-stage Agritechs that were winners at the grand finale of the 2022 Agrohack Challenge held in Makurdi, Benue State, with funding.

The selected Agritechs received varying amounts of funding to help them scale their businesses and develop innovative solutions that address challenges in the agriculture sector.

The funding ranges from N600,000 to N2.4million. The startups will also receive access to business support services, incubation, and networking opportunities.

Achesa, a startup raising the income of smallholder farmers through optimised yields, improved productivity and market access, emerged tops during the challenge and won the grand prize of N2.4 million. In addition to the N2.4 million, Achesa and 10 runners-up will receive incubation support from Hub One, the tech startup accelerator of FCMB, for three months and access to workspace, market and networks to aid business growth.

Cardinal Torch and eSusFarm were second and third runners-up. They got N1.9 million and N1.5 million, respectively, from the bank, while Farmsquare and Bionet also received N600,000 each from FCMB.

22 other winners were given N600,000 each by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria and the Centre for Food and Research.

Congratulating the winners, the managing diirector of FCMB, Mrs Yemisi Edun, said: "as an institution fostering inclusive and sustainable growth in local communities across the country, we prioritise agriculture and are committed to supporting Agritechs to build innovative solutions that will address the challenges in the sector and drive economic growth.

"We will continue to work with other stakeholders to improve agriculture and create a future of shared prosperity for Nigerians. We congratulate all the winners and look forward to working with them in their next growth phase."

Nigerian Banks Face Near-term Credit Risks From Regional Expansion – Fitch

BY BUKOLA IDOWU, Lagos

International rating agency, Fitch Ratings has said, Nigerian banks will face near-term execution and credit risks from their presence in other Sub-Saharan African (SSA) markets, depending on the degree of operating environment difficulty and underlying sovereign ratings of these markets.

Some major Nigerian banks and financial holding companies have established footprints in African countries a position the rating agency may portend positive and negative impact on their ratings.

Fitch, in its latest report on Ni-

gerian banks, said longer-term, increased geographic diversification may support banks' business profiles and growth prospects and financial performance stability.

Noting that exposures to low rated countries as well as foreign exchange exposures can be a downside to the banks, it said, digital offerings to acquire market share, reduce operating expenses and increase investment returns.

United Bank for Africa (UBA) with a footprint in 18 African countries has the largest expansion across the continent leads, FBN Holdings, Access Corporation, GTCO and Zenith Bank in the

spread to other African countries.

According to Fitch, hampered by regulatory intervention and domestic country risks, large Nigerian banks are transitioning into regional financial services providers by leveraging their developed domestic business models and franchises, supported by enhanced governance practices and risk management capabilities.

Barriers to entry and competition from incumbents in new, mostly frontier, markets are relatively low and the exits of long-established international banks from the region provide significant growth opportunities.

"We believe Nigerian banks' expansion strategies, which include greenfield and M&A investments, are credible. UBA and, to a lesser extent, GTCO strategies are to establish fully-fledged banking subsidiaries, weighted towards corporate banking and treasury. UBA has by far the largest regional presence. FBN Holdings Plc (FBNH) and Zenith Bank Plc's (Zenith) focus is also mainly on corporate banking, which is highly competitive.

"Nigerian banks also see significant opportunities in retail banking. Access, with growth fuelled by M&A activity, is focused on both retail and corporate banking.

FG Engages Multinationals, Private Stakeholders To Boost Digital Skills

BY INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

The federal government through the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has engaged Multinationals and Private organisations to develop and co-create National Digital Skills Strategy (NDSS).

According to a statement issued yesterday by the spokesperson of NITDA, Hadiza Umar, this development was in the continued effort at maximising socio-economic opportunities and target of achieving 95 per cent digital literacy penetration by the year 2030 in the country.

The NDSS is a policy document developed by NITDA under the directive of the minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), to bridge the digital skills gap in the country and develop a clear road map for the diversification of the nation's economy and sustainability of its digital economy.

The engagement, which was held virtually, had representatives from International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), AP-

PLE, Huawei, Meta, Oracle, Google, Cisco Software Inc and many others.

While giving an insight into the genesis of the development of the NDSS during his remarks, the NITDA director general, Kashifu Inuwa, disclosed that the agency, in collaboration with the Co-Creation Hub, undertook research to understand existing talent and skills which later on birthed the first draft of the NDSS.

Inuwa stated that the NDSS will help re-position the country in alignment with global standards and to take full advantage of the digital economy benefits,

while identifying Digital Literacy and Skills as a critical strategic pillar in the Agency's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2021-2024 towards the implementation of the present administration's National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS).

"In line with the digital literacy and skills pillar of NDEPS for a Digital Nigeria, NITDA has set out a target of 1 million developers and skills by December 2023 and thus, rolled out several capacity building programmes that are targeted at people from different sectors of the economy", he noted.



L-R: Director, Rotary Foundation, Rotarian UK Eke; founder of Benola Palsy Initiative, Air Vice Marshal Femi Gbadebo (Rtd) in a handshake with the president, Rotary Club of Lagos, District 9110, Rotarian Joseph Akhigbe when the club donated mobility aid equipment to Benola, in Lagos, recently

Ignore Fraudulent Messages On Network Shutdown, NCC Urges Nigerians

INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

The Nigerian Communications Commission, (NCC), has urged Nigerians to disregard messages of system shutdown by telecom networks circulating on social media, declaring them as false.

"The attention of the NCC, has been drawn to fraudulent and misleading information circulating in some social media platforms, insinuating there is

a planned shutdown of all telecom networks and relevant ICT Units, including online transfer facilities of the banks, with effect from today, February 23, 2023."

"The Nigerian public, consumers of telecommunications services, and all bank customers are advised to ignore these or similar messages that insinuate deliberate network shutdown or disruption of services in the Ni-

gerian telecom network.

"These malicious and subversive messages originated and are being circulated by fraudsters and unscrupulous elements in the society with the intent to cause chaos and panic among the populace.

"The Commission has received unequivocal assurances from all the service providers to the effect that all the network services are currently in

optimal performance, and will not witness any deliberate shutdown or disruptions, especially at this very crucial period of general elections in the country.

"Therefore, all users of telecommunications and banking services utilising network facilities are assured of continued optimal service delivery before, during, and after the general elections in Nigeria," the commission stated.

NANS Names CEO Of New Horizons Man Of The Year

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), on Friday, named the chief executive officer of New Horizons Nigeria, Mr. Tim Akano, as the association's 2022 Man of the Year.

According to NANS President, Com. Usman Umar Barambu, the award is in recognition of Uncle Tim's leadership acumen, passionate professional capabilities, fervent and productive contribution to the societal development of the nation, and support for humanity.

Through Uncle Tim, many youths from universities, Polytechnic, and Colleges of Education have enjoyed numerous scholarships, internship, job placement, mentorship, and skills acquisition in the last 20 years across Nigeria and Africa

The deputy senate president, NANS, Ekundina Elvis, while presenting the award said the leadership of the association is happy with all the support Uncle Tim has been rendering to Nigerian students and youths.

He said, "We appreciate a man who has thought it expedient to build a nation, a man who has always been at the forefront of building leaders of today and leaders of tomorrow."

"We believe history will never forget a man who turned a village into a city, and history will still never forget a man who turned a city into a village.

"Like Oliver Twist, we will always ask for more," Elvis said, adding that "what we want to ask from you is that you should not relent in doing the good works you have been doing, and we believe this is the starting point."

In his comment at the occasion, the NANS PRO, Giwa Temitope, also showered praises on Akano saying 'Uncle Tim is the tested and trusted leader and mentor of all the Nigerian students and Youths. He recounted many scholarships and assistance Uncle Tim has been rendering to the Youths all over Nigeria and Africa through New Horizons and One Africa Initiaves Academy. Giwa concluded that this recognition giving to Uncle Tim was to encourage him to do more for the Youths most especially in these trying times"

The CEO of New Horizons Nigeria, Mr. Tim Akano, responded to the award by saying, "I want to show my deep and sincere appreciation to the association because this is the first of its kind in Nigeria as NANS Man of the Year, even though I have received so many awards." I want you to know how much I truly and deeply value this particular one from NANS.

FG Lauds ARCON, NBC For Reforms In Advertising Ecosystem

BY KINGSLEY OKOH, Lagos

Following the various reforms introduced into the Nigerian advertising ecosystem to provide a regulatory framework, the minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, has extolled the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) for the outcome in 2022.

According to the minister, the two regulatory bodies recorded a historic landmark in the outgone year, while setting a benchmark for further growth.

"We have succeeded in making groundbreaking reforms in Nigeria's advertising, advertisement, and marketing communications industry by reviewing the law that set up the advertising regulatory body, the Advertising Regulatory Council

of Nigeria (formerly the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria).

"This action has repositioned the body as the foremost agency of the Federal Government for the regulation of advertising practice and business in Nigeria," he said.

He added: "the Act empowers the Council to ensure the preservation of Nigerian local content and use of indigenous skills as an important element in advertising, adver-

tisement and marketing communications services in Nigeria and for such services directed at the Nigerian market; further ensures the participation of Nigerians and Nigerian companies in the process, production, and execution of advertisement, advertising, and marketing communications campaigns targeted at the Nigerian market without compromising standards."

Commending the efforts made

on NBC reform, Alhaji Lai Mohammed agreed that the amendment of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code was in line with the Administration's drive to provide job opportunities for Nigerians and also aimed at encouraging the development and growth of local content in the broadcast industry.

"Sections were included in the Code to make it compulsory for companies to have a higher percent-

age of investments and to meet basic minimums in local content.

Similarly, in a bid to ensure fair and efficient market competition in the broadcast industry, sections were introduced in the Code to discourage monopolies and anti-competitive practices by broadcasters, especially as it relates to sports rights. This position was further reinforced by the judiciary in a recent judgment," he said.

Osinbajo Inaugurates Ogun Cargo Airport, Boards Maiden Flight

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH

The construction and development of critical infrastructure that will transform the economy and create more job opportunities for citizens is one way to build a modern and prosperous future for all Nigerians, according to Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

Prof. Osinbajo stated this yesterday in his remarks at the maiden test flight into the recently constructed Gateway Agro Cargo International Airport in Iperu, Ikenne local government area of Ogun state.

"This is how we build a modern, prosperous future for all Nigerians. I have no doubt that the culture of innovation and progress that the Gateway Agro Cargo International Airport has already brought will continue to motivate the people of Ogun State even more," the VP said at the momentous occasion.

According to the Vice President, in a statement by his media aide,

Laolu Akande j the State "is now poised to provide facilities for a world-class economic zone," because beyond being a fulfilment of a vision, the airport project "is one of the infrastructures for building a dynamic economic area."

He emphasised the significance of the Agro Cargo Airport and Kajola Dry Port projects in the operationalization of the Special Agriculture Processing Zones, and Nigeria's participation in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Said the VP "the future is even more exciting than today. The airport will serve the Special Agriculture Processing Zones established with the generous assistance of the African Development Bank. It is also an essential tool in our preparation for full participation as serious players in the Africa Continen-

tal Free Trade Agreement.

"In a few months, Kajola dry port will also be operational. I am confident that this airport will transform the entire Southwest region, and serve as a catalyst for economic growth and development in our nation and sub-region."

Commending the State Government and past administrations for the actualization of the project, the VP said "it is a tribute to the wisdom and understanding of our current governor, Prince Dr Dapo Abiodun that he took it from the idea, re-envisioned it in the light of the opportunities, needs and realities of today; and birthed the Gateway Agro Cargo International Airport, Ogun State."

