

Sanwo-Olu speaks on 30-year Lagos growth vision

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced that Lagos State will be on another 30-year journey in pursuit of physical development, social growth and economic prosperity. He broke the news to business leaders of the organised private sector at

■ State records 71% of national \$1.5 billion FDI

an interactive meeting on Tuesday.

The Lagos State Development Plan 2052, Sanwo-Olu said, will be officially rolled out at the forthcoming 9th Economic Summit of the State (known as Ehingbeti). The 30-year plan, the governor said, was developed

with clear objectives from four strategic dimensions aimed at positioning the State to achieve its vision.

The meeting, held at Commerce House on Victoria Island, was at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



www.thetrumpet.ng

The Trumpet

P A T R I O T I C V O I C E

@TheTrumpetNig @thetrumpetng @thetrumpetngr

JUNE 29-30, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 064 N200



Okagbare's ban disqualifies Nigeria from 4x100m relay at World Championship
→ 22

EDITORIAL
Intensifying the war on hard drugs
→ 12

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



46 migrants found dead in back of truck
→ 24

Debate on school certificates of Tinubu, running mate rages

■ Supporters, opponents exchange fire

■ I've lost credentials, Masari tells INEC

→ 2



Tinubu



Masari

Debate on certificates of Tinubu, running mate rages

By **BYTUNDE JOSHUA**,
Politics Editor

Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), is always in the news but for about a week now, in the eye of the storm, largely the social media, over controversies surrounding his academic background.

He was said to have left vacant some columns to be filled with information on both his primary and secondary education. In a sworn affidavit deposited to in a Lagos High Court, which was attached to the documents submitted to INEC, Tinubu explained how he lost his educational certificates.

The affidavit states: "I, Tinubu Bola Ahmed, hereby make oath and declare that I am the person seeking election into the office of president in the Nigerian constituency and the particulars given hereinunder are correct, true and to the best of my knowledge.

"I went on self-exile from October 1994 to October 1998 when I returned and discovered that all my property, including all the documents relating to my qualification and my certificates in respect of paragraph 3 above, were looted by unknown persons."

The electoral law mandates candidates to submit their personal credentials that

will be published for public scrutiny ahead of elections. INEC published documents submitted by the candidates.

Immediately after the screenshot copy of the vacant columns went viral on the social media, comments in support and against the politician hit the airwaves.

Questions are now being raised on why Tinubu's latest claims contradict his previous election submissions, especially in 1999 and 2003 in which he claimed both times that he attended primary and secondary schools with their names mentioned.

Returning to the social media, Dr. Femi Aribisala who accused Tinubu of committing perjury on his confirmed twitter handle, @femiaribisala, wrote: "I wrote in 2014 that Tinubu's affidavit that he attended Government College Ibadan (GCI) between 1965 and 1968 is false. I was in GCI from 1962-1968, and Tinubu was not there. Tinubu now tells INEC he did not go to primary or secondary school. This means he committed perjury."

Also, a social critic, Mr. Reno Omokri, tweeted on Saturday: "Bola Tinubu, where are your primary and secondary school certificates? How could you have been accepted to university without them? Tell us the names of your schools so we can track your classmates. We don't want another Buhari



Yakubu

without certificate! Enough is enough!"

Even, a civil rights organization, Center for Reform and Public Advocacy, petitioned the Inspector-General of Police, giving him a 48-hour ultimatum within which he should arrest and initiate criminal prosecution against Tinubu for allegedly providing false information.

The organisation threatened that should the IGP fail to act, court action would be instituted against him for an order of mandamus to compel him to

effect the arrest of Tinubu at the end of the ultimatum.

Counsel to the CRPA, Agu Kalu, in a press conference in Abuja at the weekend alleged that Tinubu is not legally qualified to become the next President of Nigeria in 2023 on grounds of supplying false information on oath in his form EC 9 submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Agu alleged that in 1999 Tinubu claimed to have gone to Saint Paul Aroloyain Lagos and Children Home School,

Ibadan between 1958 and 1964 for his primary education and Government College, Ibadan between 1965 and 1969, for his secondary but in 2022, he said that he never attended any in his EC9 form.

He said: "We wrote a petition to the IG on June 16, demanding the prosecution of Tinubu for providing false information on oath in his INEC form CF 001 which he submitted in 1999.

"Since the IG is yet to act on the petition, we are using this press conference to call on the IG to do the needful, he is not above the law, nobody is above the law, Sections 191 and 192 makes it a criminal offence to provide false information on oath.

"We are also calling on President Buhari to direct the IG to arrest and prosecute Tinubu for perjury, it is a very serious issue."