Similarly, the VP commended the former governor of the state, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, whom he said conceived the idea of the airport and eventually secured ap-

proval from the federal government.

He added that "Ogun is definitely taking a huge step forward in fulfilling the dreams of our forebears; dreams of a vibrant, modern and industrious community living together in peace and prosperity."

According to him, "this project is the fulfilment of a vision but the airport is only the infrastructure for building a dynamic economic area. We are now poised to provide facilities for a world-class economic zone."

Earlier, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun state paid glowing tributes to the VP and his predecessors including Chief Segun Oso-

ba and Otunba Gbenga Daniel for their support in the construction of the airport, noting that the airport was among the best in the country.

According to him, "this airport is a category 4E airport. It is one of the best-constructed airports in Nigeria. It can accommodate an Airbus A380, a Boeing 777 and a Boeing 747. It has a 4-kilometre runway, a 36-metre control tower, a fire station, a cargo apron and terminal buildings. It has 82,000 square-metres of cargo apron for types E and C aircrafts when completed."

On his part, minister of Aviation, Mr Hadi Sirika while com-

mending the visioners of the airport said it is "a product of people that sat down to think what can add value to the economy, to the social well-being of the people, and it has happened."

He added that the construction of the airport was part of the achievements of the Buhari administration in the aviation sector, noting that "during the Buhari government, aviation became the fastest growing sector of the economy before COVID-19. This is according to the National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance. We have doubled the number of airports and have doubled the number of airlines."

'Companies on Stock Exchange More Reliable With Tax Compliance,

The chief executive of the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) Limited, Mr Temi Popoola, has advised the government to look into ways to attract companies to the stock market, stressing that more revenue could be generated from taxes paid by these firms.

According to him, companies on the stock exchange are more reliable with their tax compliance than other organisations, who sometimes evade tax, denying the government funds to grow the economy.

Speaking in an interview with CNBC Africa, Mr Popoola said the government could begin to explore the capital market and provide incentives that would encourage more listings in the

country.

"The reality is that because listed firms must adhere to regulatory requirements and corporate governance standards in order to maintain their listing on the exchange, they are typically more consistent and reliable with their tax compliance. Consequently, the more companies we can get to list, the more revenue the government can make," he said.

He argued that if the government took this suggestion, it would increase wealth, reduce poverty in Nigeria, and boost the tax revenue to GDP ratio, which currently stands at 6 per cent.

Mr Popoola disclosed during the interview that the bourse was looking to address some

age-long issues bordering on new listings, which will, in turn, deepen trade.

Recall that in December 2022, the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) approved NGX's Technology Board rules which permit it to list fintech startups and tech companies on the exchange.

In order to push its digital transformation agenda, NGX had gone one step further and established an advisory panel on digital technology products. The panel would give the exchange a platform to communicate with the capital market community and the fintech ecosystem to enhance and increase NGX's digital product offerings.

Credit To Govt Rises Faster Than Private Sector

Financial sector credit to the government rose month-on-month (MoM) by eight per cent to N26.6 trillion in January 2023 from N24.6 trillion in December 2022.

But credit to the private sector rose Year-on-Year (YoY) by a marginal 0.95 percent to N42.2 trillion in January 2023 from N41.8 trillion in December 2022.

Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Money and Credit statistics showed that the credit to the private sector and the gov-

ernment resulted in a net domestic credit of N68.9 trillion in January 2023.

This represents a 3.76 per cent MoM increase when compared to N66.4 trillion in December 2022.

Though the rising domestic credit is expected to support economic growth, financial analysts are hinting that it may also add to inflationary pressures at the backdrop of the current cash crunch in the economy.

Analysts at Cowry Asset Man-

agement Plc have projected further rise in the inflation rate to 22.15 percent this month from 21.82 percent in January due to naira crunch and other factors.

"However, the planting season and currency pressure from the naira crunch due to the CBN currency redesign policy on the transition to cashless policy coupled with other forms of election spending are likely to propel another cycle of price increase in February.

Way Forward For 5G Amid Infrastructure Challenge In Nigeria

BY Innocent Odoh, Abuja

On January 24, 2023, Mafab Communications Limited launched its Fifth Generation (5G) network services, which it said will bring about a new dawn of infinite possibilities that will open more opportunities for Nigerians to grow businesses and create jobs in the digital economy sector.

5G is aimed to improve connectivity with greater speed and it creates new, intelligent systems and Mafab Communications is one of the three firms (including MTN) that won the bid for the 5G 3.5GHz Spectrum licenses issued by the Nigerian government after a competitive auction sale last year to deploy 5G services in the country.

During the elaborate launch of the network services and unveiling of a new logo of the company in Abuja, in the presence of the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy Prof. Isa Ibrahim Pantami, the Chairman of Mafab Communications, Dr. Musbahu Bahir, in his address, noted that "the launch of Mafab 5G network is the beginning of immense opportunities for the country

and it represents Nigeria's capabilities and infinite possibilities."

He said "5G network will usher into this country a wide array of business opportunities, wherein various business outfits will expand their frontiers with operational ease and speed."

He added that 5G will be of benefit "especially in the fields of education, medical sciences, engineering, security, financial services, SMEs, smart cities, transportation and entertainment, which will not benefit only urban areas but also meet our long-term goal of ensuring that even people in rural areas and villages also enjoy benefits of this amazing technology."

He pointed out that 5G will improve the global competitiveness of Nigerians and enhance their innovation, which will also bring socio-economic benefit to the citizens. "With 5G infrastructure, Nigeria will surely be a head ahead of many other countries, especially in Africa. Indeed, with the 5G network, our future as a people and as a country is remarkably bright," he noted.

As an indigenous company, Mafab sounded optimistic about its exploits in the sector.



Danbatta

However, a new technology like Mafab requires new structures which may pose new challenges to the nation in terms of investment and reach. For instance, the 5G technology at the moment can only be operational in major cities in the country and not all parts of the country. This would mean that greater parts of the country are shut out and may have to wait for some time before they could enjoy the services of the technology.

Industry experts believe that there are issues such as capital expenses (CAPEX) as well as security issues for 5G deployment which are very

high and may discourage investment as only few firms can participate in the process.

In Nigeria also the question of poor fiber penetration throws up another challenge as the coverage of optic fiber cable in Nigeria is still a problem especially in major cities where 5G is to be deployed. An associated part of this problem is the Right of Way (RoW), which the federal government and some states and local governments it appears have not addressed adequately. There is also the issue of the scarcity of the 5G devices such as multiband

support of upper and lower frequency and poor electricity supply.

However, experts are of the opinion that despite these challenges, Nigeria cannot afford to wait until everything is right before implementing the 5G as time may not be on its side.

Speaking to LEADERSHIP, president of National Association of Telecommunications Subscriber (NATCOMS) Deolu Ogubanjo, noted that irrespective of the challenge of infrastructure, it is still better to have the 5G deployed in Nigeria as a delay might affect the country negatively.

He said, "Nigeria is a developing country and I must tell you that if we delay the deployment of 5G until everything is in place we may be behind other nations. So, let us deploy it and start mobilising whatever that is to make it perfect. China is even thinking of 6G so, if we don't embrace it now we may never get it right."

Also speaking to LEADERSHIP on Tuesday, the Executive Secretary of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of

Nigeria (ATCON), Ajibola Olude, said the country must deploy 5G as the available infrastructure is good enough to power the technology.

He said, "As a country and as an industry, we are ready for 5G with the level of infrastructure that we have in place. MTN is already deploying 5G and people are already deploying it in Nigeria. Few weeks ago Mafab tested its own and it is working, so we have the infrastructure to back it."

He added that 3.5Ghz, the spectrum earmarked for the technology, is what is needed for it all over the world, even as he admitted that the technology may not go round the country immediately

He said "Though it may not be able to go round for now the target is that it will be deployed in about 6 commercial cities in Nigeria. We are looking at Lagos state, we are looking at Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano and a few other states. So, gradually we will move to other states."

On the issues of RoW, Olude said it could easily be gotten by the operators as they are talking to the states concerns and hopefully the matter will be addressed.



Communications WATCH

BY CHIMA AKWAJA

NCC: Enhancing Regulatory Excellence Through Operational Efficiency

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) ably led by the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, Professor Umar Garba Dangote on assumption of office in 2015, introduced various reforms and initiatives to drive his seven-point agenda for the Nigerian telecommunications industry.

Among these was the launch of the Commission's Strategic Vision Plan (SVP) 2021-2025 to drive the attainment of its mandate and develop the communications sector in line with the expectations of the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003.

The Strategic Vision Plan 2015-2020 expired in December 2020 and was replaced by the Strategic Vision Plan 2021-2025. The new SVP 2021-2025 has Five Visions and has three key supporting documents namely: Implementation Strategies and Timelines (IST); Implementation Responsibility Matrix (IRM); and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E).

Among the Five Visions are: Organisation renewal for operations efficiency and regulatory excellence; Facilitate the provision of infrastructure for a digital economy which fosters national development; Improve Quality of Service (QoS) for enhanced Consumer Quality of Experience (QoE); Promote fair competition, inclusive growth, increased investment and innovative services; and Facilitate Strategic Collaboration and Partnership.

Under the guidance of Prof Danbatta, the Commission also introduced the Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for fiscal years 2020-2024, the third of such since the deregulation of the Nigerian telecom industry in 2001. The SMP 2020-2024 is designed to bring the benefits of the digitized economy to the citizens of Nigeria.

Christened ASPIRE 2024, Prof Danbatta while unveiling the Commission's SMP 2020 - 2024 said it comprises five pillars, viz: Regulatory Excellence- to develop adaptive and sustainable regulation to ensure efficient regulatory service to all



Danbatta

stakeholders; Universal Broadband Access- to achieving pervasive and inclusive broadband access by providing incentives for broadband deployment in Nigeria.

The rest are of the pillars are; Promote Development of Digital Economy- provide the necessary regulations and initiatives for the achievement of the Digital Economy policy thrust of the Government; Market Development- ensure a dynamic market that drives innovation necessary for economic growth; and Strategic Partnering: aims at mutually sustainable collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

According to the EVC/CEO of the NCC, the SVP 2021-2025 and SMP 2020-2025 took into consideration, the provisions of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy 2020-2030, and National Broadband Plan 2020-2025. A look at the Five Visions and Five Pillars show that much progress has been made in meeting the milestones.

In its commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and regulatory excellence, the Commission continues to develop adaptive and sustainable regulation to ensure efficient regulatory service to all stakeholders.

The Commission's regulatory priority areas for the next three years will include facilitating the attainment of 70 per cent broadband penetration by 2025 and

building very reliable and sustainable broadband infrastructure in Nigeria; consumer protection and empowerment; and consolidation of spectrum trading to ensure maximum and efficient usage of available frequencies.

Under the guidance of Prof. Danbatta, the Commission is committed to delivering on its mandate of ensuring the quality of service to the consumers, driving investment and boosting healthy competition in the industry as enshrined in the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA), 2003.

To this end, the Commission last week carried out a repositioning exercise by redeploying some of its directors to head critical departments in a move to further enhance operational efficiency and sustain regulatory excellence.

Two directors of the Commission, Dr. Alhassan Haru and Mr. Efosa Idehen were redeployed to man the Technical Standards and Network Integrity (TSNI), and the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CME). Other senior staff of NCC were also redeployed following the recent retirement of some directors, who reached the 60 years of age.

Dr. Haru, hitherto Director, New Media and Information Security (NMIS), takes over from retiring director Engr Bako

Wakil at the TSNI department, which oversees the maintenance of international standards and integrity of the national network, including quality of service (QoS) and equipment type approval.

Idehen, who was once the director at CME, returns to a familiar turf where he was nicknamed 'Efosa, the Enforcer' after a stint at the Consumer Affairs Bureau (CAB). He takes over from Mr. Ephraim Nwokonneya, who has also commenced his retirement leave. The CME department monitors the industry and enforces compliance with industry rules of engagement.

At the Projects Department of the Commission, from where Mrs. Iyabo Sholanke retired, Mr. Philip Eretan, Deputy Director, was appointed Head, while Mr. Kelechi Nwankwo, another deputy director, took over as head, Corporate Planning Strategy and Risk Management, (CPS-RM), a position left by erstwhile director, Mr. Felix Adeoye.

Dr. Chidi Diugwu, deputy director at NMIS, took over from Haru as head of the department. Mrs. Safiya Jijji has assumed duty as Ag. Head, Zonal Operations, following the retirement of the erstwhile director, Mrs. Amina Shehu.

Another deputy director, Banji Ojo, takes over from Idehen as Head, CAB. NCC boss, in the redeployment, charged the new appointees to work in tandem with the Commission's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) 2020-2024 and NCC's Strategic Vision Implementation Plan (SVP) 2020-2025.

The EVC further assured industry stakeholders of the Commission's determination to provide essential regulatory supports to consolidate on the growth already recorded in the industry. According to him, the NCC will continue to put round pegs in round holes to sustain its operational efficiency and regulatory excellence.

In line with the Commission's vision to improve the Quality of Service (QoS) in Nigeria, we carried out a painstaking review of measured and monitored Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to identify challenges that are adversely im-

pacting the Quality of Service (QoS). We established a task force on QoS and set up a QoS fixing project; re-energized the industry Working Groups on QoS, Short Codes on Multiple Taxation; and carried out the deployment of QoS and spectrum tools. All these measures were painstakingly implemented and have enhanced QoS delivery across networks.

Through these initiatives and periodic monitoring of operators' performance as measured against the thresholds set in the KPIs on QoS delivery, we have been able to hold operators accountable. While the technical QoS issues have been tackled through aggressive monitoring and enforcing adherence to relevant KPIs, the non-technical issues on QoS are also handled through enhanced collaborations with necessary stakeholders such as the Nigerian Governor's Forum (NGF) and other relevant government agencies to assist in ensuring effective protection of Telecoms infrastructure from theft and vandalism, multiple taxations and indiscriminate shutting down.

In addition, the Commission regularly publishes details of the QoS performance of operators on its website, thus making the operators accountable to their customers. Through these publications, customers have sufficient information to choose their preferred networks.

Furthermore, we have provided efficient spectrum management by introducing innovative initiatives such as Spectrum Trading Guidelines, National Roaming Guidelines, and Co-location & Infrastructure Sharing Guidelines which now provide for active infrastructure sharing. These initiatives were developed after robust industry consultation in the spirit of the Commission's participative approach to rule-making. The Commission is also forging ahead with the potential introduction of new options such as the use of TV White Space to solve network coverage issues.

In 2015, 217 access gap clusters were identified in the country affecting 40 million Nigerians without access to tele-

com services. Today, NCC has reduced the access gap clusters to 114 with 15 million of the 40 million digitally excluded Nigerians now having access to telecoms services. In line with the Commission's Strategic Vision Plan (2021-2025), the NCC is committed to addressing the remaining access gap clusters, which are areas outside the frontier of economic viability to ensure the remaining 25 million Nigerians have access.

Similarly, there were 47,000 kilometres of fibre optic cables laid across the country as of 2015. However, as a result of regulatory focus, there are now approximately 54,725 kilometres of fibre cables laid across the country through the efforts of some private companies in the sector.

In line with the Federal Government's target, additional 120,000 kilometres of fibre are being planned. In this regard, the Commission is working on last-mile connectivity to different parts of the country through leveraging the 40 terabyte capacity of six submarine cables on the coastal shores of Nigeria as of April 2022.

The licensing of seven Infrastructure Companies (Infra-Cos) to deploy fibre infrastructure across the six geo-political zones has also helped to galvanize increased connectivity. This will also bring about a reduction in the cost of data with a broadband penetration target of 70 per cent to cover 90 per cent of the population by 2025 as contained in the new Nigerian National Broadband Plan (2020-2025).

During the period under review, the Commission has put in place various consumer-centric initiatives to strengthen consumer protection and empowerment in the last seven years. These include the declaration of 2017 as the Year of the Consumer, the introduction of the Do-Not-Disturb (DND) 2442 Short Code, the introduction of the NCC toll-free Number 622; stringent provisions of Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Registration, issuance of direction on forceful subscription and data roll-over, among others.

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AUDA-NEPAD Organises Road Walk For Violence-free Election

BY IGHO OYOYO, Abuja

To ensure credible and violence-free elections, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) yesterday organised a peace road walk in Abuja, calling on Nigerians to conduct themselves in line with electoral law during and after the elections.

The acting director of research, innovations and planning and research, AUDA-NEPAD, Akande Abdullahkim, said the road walk was in line with EU guidelines and SDGs on having an early warning in trying to avert a lot of conflict and crisis that comes with electioneering.

Abdullahkim who is also the focal person for the election-free violence campaign said that in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, the European Union (EU) wants Nigeria to get it right during and after the election, which was why the peace roadway was organised to sensitize Nigerians on the need to have a peaceful election.

"We are trying to curb all the malpractices of elections, vote buying, snatching of ballot boxes, crisis and bitterness. This is why we are trying to sensitise the people that they do not have to die in the election. That Nigerians do not have to take it as a 'do-or-die' affair.

IPCR Sues For Peace During General Elections

BY INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) has called on Nigerians to embrace peace and eschew violence ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The institute gave this admonition on Thursday in a statement, stressing the political parties and their supporters should leverage the good will of President Muhammadu Buhari to ensure a peaceful, free, fair and transparent polls scheduled for February 25 and March 11.

In a statement it issued yesterday, IPCR said, "This election is a defining moment in the political annals of the country because of the innovative commitment of the President and the Commander-in-Chief, Muhammadu Buhari in signing the new Electoral Act and the determination to bequeath to the nation a credible, peaceful, free and fair election.

"The federal government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari has also called on the citizens to participate in the exercise as the state has put in place measures to ensure the security of lives and property.

"As a public agency, the Institute encourages political parties and their supporters to leverage on the goodwill of the President and relevant state agencies in ensuring that the election is peaceful, credible and violence-free.

2023: UN Urges All Parties To Respect Peace Accord

BY INNOCENT ODOH, Abuja

Ahead of 2023 presidential and parliamentary elections in Nigeria, the Deputy Special Representative of the secretary-general and officer in charge of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UN-OWAS), Giovane Biha has commended the signing of the Second National Peace Accord for peaceful elections in Nigeria under the auspices of the National Peace Committee (NPC).

A statement issued on Thursday by the United Nations Information Centre, noted that following the signing of the Second Peace Accord on Wednesday, Biha tasked all the stakeholders in the elections to respect their commitment to the peace accord and accept the outcome of the

elections.

Under the Peace Accord, the 18 presidential candidates and the Chairmen of their respective political parties renewed their commitment to peaceful, transparent and credible elections. They further reaffirmed their commitment to fully abide by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to respect the rules and regulations as laid down in the Electoral Act 2022; and to adhere to best international standards, and best practices of our democratic processes.

"I am determined to place national interest above personal and partisan concerns, hereby commit myself to accept and abide by the outcome of the 2023 Presidential elections, and if issues should arise, I will

deploy constitutional means and appeal to the courts rather than unconstitutional means." The Presidential candidates reaffirmed.

Ms. Biha appealed to all candidates and their supporters to respect the terms of the Peace Accord with due respect for the rule of law.

She further reiterated the importance of peaceful elections to Nigeria, the region and the continent while highlighting the centrality of peaceful elections to peace, stability and development of Nigeria.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General reassured of the United Nations support to the people of Nigeria and expressed the hope that the elections of Saturday 25 February would further deepen

democratic consolidation in Nigeria and the African region.

President Muhammadu Buhari, charged the contestants and their political parties to respect the choice of voters and accept the result of the elections as announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, the agency empowered by law to do so.

He reminded Nigerians that they had no other country outside Nigeria, and urged them to do everything to keep it safe, united and peaceful.

The chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, restated the readiness of the Commission to conduct the elections as scheduled. He reassured Nigerians of a free and fair election.



L-R: Registrar, Medical & Dental Council of Nigeria, Dr. Tajudeen Sanusi; president/ vice chancellor, Babcock University, Prof. Ademola Tayo and Global Health leader, Dr. Folake Olayinka, during the seventh induction ceremony for newly qualified medical doctors from Benjamin S. Carson (Snr.) College of Health and Medical Sciences, Babcock University, held at the University in Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State recently

PDP Alleges Plot To Compromise Electoral System In Imo, Cross Rivers

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, Abuja

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has alleged plots by the All Progressives Congress (APC) leaders to undermine the elections in Imo and Cross Rivers States.

The PDP therefore called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the Police to take urgent action against the schemes of the APC in Imo State as the people will surely not accept any electoral outcome that does not reflect their Will and aspiration.

The national publicity secretary of PDP, Hon Debo Ogunagba who stated this in separately statements yesterday said in Imo State, the APC ahead of Saturday's Presidential and National Assembly elections are planning to induce unsuspecting members of the public to surrender their Permanent Voter Cards (PVC) to APC agents with false promise of cash payment.

Ogunagba alleged that a minister in the APC-led Federal Government, who has relocated to Imo State, is conniving with APC

leaders in the state to manipulate information contained in the PVCs to compromise the integrity of INEC systems (BVAS and Server) with the view of rigging elections in the State.

"There are already apprehensions of plots by the APC to use the said Minister's influence in the Communication Sector to hack into INEC's system and open it up to manipulate accreditation and voting information to the advantage of the APC.

"The PDP cautions the APC and the said Minister to note that their scheme has been exposed. Imo State is a stronghold of the PDP; that the people are behind our Presidential and National Assembly candidates and any attempt to rob them of their votes will be firmly resisted.

"We urge the people of Imo State and Nigerians across the country to resist the APC by refusing to surrender their PVCs to anybody, no matter the pressure or inducement, or allow anybody, under any guise whatsoever, to have access to their PVCs.

"Nigerians must also note that the PVCs contain very important personal biometric information. Allowing APC agents access to the PVCs is likely to open their information to criminals who could use such to manipulate and devastate the financial and social lives of unsuspecting Nigerians.

In another statement, Ogunagba alleged that APC plans to clamp down on Nigerians as well as compromise the electoral systems in Cross River State.

He said intelligence available to the party reveals that Governor Ben Ayade of Cross River State, has allegedly compromised some members of the Election Special Forces detailed from Abuja for the elections in the State.

"Our Party has also been made aware that the said operatives led by a Commissioner of Police were taken to the Government House in Calabar where Governor Ayade reportedly handed them a list of 150 prominent opposition members and supporters who he allegedly ordered to be arrested and taken out of circulation

before and during the elections.

"Further information at our disposal indicates that Governor Ayade also provided the alleged compromised security operatives with 14 trucks and other vehicles to hound, arrest and convey the said opposition members to secret detention facilities in the State Capital.

"The intention of the APC is to use the security operatives to harass the opposition, instill fear in the people, create tension and cause voter suppression in the State having realized that the people have rejected the APC and its Presidential and National Assembly candidates due to their manifest failures.

"It is however imperative to caution Governor Ayade and the alleged compromised security operatives to note that Cross River State is a stronghold of the PDP; that the people of Cross River State firmly stand with the PDP and our Presidential and National Assembly candidates and can never be cowed or subjugated by anybody in this election.

FG Closes Land Borders For Presidential, NASS Elections

BY CHRISTIANA NWAOGU, Abuja

Federal government has closed land borders for tomorrow's presidential and National Assembly elections.

The comptroller-general, Nigeria Immigration Service

(NIS), Mr Isah Jere Idris, said in a statement he issued in Abuja yesterday that the restriction of movements from all land borders takes effect from 00:00 hours on Saturday, February 25, to Sunday, February 26, 2023.

He said, "Further to the presidential and National

Assembly elections taking place on February 25, 2019, the federal government has directed the closure of all Nigeria's land borders with effect from Saturday February 25 to Sunday, February 26, 2023.

"This is to restrict

movements across the borders during the election days. The public is to take note and ensure compliance."

Accordingly, the NIS boss directed all of command controllers, especially those in border states to ensure strict enforcement of the directive.

Security Agencies Will Ensure Hitch-free Election In North West – DIG

BY ADENIYI OLUGBEMI, Sokoto

Deputy inspector-general of police (DIG) for Northwest zone, Muhammad Inuwa, has said all the security agencies would work together to ensure a hitch-free election in the zone

Inuwa stated this yesterday at Police Headquarters, Sokoto when he addressed men of the Nigerian Army, Police and other paramilitaries in the state.

The DIG said he was in Sokoto on monitoring and assessment, and to meet with security stakeholders in the state. He said as security personnel, they must remain apolitical with no sympathy for any political party.

"Our own duty is to maintain law and order during and after the election. When it comes to internal security police are in forefront that is why we are here to rub minds together to ensure hitch free elections.

"No eligible voter will be disfranchised as we are ready to deal decisively with those who want to foment trouble during and after the election.

"You Know government comes and the government goes but we remain loyal to the government in power to ensure peace reigns in the country."

The DIG later went into a closed-door meeting with traditional leaders, political parties, EU election observers where he enjoined political parties to caution their supporters to refrain from violence during and after the election.

In his welcome address, the commissioner of police, Sokoto state, Muhammad Usaini Gumel, said as part of preparations for the poll, the command held a series of inter-agency consultative meetings where every security agency pledged to do everything to ensure violence-free election.

Gumel said, "DIG, let me inform you this morning as part of our preparations, we went out for a show of force, not to intimidate anybody but to inform the people that we are ready."

Kwara Governor Declares Today Work-free

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq has declared today a work-free day for the state civil servants.

This was announced in a statement signed by the state's head of service (HoS), Mrs Susan Oluwole.

Oluwole said, "This is to enable the state workers to travel down to their respective polling areas to actively participate in the presidential election holding on Saturday."

She admonished residents of the state particularly the civil servants to perform their civil responsibility during the electioneering period without any acrimony.

Yiaga Africa Concerned Over Naira Redesign Policy On Voters

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, Abuja

Foremost election monitoring body, Yiaga Africa, has expressed concern that the Naira Redesign policy may encourage voters to sell their votes in exchange for the scarce Naira notes.

The major election monitoring body said the current Naira redesign policy aimed at eliminating vote buying on election has resulted in a shortage of cash making it difficult for citizens to meet basic domestic needs.

This was contained in pre-election assessment report by Yiaga, signed by chairman, Watching The Vote Working Group, Yiaga Africa, Dr Hussaini Abdu, and executive director, Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo.

According to the report, Yiaga Africa commended the political parties and candidates for signing the National Peace Accord, an initiative of the National Peace Committee, headed by the former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

It further called on the parties,

and candidates to uphold their commitment in the peace accord and urge party supporters to maintain the peace during and after the elections.

On economic hardship impacting citizens' participation, the group said, "Barely 48 hours to the Presidential elections, Nigerians are experiencing untold economic hardship caused by the recent scarcity of new naira notes and unending fuel scarcity. This has led to a series of protests in different parts of the country.

"This growing discontent

amongst citizens may lead to voter apathy in the form of "protest" which will eventually lead to low voter turnouts. We are also worried that citizens facing these forms of adversities going into the election may be unable to make informed choices at the polls."

On possible vote trading, the group said, "The current Naira redesign policy aimed at eliminating vote buying on election has resulted in a shortage of cash making it difficult for citizens to meet basic domestic needs.

L-R: Former permanent secretary, Dr. Jalal Arabi; chairman, Arewa New Agenda (ANA), Sen. Ahmad Abubakar Mo-Allahyidi; representative of the APC presidential candidate and former FCT minister, Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar and deputy chairman, ANA, Prof. Ahmed Danfulani, during a press conference and presentation of ANA Compendium of demands to APC presidential candidate in Abuja, on Wednesday. PHOTO BY IBRAHIM MOHAMMED



Set Aside Differences, Work For Peace, Ex-Govs Tell Politicians

Former state governors have urged political parties, candidates and their supporters to set aside their differences and support the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to provide credible and transparent elections.

They charged the electoral stakeholders to play their part in ensuring peaceful, transparent and credible

elections tomorrow.

The ex-governors under the aegis of Former Governors Forum stated this in a statement in by its chairman, Dr Babangida Aliyu, and its executive secretary, Prof. Tunde Esan, respectively in Abuja.

The statement, titled, 'Former governors forum call for peaceful polls' reads: "In the past few months, our nation

has witnessed campaigns by politicians across the political divides. Information dissemination aimed at reaching the electorate are sometimes laced with controversies. In the midst of it all, our nation is and must continue to stand in peace and unity as we cast our votes. Polemics, grandstanding and vituperations of emotional positions may have whipped up

sentiments, and call to question some of the fundamentals of vote seeking; in all, the voice and votes of Nigerians must count.

"The electoral empire INEC must be supported, in their assurance of free and fair polls. There must be winners and losers, none and nobody is permitted to question the basis of our corporate existence as a nation.

PDP, Labour Party Close Campaigns, Brace For Tough Polls

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, ABUJA

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party (LP) have stopped campaigns ahead of Saturday's federal elections, urging Nigerians to remain alert and resist any attempt by anybody to subvert their Will at the polls.

National Publicity Secretary of PDP, Hon. Debo Ologunagba, in a statement, said in line with the provisions of the Electoral Act 2022, all campaign activities and

materials related to "our Presidential Candidate, Atiku Abubakar, his running mate, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa and our National Assembly Candidates for the Saturday, February 25, 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections close at midnight today, Thursday, February 23, 2023.

"Consequently, the PDP directs all our campaign units, support groups and supporters of our candidates to end all forms of campaign activities accordingly.

"The public, particularly the

media should take note that our Party and candidates will not be liable for any campaign activity and/or material that appears on any platform after the stipulated time.

"The PDP sincerely appreciates Nigerians for the unprecedented outpouring of love, solidarity and support for our Presidential Candidate, Atiku Abubakar, his running mate, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa and the National Assembly candidates of our Party throughout the campaign period.

"We urge Nigerians to remain at alert and resist any attempt by anybody to subvert their Will at the polls."

On its part, the Director General of the LP National Campaign Council, Akin Osuntokun, in a statement said,

"The Labour Party Presidential Campaign Council, PCC, wishes to announce the end of the Presidential campaigns by midnight of Thursday 23, February 2023 in line with the Electoral Act.

We've Kept Faith With Nigerians, Says SDP Presidential Candidate

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, Abuja

Presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Prince Adewale Adebayo has said the party has kept faith with Nigerians ahead

of Saturday's polls.

Adebayo stated this on his twitter handle yesterday. Recall that report had emerged that the party had collapsed its structure for another party, a claim the SDP national leadership

denied.

But commenting ahead of the elections, Adebayo said on his twitter handle, "We have kept faith with the Nigerian people by pursuing your issues and priorities on the campaign

trail. We have kept our word to run the race to the end.

"Now is the time for the electorate to endorse our manifesto and vote massively for the white horse. That's the true choice," he said.

Atiku Youth Wing Tasks INEC, Nigerians On Credible Elections

BY TUNDE OGUNTOLA, Abuja

Ahead of the forthcoming general elections, scheduled this Saturday, the Atiku Youth Wing has called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to remain resolute in conducting credible elections.

The group also asked young Nigerians to shun all actions that may scuttle the electoral process and remain resolute to cast their votes, defend and ensure that their votes count.

He also urged INEC to remain focused on ensuring the conduct of credible elections.

The director general of the Atiku Youth Wing, Comrade

Odihi Rowland, who stated yesterday in Abuja in a statement said while several distractions in Nigeria might affect the elections, the INEC and the youths should not allow themselves to be used by desperate politicians who may want to subvert the electoral process.

He decried that youth scouting for young people who will be used as political thugs to perpetuate violence in many voting areas, insisting that they should instead wait at their polling units to ensure that their votes are counted and properly captured by the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

No Genuine Pro-Buhari/Osinbajo Groups Left APC - BOSF

The Buhari Osinbajo Solidarity Front (BOSF) has urged Nigerians to disregard the purported Pro President Muhammadu Buhari/Yemi Osinbajo groups who claimed to have dumped the All Progressives Congress (APC) and declared support for the PDP presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, ahead of Saturday's election.

BOSF added that the groups do not represent the true loyalty and support that both the President and the Vice President enjoy across this country.

National chairman of BOSF, Alhaji Ado Baba stated this while

condemning and correcting the recent actions of some groups that claimed to be loyal to President Muhammadu Buhari and the Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo, SAN.

Recall that supporters of President Muhammadu Buhari under the aegis of the Buhari-Yemi Osinbajo

Nationwide Supporters Group had on Wednesday asked Nigerians for forgiveness for "blindly supporting" the All Progressives Congress and installing an administration which has brought so much anguish.

Benue South Opposes Ortom Over Atiku

BY CHIBUZO UKAIBE, Abuja

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) faithful in Benue South senatorial district rose from a stakeholders meeting in Otukpo yesterday evening to formally endorse the candidature of Atiku Abubakar as the preferred candidate for the plum position in 2023.

The meeting was held in the Otukpo country home of former President of the Senate, Senator David Mark.

The PDP stakeholders resolved to vote for Abubakar

on the premise that their interest will be better served under his presidency.

They distanced themselves from those campaigning for candidates of other political parties, saying they cannot be faithful members of the PDP and be seen to be working for candidates of other political parties.

They therefore urged all party members not to be distracted by the antics of a few but should go all out to vote for candidates of the PDP in the February 25, 2023 and March 11, 2023 elections.

Minister Urges Voters To Turn Out En Masse In FCT

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISAIHAH

With two days to the presidential election, the Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Dr Ramatu Tijjani Aaliyu, has urged voters to turnout en masse on Saturday.

She disclosed this when she led a support group of the All Progressives Congress (APC), presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Senator Kashim Shettima, Nigerians Unite for Tinubu/Shettima, NUFTS, on a special medical outreach to an exclusively Christian community of

Piwoyi in Abuja Municipal Area Council, AMAC, of the FCT.

According to Aliyu, the medical outreach was basically to provide much-needed and expected medical care for members of Piwoye community, which the people deserve.

She stressed that the essence of the medical outreach was part of efforts to add value to the health of Nigerians, especially the indigent who cannot afford the cost of maintaining their health and as a way to alleviate their plight amid health challenges in the community.

I am partly Fulani and I am the proud holder of a prestigious and powerful traditional title from the heart of the Caliphate which I am very proud of.

Apart from that I have lived in the North for the last 20 years and I consider it to be my home.

For those that still cannot comprehend the importance of a power shift to the South consider the following.

Every single democratically elected leader from the North since 1960, except for Sir Tafawa Balewa, has been a Fulani.

They are President Shehu Shagari, President Umaru Yaradua and President Muhammadu Buhari.

And it is a historical fact and common knowledge that Sir Tafawa Balewa, as Prime Minister from 1960 till 1966, though not a Fulani himself, took his directives and orders from the revered and much-loved Saurdana of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello, who was Premier of the North and who was a Fulani.

Given all this, it is painfully absurd for anyone to suggest that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, another Fulani, should take power and succeed President Buhari, who is also Fulani, in the coming election.

Such a suggestion is uncivable, unacceptable, inequitable, unjust and darn right dangerous simply because it would confirm the misguided, erroneous and insulting notion that Nigeria has a master race who are born to rule.

It would also affect our national



BY FEMI FANI-KAYODE

A Vote For Atiku Is A Vote For Dishonor And Injustice

unity and take us back to the ugly and unpleasant days of separatist agitation, deep suspicion and tribal tension.

This is why all the Fulani leaders and politicians and their indeed Northerners generally that either support or are members of the APC, together with ALL the Northern APC Governors, have opted to honor an earlier agreement and their word by insisting that power shifts to the South in our upcoming presidential election and specifically to our party's candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

I have no doubt that the North will stand firmly behind BAT because Northerners, generally speaking, are men and women of honor.

Once they give their word they honor it. All fears of a pending betrayal by the North are unfounded regardless of how much our collective enemies wish or say it.

The North will hold the line and stand firmly with Tinubu.

Their faith also compels them to do the right and proper thing and constrains them to seek fairness, justice and equity.

And seeking fairness, justice and equity in this context means nothing

less than a shift of power to the South after 8 years of a Northern Buhari Presidency.

APC has done the right thing by fielding and Bola Tinubu and by standing by him and I am not only very proud of them but I also consider it an honor to be in their ranks.

History will be kind to the Northerners of APC particularly for making this monumental sacrifice and relinquishing power to the South in order to ensure I am partly Fulani and I am the proud holder of a prestigious and powerful traditional title from the heart of the Caliphate which I am very proud of.

Apart from that I have lived in the North for the last 20 years and I consider it to be my home.

For those that still cannot comprehend the importance of a power shift to the South consider the following.

Every single democratically elected leader from the North since 1960, except for Sir Tafawa Balewa, has been a Fulani.

And even Balewa, as Prime Minister from 1960 till 1966, took orders from the revered and much loved Saurdana of Sokoto, Sir

Ahmadu Bello, who was Premier of the North and who was also Fulani.

For anyone to suggest that Atiku Abubakar, another Fulani, should take power and succeed Buhari, who is also Fulani, in the coming election is uncivable, unacceptable, inequitable, unjust and darn right dangerous simply because it would confirm the misguided, erroneous and insulting notion that Nigeria has a master race who are born to rule.

It would also affect our national unity and take us back to the ugly and unpleasant days of separatist agitation, deep suspicion and tribal tensions.

This is why all the Fulani leaders and politicians and indeed ALL Northerners generally that either support or are members of the APC, together with ALL the Northern APC Governors, have opted to honor an earlier agreement and their word by insisting that power shifts to the South in our upcoming presidential election and specifically to our party's candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

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And seeking fairness, justice and equity in this context means nothing less than a shift of power to the South after 8 years of a Northern Buhari Presidency.

APC has done the right thing by fielding Asiwaju and standing by him and I am not only very proud of them but I also consider it an honor to be in their ranks.

History will be kind to the Northerners of APC particularly for making this monumental sacrifice and relinquishing power to the South in order to ensure justice and to preserve the peace and unity of Nigeria.

A vote for Atiku on Saturday is indeed a vote for dishonor, injustice and the destabilisation of our nation.

It is wrong.

It is dangerous.

It is wicked.

It is iniquitous.

It is unjust.

—Fani-Kayode is former minister of Aviation

It is now few weeks to the governorship election in the country when Nigerians will elect governors that will steer the affairs of their states for four years. In Gombe State, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya is seeking second term and I believe that we should all rally round him to enable him govern the state again.

Why Governor Inuwa Again? I have copious answers why he should be voted again in March for another term of four years.

Gombe State like everyone knows is still a young state that is not older than 27 years. As such, it requires a focused and visionary leader that will initiate and execute development projects to make the state a progressive one and a good city to live in the comity of states.

Of course! the governor should be supported by all and sundry across the divides to come back as the chief executive of the state in view of his performance in the first tenure and the numerous projects he initiated and or completed within the period under review.

But let me review and enumerate some of the projects carried out by the governor which I think he deserves second term to consolidate on the gains. Well, everyone who is eligible to vie for the governorship seat is permitted by the constitution to do so and if he has anything to offer for the state, he can be elected.

But in this election, I fervently believe that there is need for continuity of the All Progressives Congress (APC) administration



BY ARCH AMINU A. MUHAMMAD

Governor Inuwa's Covenant With Gombe People

led by Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya in Gombe State. This is to ensure the sustenance of his good legacies that will accelerate the development and advancement of our dear state in the next four years.

For the sake of records, let me highlight some of these legacies although every enlightened citizen of the state is wary of them. One of these great projects is the multi billion naira Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park built along Yamaltu/Deba local government. The project which is almost completed will attract investors to the state from across the nation and beyond. It will boost business activities in the state, create jobs to youths, improve internal revenue of the state and revitalise the economy of the state and by extension fasten our development as a state. Inuwa needs to complete this visionary project and make it a reality. This can be done when he comes again after the governorship polls.

To beautify Gombe State and make movement of people and vehicles easy especially at night in the state capital, the governor has provided solar street lights within the major roads in the state capital.

As part of efforts to ensure fairness, equity among the

electorates scattered in various local government areas, he initiated the construction of at least 100 kilometres roads in all the 11 local governments of the state. Some of these roads were completed, some were ongoing while others awarded. There is the need for these works too to be actualised for if they are done, they will develop the areas. This calls for the re-election of the governor.

Erosion is a major problem faced by the state, there are over 200 active gullies in parts of the state which destroy houses and displace the owners every raining seasons. To curb it, the governor came up with a programme tagged 'Gombe Goes Green (3G project) where four million trees are being planted to help in controlling the erosion. This project also needs to be sustained by the governor.

On education, he built many schools in places that lack them and upgraded those that needs upgrade. One of the new schools worthy of mention is the ultra modern nursery, primary and junior secondary school in Kumbiya-Kumbiya community of the state that hitherto lacked any public learning facility. The school has befitting libraries, classes, toilets, sports facilities and offices. It is a magnificent

edifice sited in a community predominantly occupied by low income earners. The development has without gainsaying put smiles on the faces of the residents of the place.

Another school that attracted encomiums on the governor is the newly built storey building Almajiri School in Yelenguruza community as part of succour and reform to the Almajiri education system. In the new school, children will learn Qur'anic recitation, basics of western education and skills as it has no only classes but skills acquisition rooms where different trades and occupations are being taught to the children. This is meant to address the problem of child begging associated with the Almajiri system. Prominent personalities including the sultan of Sokoto, His eminence Sa'ad Abubakar III attended the commissioning of this model Almajiri school.

Health is wealth, without good health care delivery, there will be no meaningful development. Mindful of that, Governor Inuwa has made sure each of the 114 wards of the state has a functional primary health centre. Construction of new General Hospitals in Kumo and Kaltungo as well as renovation of General

Hospital in Bajoga.

Next to health is security of the people. The governor has improved internal security in the state and has done well in addressing thuggery perpetrated by 'Kalare boys'. He established ministry of internal security and provided special jobs for the youth to mitigate restiveness and redundancy. The special jobs were provided under the newly established Gombe State Security, Traffic and Environmental Corps (GOSTEC). Not less than 500 youths were recruited into the corps.

Still on the youth employment, he introduced Citizenship and Leadership Training program for youth at the training centre at Boltongo, which will also serve as NYSC Orientation Camp, and gave 1, 000 tricycles known as KEKE NAPEPS on loans to many youths for commercial use.

Within this year, he flagged off water expansion project to improve water supply in the state that has been grappling with natural water scarcity. Over N11 billion was sacrificed for the project. The project targets to establish five more water booster stations to provide water to places like Tumfure, Investment quarters, labour quarters and parts of Akko local government.

In view of the aforesaid reasons and many more not mentioned, re-electing Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya in the upcoming election is the best decision.

—Arc Aminu, SSA Technical to Governor Inuwa writes from Gombe



Naked Reality

With
Abdullahi O Haruna Haruspice

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Jamila Mohammed Dahiru, The Bauchi Lady Who Wants To Have Every Child In School

Worried by the unimpressive statistics about out-of-school children in Bauchi, the governor, Senator Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir Kauran Bauchi, isn't leaving things to sour. He has gone afar with the bid of nipping in the bud the abysmal reference; recently, he made a young educational enthusiast a commissioner in charge of the education ministry. Feelers dubbed the appointment as one of the smartest moves in addressing the imbalance in education in Bauchi. The young lady who possesses a knack for modern solutions to problems comes from the university. Gifted with an excellent grasp of issues, Jamila Mohammed Dahiru presents a reality of purpose. Her age is an attraction to other young girls in the state, her gender speaks to the reality of modern concerns, and the zest at her disposition is what 21st-century cutting-edge decisions require.

Dahiru has a demonstrated history of working in the education industry. Before her appointment as the Honorable Commissioner Bauchi state Ministry of Education, she was a lecturer at the Department of Mass Communication, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, a College Principal at Saidu Abubakar Memorial School Kaduna, and an English teacher at Nunu International School Kaduna, Ibn Abbas Academy and Al'Iman schools

Jos Plateau state. She also served as a policy and communication consultant with various development partners and international organizations like USAID, FCDO, UNDP, MIT, Open Contracting Society and Reboot among others in Education, Health, and Good Governance projects.

Jamila holds a Bachelor, Masters and Ph.D. (In- view) degrees in Mass Communication from Bayero University Kano and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and respectively. A Postgraduate Diploma and Doctorate Degree in Education from the National Teachers Institute Kaduna and Commonwealth University College. She also has a certificate in Leadership and Management from London Graduate School, certificate in Leadership Strategy and Development from African Centre for Leadership Strategy and Development, certificate in Research from French Institute for Research in Africa, certificate in Policy and Development Studies from Centre for Human Rights Faculty of Law University of Pretoria/UNESCO, Department of African Studies John Hopkins University among many others.

Jamila has published more than 20 articles and chapters in the academic journals and books. Her most recent publication is the 'Kaduna OGP Co-creation story' which was globally circulated as presented at the 2022 OGP Global Summit in Ghana by the

Kaduna State Government.

Through her NGO - WeCare Foundation, she ardently creates awareness, sensitizes and advocates for access to public health, education and provision of enabling environment for young adolescents to thrive.

Indeed, Jamila is really living to her bidding given the acceptance that has greeted her reforms since her appointment. She goes to homes, families, and communities selling the message of education for every child in Bauchi state. She believes that education is a tool that provides comparative advantage to a nation. With a clear understanding of the place of education in nation building, her vision is to see that Nigerian state governments invests heavily in education to ensure qualitative, accessible and inclusive education to all citizens.

Understanding the critical role of relevant stakeholders in improving education, the Honorable Commissioner revived consultation with the critical stakeholders such as traditional rulers, community leaders, parent and teacher's associations, professional bodies, School Management Board Committees among others. She pushed and made case for the establishment of the Bauchi state Education Committee which will be critical in education sector sensitization, monitoring, advocacy and accountability for proper

implementation and sustainability of education projects and programs for the benefit of all.

As part of her effort to ensure quality of education in the state, she re-introduced mandatory biweekly assemblies, conduction of continues assessments and repeating low performing students in schools. She also empowered the quality assurance unit of the ministry as well as Education Secretaries across the state LGA's to enhance close monitoring, management and administration of schools.

There has been more responsibility and initiatives from the staff of the ministry like never before. This is as a result of the introduction of weekly Directorate meetings and report updates from Heads of Directorates among others.

In a bid to ensure continuity and smooth transitioning of all indexed SS3 students in schools across the state as well as concern about the high level of out of school children and school drop outs in the state, Jamila made a push for payment of sponsorship & payment of bursaries such as senior secondary external examinations and JAMB for all indexed students of public schools across the state. This is against the usual method of payment for only selected students, which was believed to have caused discontinuation of studies by some students in the state.

More development partners and international organizations are showing interest to partner, collaborate and support the education sector in the state now more than ever. This is evident looking at how the existing development partners in the state are stretching to take provide support beyond their mandate for the purpose of contributing to the education sector of the state; the expansion of UNICEF funding to include girl child education, release of more funds for the Ministry to conduct a more robust and all-encompassing annual school census to name a few.

Understanding the importance of education policy formulation and adaptation/domestication, Jamila was able to justify its relevance and secure a commitment of USAID - LEARN to Read to provide technical support for the domestication of major education policies in the state. This will surely enhance the quality of education and provide conducive environment for learning in the state.

Her yearnings for more collaboration and investments in the education sector also led to the initiation of an education sector summit, which she has pushed and has gotten subsequent approval and buy-in of development partners.

Indeed the people of Bauchi state have never been fortunate to have a damsel that speaks to the yearnings and aspirations for a better Bauchi education sector than now.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Ethics

Solution To Yesterday's Puzzle

Puzzle For Today

Ethics

Hint for today's puzzle

ACROSS

- 1. Actions based on moral rules and unchanging principles, such as 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'
- 5. Refers to a code of conduct that would be accepted by anyone who meets certain intellectual and volitional conditions
- 7. Theory of morality that derives duty or moral obligation from what is good or desirable as an end to be achieved
- 10. The right or condition of self-government.
- 11. The quality or state of doing or producing good : the quality or state of being

DOWN

- 1. Occurs when there is a conflict between two or more ethical principles; there is no 'correct' decision
- 2. The principle of doing no harm
- 3. Faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support.
- 4. Conformity to facts; accuracy.
- 6. The rational investigation of the truths and principles of knowledge, reality, and human conduct
- 8. The principle of fairness that is served when an individual is given that which he or she is due, owed, deserves, or can legitimately claim
- 9. The branch of philosophy that concerns the distinction of right from wrong on the basis of a body of knowledge not just on the basis of opinions

Cataclysm And Value Of Theatre For Young Audience

BY CHINELE CHIKELU, Abuja

Last weekend Arojah Royal Theatre (ART) reopened the production *Cataclysm* a 1977 play written by former Guardian journalist, playwright and singer, Ben Tomoloju.

A play that highlights the wide gap between the rich and the poor, and how the ruling class gets away with impunity, *Cataclysm* ends in somewhat hopelessness. A hopelessness, that ART director, Jerry Adesewo thinks will spur the audience to ethical and moral revolution to vote wisely come Sunday February 25.

Shockingly, Tomoloju's *Cataclysm* remains relevant today – as it mirrors the intensified endemic corruption, impunity, immorality and poverty that plagued the Nigerian society then and today. Worse still, it highlights how the supposed youth Generation Z (in the character Tiro) meant to be the hope of a new Nigeria, have succumbed to their elders' immorality, hold zero values and compromised their integrity.

Interestingly, young people in the audience picked up on the issues

at hand – as ten-year-old Modupe Odukoya said: “What I noticed is how the rich man was able to get away with murdering the poor man, and nothing was done to him.”

In an interactive session post the play, teenager, Chiemela Ihueze presented a line-by-line musings to the national Pledge detailing her disillusion with the nation, its leadership, and tribalistic citizenry in her piece titled *The False Hope That is The National Pledge*.

This is the value and impact of theatre on children and young audience. Often times, people believe theatre has no other purpose but for entertainment. Here, we are reminded of its power to reflect or mirror our society – more accurately expose young peoples' thoughts of their society – in this instance anger and despair. Despite assumptions that theatre is largely for adults, children and young audience can and do understand the plots, and can be quite insightful about it – like Modupe pinpointed that the major reason for endemic corruption in our society is impunity.

For the better, theatre has highlighted the state of mind of the



The cast of Arojah Royal Theatre's (ART) *Cataclysm* backstage.

younger generation, but also the fact that they are a ‘thinking’ one, and it will require same theatre to challenge that their thinking in the right direction, harness their

talents, and spread the right morals and values needed to nurture future nation-builders, if indeed, we are intent on remaining one and united people.

Esther's Revenge, A Symbolism For Colonialism – Kenneth Uphopho

BY CHINELE CHIKELU, Abuja

LEADERSHIP Books & Arts sits with Co-founder and Artistic Director of Lagos, and Abuja Fringe Festival, Kenneth Uphopho to discuss his play *Esther's Revenge*. A monologue piece, *Esther's Revenge* successfully touring international festivals, featured at the 2023 Lagos, and the Abuja Fringe festivals to a great reception. It tells the story of real person Esther Johnson jailed in the 50s to early 60s for murdering her white lover, Mark. Uphopho who described the play as a social experiment and symbolic of colonialism expands on the subject.

The last several moments of the production *Esther's Revenge* are emotionally charged and humane-driven. From the scene of the protagonist's sexual abuse and battering by her white lover, to the moment of his gruesome murder, and the scene of the audience-turned jury's deliberation and verdict on Esther's fate, says much of humanity and our society.

As a social experiment, the play pokes at human's tendency to judge others, often without all the facts and without empathy. The plot design and story sequence (which had a part of the audience as members

of the jury, and deployed immersive storytelling and physical theatre to ensure the audience feels every emotion and pain of the accused) Uphopho said it's meant to draw in the audience, have it experience Esther's life, and decide her fate.

The response, never predictable, always differed. For some it's a cut and dry matter of “kill her, she has taken a life”, or “No, there is a problem here. She needs rehabilitation,” to “it's involuntary manslaughter” and “she is not fit to come out into the society anymore.”

“I am surprised every time, and I like it because we always judge each other, whether knowingly or unknowingly. That's because I judged her (Esther) too when I first heard her story. I thought: “what was she doing with a white man? Why would she live with him and then stab

him to death? But I started to understand that there is a place for the hands of passion, that people can be moved to a certain degree in their emotions, and that they have been provoked to that level. I had a rethink. I thought since we humans want to be judges all the time, let's mirror ourselves and see how easy it is to kill someone.”

In *Esther's Revenge*, Uphopho also explores the subjugation of women, during and post-colonial times. A situation, he said remains prevalent today but masked in different ways.

“Of the nine years (1953 - 1961) she was incarcerated at the prison (turned recreational center Freedom Park), she was denied release four times, whenever she went to court. (To write the play) I am trying to figure out what was that like for a female in a male-dominated privy council of the time. what was the verdict going to be like? What was the backstory for a woman who says this man took my money to go marry a white woman? And from our (Nigerians' perspective) we term girls like Esther as ‘loose girls’ ‘prostitutes’ following white men for their money.

“But she is a human being. And every young person has gone through what she had, of wanting to be like her friend, to be accepted. And it was just that one night of going out with her friend changed her life forever.

Did Esther's case change the way women were treated post her release? Uphopho says no.

“The system still puts down women. The subjugation is still in-depth.

Women can't speak in certain areas and families. This is despite the fact that in our cultures' women were powerful, revered and consulted pre-colonial times. Everything is changed now.”

Perhaps the most subtle lesson of this play, is its symbolism of colonialism, and the depiction of its nature – from initial camouflage of ‘improving’ one's life to revealing its true form of ‘imposition of ones' will on others’.

It is reflected in the character Mark, its effect lingering in the protagonist's comment “I gave myself to Mark.”

“To be honest, it wasn't a deliberate thing to paint Mark as a demon. But it is a symbol of colonialism. It comes as ‘I am trying to make your life better’ and then it becomes something else. Then it starts to unravel, where one is taking and taking and influencing and changing the other. You are dominating, bringing your culture, imposing them on others. It becomes a thing of “you have to do it my way – like the other party never had its own way of doing things.

“When Esther said, “I gave myself to Mark, it's very symbolic. It is the same way we gave ourselves over to the whiteman, and we are still suffering the neo-colonial effects today. We followed at first because we were enjoying all the perks, but when it came to the time of confrontation that “I can't take this anymore, it turned into an “I am white and you are black” situation,” concluded Uphopho.

Esther's Revenge is written and directed by Kenneth Uphopho and stars actress Etitieb



2023 Elections: Christian Filmmaker Optimistic Of Refreshing Times In Nigeria

BY SAMUEL ABULUDE, Lagos

Pioneer Nigerian Christian filmmaker, Mike Bamiloye has said the upcoming elections will usher in the birth of a new Nigeria.

The popular gospel minister who released statement via his social media said “God will have mercy on Nigeria, forgive us our sins and heal our land.”

For some time, Nigerian have been in a prayer mood as the country gears up for the general elections set to take place this weekend. There is apprehension, even as the youths are determined to vote right and look forward to departure from the norm to a nation devoid of corruption and impunity.

Bamiloye who is regular commentator on both Christian, societal norms and values said the masses will laugh again. “The populace shall smile, the evil lords that have held us all in bondage shall groan. Their shame shall know no end! All those who eat their bread of shame shall groan in disgrace. We have prayed! And our God shall listen to us and answer from His holy temple.

“We have interceded for the nation. We have asked Him for forgiveness. He is merciful and gracious! He will forgive us



Mike

all! Nigeria shall laugh again.”

It’s worth noting that the general elections in Nigeria will hold this Saturday and the presidential race is among Asi-

waju Bola Tinubu of Alliance Progressives Congress (APC); Alhaji Abubakar Atiku of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Mr Peter Obi of Labour Party (LP).

First South East Regional Television Channel On Cable TV Premieres

BY SAMUEL ABULUDE, Lagos

Afia TV, the first south-east general television channel on cable debuted on channels 254 and 94 of DSTV and GOTV last Friday.

The channel’s launch marks a significant milestone in the south-east region’s media landscape, and is expected to be a significant player in the regional television industry with its unique blend of programming that celebrates the essence of southeastern Nigeria.

Catering to an array of audience – the 24-hour channel broadcasts lifestyle, entertainment, documentaries, movies and local news targeted at promoting the culture, business and leisure activities of the region, in Igbo, Pidgin and English languages.

To oversee the channel’s pro-

gramming are a group of professionals, who will ensure that the programs are educational, engaging and fun.

“We are proud to be associated with Afia TV, southeast’s first regional television. At Multichoice, we believe in empowering local content producers and promoting the development of the creative industry in Nigeria. the launch Afia TV is a significant step in achieving that goal, and we look forward to seeing the channel grow and thrive,” said Multichoice Nigeria’s Executive, Head of Content and West Africa Channels, Dr Busola Tejumola.

Transmitting in high definition, Afia TV joins a list of the free-to-air channels available to subscribers on DSTV and GOTV and will showcase the region’s diverse cultures, traditions and values.



Busola

One Artiste’s Talent Hunt Platform Nurturing Rising Acts

BY MOSES ORJIME, Abuja

In an effort to encourage grassroots talents to the world, music producer and entertainer, Efeoghene MacDonald popularly known as Efe Mac Roc has taken on the task of massively tapping the talented but yet-to-be-known young artistes.

A graduate of Computer Science from the Bayelsa State University Efe said he has been engaged in the business of talent development in entertainment industry, in particular, at the grassroots level, scouting,

grooming and marketing unknown talents to the world.

His talent hunting activities, Efe said, has taken him to ten states of the federation including Uyo, Kaduna, Benue, Delta, Port-Harcourt, Abuja, Lagos states among others.

“We go around looking out for amazing things. I have a platform where one can come to perform, and the aim is to ensure them visibility and showcase their talent to the world. I am doing this because nobody is paying attention to upcoming singers in the streets. Eve-

rybody wants to identify with the big names up there, and they are paying attention to those at the grassroots.

“Therefore, I am determined to do this; give these guys hope and let them know that basically there is hope and there is a platform for them to showcase their talents.”

Delighted with the success of the talent hunt so far, Efe said, “We have a lot of artistes that have gone onto major talent hunts and some of them get into the final stage and it is really a big boost.”

Indie Arie’s Protest Against Spotify Leads To Increase In Artiste’s Pay

BY CHINELO CHIKELU, Abuja

Singer Indie Aries protest against Spotify in 2022 which led to her decision to pull her music off the platform, has resulted in an increase of artiste’s pay on the platform.

Last year, the singer pulled her music from the Spotify when the streaming platform signed a multi-million-dollar deal with politics and culture presenter, Joe Rogan whilst it still paid artistes such as herself pennies.

The 47-year-old neo-soul singer revealed that record labels are in bed with Spotify on the issue hence did not speak up. Her action, she said, was to encourage artistes of colour to do so, and to also bar the use of offensive and racist languages like nigger on the platform.

Her protest has resulted in Spotify’s pledge to invest \$100 million into podcasters of colour, “change their terms and conditions, took down upwards of 70 episodes of Rogan’s podcast, and will increase artists’ payouts by 15 per cent each, for the next five years – resulting in an overall 75 per cent increase.”

Arie said: “After a successful protest, my music is back up on Spotify. Also, I must say all the media outlets and even ‘friends’ who talked about me, let’s see if you care Now that my stance impacted change.

“I stood up for me, and it worked. Protecting my peace in 2023. People thought it was a public battle with Joe Rogan but it wasn’t. it was with Spotify because it is the company that exploits all our copyrights. I feel like I am ready to put my music back up because I want my money. I mean I deserve my money, but of course, I want it too,” the singer explained on her Instagram page.



India Arie

sports NEWS

U20 AFCON: We'll Fight Hard To Beat Nigeria, Says Mozambique Boss

Mozambique head coach, Dario Monteiro says his side will go all out for a win in their final Group A game against the Flying Eagles of Nigeria.

Young Os Mambas have picked just one point from their opening two games.

Monteiro's side held hosts Egypt to a 0-0 draw in their first

game.

The Mozambicans were thrashed 3-0 by the Cubs of Senegal on Wednesday night.

Monteiro's charges will have to beat the Flying Eagles of Nigeria in their last group match in Ismailia to qualify to the knockout stage of the tournament.

"We are now preparing to face

Nigeria on Saturday. The match is not easy, but we are holding on to our chance to rise and we will fight for victory. It is now clear, either we win or we return to our country," Monteiro told journalists at his post-match conference.

"We performed well in the first half and prevented Senegal from scoring any goal. We also took

the initiative to attack and tried to score, but we did not take advantage of the opportunity.

"The situation was completely different in the second half, and the team could not continue to resist the Senegal attack. We have to admit that the Senegal national team is very strong and we have more time to reach their level."



Chaiman of the occasion. Ambassador Ayuba Nabako presenting trophy to the winners, Nyanya Ward football team

Nyanya Ward Win Hon. Abuzarri Unity Cup 2023

BY SALIFU USMAN, ABUJA

The Nyanya Ward of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) are champions of the maiden Hon. Abuzarri Unity Cup following their 2-0 defeat of Kuduru Ward of Bwari Area Council in a colourful and keenly contested final played at the Area 3 Mini-Stadium, Abuja.

The Abuzarri Unity Cup football tournament put together in honour of APC House of Representatives Candidate for AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency of FCT, Hon Suleiman Abuzarri Ribadu, featured 22 football teams from 22 political wards in AMAC and Bwari Area Councils.

The winners Nyanya Ward, aside the giant trophy smiled home with cash and a golden

boot award. The runners up, Kurudu Ward, also went home with cash reward.

Prominent APC chieftains from the two Area Councils like Ambassador Ayba Ngbako; former chairman of Bwari Area Council Chairman, Hon. Musa Dikko; board member, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) Hon. Lawrence Onuchukwu and Prince Tanko Abubakar Karshi were among spectators that witnessed grand finale of Hon. Abuzarri Unity Cup 2023.

Commending the organisers of the tournament, the campaign director, youths mobilisation of Abuzarri Campaign Organisation, Hon. Adamu Abari, described Hon. Ribadu, as a true leader that will always support youth empowerment.

ANFPU Engages Coaches, Students In Open Fun Football Clinic

All Nigeria Football Players Union (ANFPU) is engaging Nigerian youths through a cross culture core programme tagged 'Open Fun Football Clinic' at the British Nigeria Academy.

The concept, which is about bringing together children, youth, adults and stakeholders to have fun and play football, is geared toward averting the use of over-aged players for cadet national teams.

UEFA Licensed Coach Anders Levisen, alongside Nigerian Coaches tutored the students on fun in football like shooting, control, endurance, flexibility and focus.

Speaking to newsmen on the sideline of the training, Levisen lauded the enthusiasm of the Nigerian coaches and the students for the training. "I am amazed with the zeal of the coaches and students, and I have told them the enormous benefits in football. It must be fun and enjoyable apart from the competitive nature in professional football. The basic rules about football are the essential ingredient in the game," Levisen said.

Some of the students who attended the Fun Football Clinic and drilled in several areas of football techniques had a memorable experience.

"My name is Yahaya Musa. I learnt

how to control the ball. How to be focused and what it takes to be a good player. I enjoyed the programme," he said.

For Esther Audu, "I thank God I was selected to be part of this workshop. I would have missed it."

On his part, chairman, Board of Trustee of All Nigeria Football Players Union, Mr Chikelue Iloenyosi, said the workshop was part of ANFPU's vision to train coaches at the grassroots.

"Am so happy that we have hit the ground running. We are committed to helping coaches in Nigeria to achieve their dreams."

Former International and Super Eagles coordinator, Patrick Pascal was equally delighted that ANFPU used the programme to promote football for all. "I played football at the highest level so I know the benefits of it. These young kids could be Jay Jay Okocha's tomorrow so they should be encouraged through any means.

Excited by the turnout of coaches and students, President of Ratels Sports Development Foundation, Barr Paul Edeh commended organisers for putting together the programme, adding that for coaching to thrive in Nigeria, there is need for consistently upgrading the knowl-

edge of coaches.

Certificates of participation were handed out to the coaches after the workshop that lasted for three days.

Legendary Football Commentator Motson Dies @ 77

John Motson, the BBC football commentator who was one of the most well-known voices in British sport for 50 years, has died. He was 77.

"It is with great sadness that we announce that John Motson OBE died peacefully in his sleep today," a statement from Motson's family read on Thursday.

Fondly known as "Motty," Motson commented on games for

Britain's national broadcaster from 1968-2018, covering 10 World Cups, 10 European Championships and 29 FA Cup finals.

He commented on almost 2,500 televised games, the BBC said.

Motson was known for his passion and knowledge of football and was synonymous with wearing a sheepskin coat in the commentary box.

In 2001, Motson received an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to sports broadcasting.

"Deeply saddened to hear that John Motson has died," former England striker and now Match of the Day presenter Gary Lineker said on Twitter.

"A quite brilliant commentator and the voice of football in this country for generations. He'll be very much missed."

Doors Are Always Open For Messi Return To Barcelona – Xavi

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said the door will always be open for Lionel Messi to return to Camp Nou following renewed speculation about the forward's future.

Messi, 35, is out of contract with Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the season and reports in Spain this week claimed his father, Jorge, met with Barca president Joan Laporta recently.

The meeting is said to have mainly been related to arranging a potential homage for Messi following his departure from Barca in 2021, but

also served to touch base on the Argentina international's plans beyond the summer.

"This is his home and the door is always open," Xavi said in a news conference before Thursday's Europa League game against Manchester United when asked about the rumoured meeting.

"[Messi] is a friend and we are in permanent contact. It depends on what he wants for his future and how the club see it. He is the best player in the world and the best ever. He would always fit [the team]."

Sources have told ESPN that PSG remain keen to extend Messi's contract, while he has also reportedly drawn interest from Inter Miami CF and clubs in Saudi Arabia.



Regulator To Block Premier League Clubs From Joining Super League

Blocking clubs from joining a breakaway European Super League will be among the powers held by English football's new independent regulator.

The long-awaited paper, which has received cross-party support, comes in response to 10 strategic recommendations from a Fan-Led Review of Football Governance chaired by former sports minister Tracey Crouch in 2021, was con-

firmed by the UK government yesterday.

Once made law, the government says the independent regulator would have statutory powers to license and sanction clubs, oversee the financial sustainability of the game and prevent unscrupulous owners from buying clubs.

It would also have the power to prevent English clubs from joining breakaway competitions such as the

European Super League, which six Premier League clubs signalled their intent to join in 2021 before abandoning plans after a fans' backlash.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the proposals would "safeguard the beautiful game for generations to come."

"Despite the success of the sport both at home and abroad, we know that there are real challenges which threaten the stability of clubs both

big and small," he said in a statement from the Department for Culture Media and Sport on Wednesday.

"These bold new plans will put fans back at the heart of football and protect the rich heritage and traditions of our much-loved clubs."

The Premier League, which has argued against the need for an independent regulator, said the white paper was a "significant moment" for English football, while the Football

Association welcomed the commitment to improve the "financial sustainability and governance of professional clubs."

Among the powers of the independent regulator would be to implement a licensing system from the Premier League down to the National League (fifth tier) and requiring clubs to demonstrate sound financial business models before being allowed to compete.



Qatar Open: Murray Fights Back To Reach Semi-finals

Britain's Andy Murray reached his first ATP semi-final since June by going the distance again to beat French qualifier Alexandre Muller at the Qatar Open.

Murray, 35, fought back to win 4-6 6-1 6-2 against 26-year-old Muller, who was playing in his first ATP quarter-final.

The Scot will play Jiri Lehecka in the last four after the 21-year-old Czech beat top seed Andrey Rublev.

"He is one of the best young players on the tour, it'll be a big test for me," said former world number one Murray.

"He has started the year extremely well, did well at the Australian Open and hits a huge ball."

Murray, who last reached the semi-

finals of a tournament at the Stuttgart Open, has long been targeting deeper runs and playing against the inexperienced Muller provided a fantastic opportunity.

However, the issue for Murray in recent months has been recovering from gruelling battles in time for the next match.

All of his four previous wins in 2023 had gone the distance to a deciding set, showcasing Murray's fighting spirit and physical endurance.

This quarter-final - less than 24 hours after a long and gutsy win over Germany's former world number two Alexander Zverev - followed the same pattern.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray, seemingly sensing a quick start would be beneficial after a short turnaround, did that by breaking for 2-0 before a careless third game allowed Muller to break back.

Spain Legend Ramos Quits International Football Duty

Sergio Ramos has announced his reluctant retirement from international football after being told he is not part of new Spain coach Luis de la Fuente's plans.

Ramos, 36, revealed that De la Fuente phoned him on Thursday and said he would not be selected regardless of his form with his club side Paris Saint-Germain.

The centre-back made 180 appearances for his country, more than anyone else for the Spanish men's national team, scoring 23 goals and winning the 2010 World Cup as well as back-to-back European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

"I received a call from the current head coach who informed I am not and will not be part of his plans, regardless of how I perform or whatever I

do in my career," Ramos posted on social media.

"With a heavy heart, it is the end of a road which I hoped would end with a better taste or on a part with we achieve with La Roja.

"I honestly believe this journey deserved to end at my choosing or because my performances were not at a level worthy of the national team -- not due to a question of age or other reasons."

Ramos, who joined PSG from Real Madrid in 2021, was keen to make it quite clear that the decision to retire had been more or less imposed on him by De La Fuente, who replaced Luis Enrique after the World Cup in December.

"Age in itself is not a virtue or a defect," Ramos said

Morata Wants Life Bans For Racist Chants

Atletico Madrid striker Alvaro Morata says fans who chant racist insults should be banned for life, in light of multiple incidents of racism against players in the top flight this season, including repeated abuse directed at Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr.

Brazil forward Vinicius has subjected to racial abuse by opposing supporters on a number of occasions this season, with the latest incident taking place during Real's 2-0 win over Osasuna in LaLiga on Saturday.

"The first time a person does that in a stadium he should be banned for life," Morata told ESPN ahead of Real host Atletico at the weekend.

"It's unacceptable and inexplicable. It should never have a place in football... I think it should be a reason to expel them.

"We need to take the Premier League as an example. If a person does such a thing at a football field

or outside... he will not be allowed again in a sporting event. That's how it should be here in Spain, too."

LaLiga filed three legal complaints for racist insults during matches, including two aimed at Vinicius, it said on Wednesday.

One Real Mallorca supporter was identified for insulting Vinicius and Villarreal's Samu Chukwueze, LaLiga said, adding that the police have taken a statement from the individual.

The third complaint was against an Osasuna supporter who insulted Vinicius. The individual is yet to be identified.

The league has now filed eight complaints for racist chanting or insults against Vinicius.

Three complaints have been dismissed and another three are still being processed, including one when a mannequin wearing Vinicius' No 20 shirt was hung from a bridge outside Real's training ground before last month's derby against Atletico.

Newcastle Fans Raise Funds To Build School In Honour Of Atsu

Supporters of Premier League club Newcastle United have launched fundraising in memory of late Black Stars of Ghana, Christian Atsu, with the goal of completing the former winger's plan to construct a new school in Ghana, myjoyonline.com reports.

Atsu, 31, was declared dead under the wreckage of the horrific earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria. Tributes from his former teams have been pouring in.

Before their 2-0 loss to Liverpool on Saturday at St James' Park, Newcastle observed a minute of silence for Atsu.

Now, fan organisation group Talk of Tyneside has launched a charity campaign to support a cause dear to his heart.

Atsu was a representative for the nonprofit organisation Arms Around the Child, with whom he was collaborating to aid in the construction of the new school, which was already in progress.

With more than £600 already raised, Talk of Tyneside is inviting supporters to give to their fundraising in order to assist him continue what he began in his native Ghana.

Talk of Tyneside said: "Christian Atsu was a well-loved figure on Tyneside and this has been highlighted by the scale of tributes paid to him by Newcastle United Football club and its fans.

"Following his passing, we were hoping to find a way to give supporters a way to show appreciation for his service to the club, and raising money for a fantastic charity that he worked with feels like the perfect way to do so."

Ellie Milner from Arms Around The Child added: "Christian touched the lives of so many with his charity work, we are determined to keep his legacy alive by raising funds to finish the school buildings in Senya Beraku - and support the children he loved so much."

Atsu's remains arrived in Ghana on Sunday evening having been confirmed dead on Saturday after 12 days under rubble.





Conversation

With Azu

A weekly diary on life & politics

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Nigeria's Election And The Pollster's Albatross

With all the predictions of Armageddon and doubt about whether Saturday's presidential and National Assembly polls would hold it does sound a bit silly to contemplate life after. Even those who grudgingly concede a life after fear it might be worse. Optimism is like playing the Ostrich.

Nigeria's history of electoral violence in the sixties and even in the mid-nineties might justify these concerns. But the last six election cycles in 24 years have proved that in spite of the hysteria about its viability, Africa's largest democracy defies the odds.

Saturday's election would, yet again, prove the skeptics wrong. Despite the political fire and rhetorical brimstones, not to mention the bank note misery, there will be a morning after.

That said, the next most frequently expressed concern is who will win? There are two answers – a short and a long one. If you believe the polls (at least four of the major ones), the Labour Presidential candidate, Peter Obi, will likely win.

Less than nine months after switching parties and pitching his tent with the little-known Labour Party, Obi has turned the party into a formidable stage, bestriding it like a rockstar. Once without hope or a chance, he has grown from being a potential run-off maker to a real threat, a likely winner.

That is the short answer if you believe the ANAP, NOI, Stears, or Bloomberg polls.

But there's a long, far more complicated answer. Polls being polls, even the most carefully conducted ones can, and do sometimes go wrong. I had a long and interesting conversation a few days ago with a friend and former Obi-skeptic turned believer who was

prepared to swear by the results of the polls, especially the latest ones by Stears and Bloomberg, tipping Obi to win.

That conversation gave me the chance to share the long reasons the polls may be wrong and why Obi may not win.

The polls banked rather too much on voter discontent arising from the ruling All Progressives Congress' (APC) Muslim-Muslim ticket.

APC's decision to field Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Kashim Shettima, both Muslims, in a country with roughly equal Muslim-Christian population was always bound to hurt the party at the polls.

Though they agree that religious conflicts predate President Muhammadu Buhari's APC government, a number of Christian leaders have expressed the view that the President's ghastly indifference has enabled the rise in deadly sectarian conflicts in states such as Benue and Plateau in the North Central; Kaduna and Sokoto in the North West; and Taraba in the North East, among others.

APC's Tinubu-Shettima ticket was like rubbing salt in the wound of Christians in these and a number of other states. A backlash in Saturday's poll would hardly come as a surprise.

Yet the scale of this surprise appears to have been exaggerated in the polls.

While identity politics, sometimes disguised as religion, continues to play a role in Nigeria's politics, any polls that do not account for the growing number of agnostics and more liberal voters who increasingly make up significant numbers of the younger voting population may be in for a surprise.

Of course, politicians still play the ethnic card but studies including Francis Fukuyama's Identity: Contemporary identity



Credit: FiveThirtyEight

politics and the struggle for survival, and Yuval Noah Harari's epic, 21 lessons for the 21st century, continue to highlight the receding salience of religion in electoral outcomes.

Even Stears acknowledged this. "Nigerians are adamant," the analysis of its polls said, "that religion does not dictate their vote: just 4% of respondents selected religion as one of the three main factors determining their candidate choice."

There's another reason a shorthand answer predicting Obi as likely winner in Saturday's poll could be off the mark. A number of the polls, particularly the ones by Stears and Bloomberg, indicated a margin of "undecided" voters of about 35 to 43 percent. If the 2016 election in the US thought pollsters anything, it's to beware of the "undecided", especially the coyishly silent ones.

They may swing Obi's way, as Stears predicted, especially in parts of Lagos and Abuja with their cosmopolitan outlook and relatively high number of South-easterners and areas the Christian population are feeling hard done by. But there are three reasons the Tinubu-Shettima and the People's Democratic Party's (PDP) Atiku-Okowa tickets may eventually get more

"undecided" voters than Labour's Obi-Datti.

Role of state governors

State governors continue to play a significant role in Nigeria's politics and in electoral outcomes. We saw this most tellingly in 2015 when the sudden and dramatic exit of five governors decisively tipped the scales in favour of Buhari. Even now, the face-off between five PDP governors and their party continues to hurt the party's electoral chances. It would be foolish to assume that the 21 of 36 APC governors are all working for the Tinubu-Shettima to win. But with APC controlling governors in at least five of the country's 10 vote banks where Labour has zero in an election in which money could affect the eventual outcome, pollsters could be in for a surprise.

Bank note backlash

The bank note chaos, a fallout of an attempt by the Central Bank to redesign three of the country's eight currency notes, is also a reflection of the chaos in the ruling party's inner circle. But as governors, ranking ministers and finally, the party itself broke ranks with Buhari over the timing and motive of the redesign, the Tinubu-Shettima ticket could benefit from sympathetic voters in what

appears to be yet another malicious last attempt to stop Tinubu at all costs.

Biafra-phobia

Obi's rise and rise has benefited largely from the agitation for Biafra, especially among the youths in the South East. Although Obi himself has not canvassed secession, and has in fact pledged to unify the country, his meteoric political ascension appears to many youths from the South-East region to be the best chance in decades to realise the Biafran dream. While non-Easterner sometimes view the Biafran battle-cry as a symbol against systemic injustice, the surge of Biafran flags at Obi campaign rallies have raised concerns about what his Presidency could mean for one Nigeria. The "undecided" who view secession as a bridge too far may recoil at the prospects of voting Obi, however exaggerated their fears may be.

Devil in the details

Finally, the pro-Obi polls tended to exaggerate his strength in areas where historical voting patterns hardly favour him. A few quick examples. In three of the six states where Stears said it obtained its booster samples Lagos, Kwara, Rivers, Benue, Plateau and Kano, for example, only three; Lagos, Plateau and Benue have a historically likely chance of fetching Obi more than 25 percent of the votes cast. He will be lucky to get an average 10 percent in the remaining three, where APC and PDP run a tight ship. Also, ascribing 48 percent of the votes in the South-South to Obi as Stears did, is widely optimistic. Where will votes come from? Rivers? Bayelsa? Delta? Akwa Ibom? Cross Rivers? Or Edo? These are traditional PDP strongholds which have now become battleground states, not for Labour, but between PDP and APC. Elders in the South-South are rooting for Obi to right

decades of injustices. But expecting these elders to make any difference would be stretching their electoral value a bit too far!

Without a doubt, Obi's emergence will redraw the 2023 electoral map. It's already giving the presumptive frontrunners - Tinubu and Atiku - a cause to look over their shoulders, with the latter bearing the brunt in the South-East and South-South, but potentially outperforming the pollster's forecast in the North-East and North-West.

To leap from the prospects of an exciting race, which Obi's candidacy offers, to a forecast of a surprise victory on Saturday on the basis of an ambitious polling trend is to go out on a limb. The short of the long story is that the Labour Party candidate would likely be the best third place finisher in decades.

GHANA MUST GO

I would have voted for Osinbajo than for an Igbo man

—Peter Okoye



You can still vote for him!