Kalu who presented a Certified True Copy ad-hoc report of the Lagos State House of Assembly, which investigated the former governor in 1999 said that Tinubu clearly admitted discrepancies in his academic qualifications.

He said that the investigation of Tinubu's academic qualification in 1999 was the aftermath of a petition written by a foremost legal luminary and social crusader, the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN).

He, however, said that the position of his group for

the arrest of Tinubu was not politically motivated but predicated on the need for good governance and transparent leadership that Nigeria deserves in the 2023 general election.

Allegations of certificate scam against Tinubu started after the 1999 election when he ran for office as a governorship candidate in Lagos.

Meanwhile, the Action Peoples Party (APP) has concluded plans to challenge the academic qualifications Tinubu as the presidential candidate of APC.

The party's chairman, Uche Nnadi, said it has enough facts to prove its case noting that the publication of the list of candidates for the 2023 elections showed that Tinubu was not eligible to contest as his forms allegedly contain false information.

"Tinubu denies attending primary and secondary but claims a university degree in the new forms INEC published today (Friday)," Leadership quoted him as saying.

"Tinubu commits perjury as he abandons his earlier claim of attending primary school, sworn in an affidavit to run for governor but now claims not to have attended primary school.

"Tinubu's new forms contradict his 2007 affidavit that he had primary school and secondary.

"Tinubu's new declaration in new INEC forms of not attending primary and secondary school is false information, in view of earlier nomination forms of 2007 on oath containing alleged controversial primary and secondary schools he claimed to have."

There was a petition dated Aug 12, 1999 about the educational background and age of Tinubu in which he was accused of lying about his age in his nomination form to INEC.

In a legal battle that went up to the Supreme Court, Fawehinmi sought the prosecution of Tinubu. But the apex court ruled that Tinubu cannot be prosecuted by the police for alleged certificate forgery, stressing that only Lagos State House of Assembly could investigate him.

Lagos State House of Assembly under the then Speaker Olorunnimbe Mamora (present Minister of State for Health) opened the probe via a motion moved by Hon. Tajudeen Agoro & a 5 man ad-hoc committee was set up with Hon. Babajide Omowoare as chairman.

The committee sent a letter of invitation to the petitioners who refused to substantiate their petition. The committee even went to the addresses they provided but they could not be found.

Tinubu who was invited by the Committee came with Femi Falana (SAN) and he admitted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Sanwo-Olu speaks on 30-year Lagos growth vision

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

instance of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). It was also attended by members of the diplomatic community. Established in 1888, the LCCI is the oldest chamber of commerce in the West Africa sub-region.

Sanwo-Olu hinted that each of the four dimensions in the development plan would be achieved through over 400 policy initiatives that would be implemented throughout the period.

He said: "The Lagos State Development Plan 2052 has been developed with a set of clear objectives across four strategic dimensions, which are to position Lagos on the track to achieving its vision. The dimensions to this plan are to keep a thriving economy that will make Lagos a robust, healthy and growing economy with adequate jobs and strategic investments to sustain growth. We are building a human-centric city in which every Lagosian will have access to affordable and world-class education, healthcare and social services.

"There will be deliberate effort to keep modernising our infrastructure, by providing reliable and sufficient infrastructure that meets

the needs of a 21st century city. The plan will also bring about sustenance of effective governance. Lagos will have a supportive and enabling environment that creates opportunities for all Lagosians.

This is a huge task that must be achieved between now and the nearest possible future."

Sanwo-Olu believed the plan would not be realised when the private sector – the drivers of the State's economy – is not carried along in the implementation of the identified policy phases.

The Governor thanked the business community for supporting the State Government in dealing with arising issues in the challenging period of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pushback, noting that more social burden could have trailed the pandemic had the private sector not considered the Government's entreaty that prevented mass retrenchment of workers.

Sanwo-Olu used the occasion to reel out interventions initiated by the State Government in the areas of infrastructure, transportation, education, healthcare, security, environment and technology to improve ease of doing business in Lagos.

He said: "In road

construction, I make bold to say that our impacts are being felt across the State, because we have taken up the total rehabilitation of major roads and creating new highways. In the Central Business District of Victoria Island and Ikoyi, we have delivered key infrastructure projects that are improving mobility and giving businessmen new experience. Reconstruction of Idowu Taylor, Adeyemo Alakija, Adeola Hopewell is a major facelift we have signed off in this corridor.

"For the first time, we are seeing a sub-national Government building rail lines to improve mobility. Lagos is expecting two brand-new light rail projects in a few months and we took this audacious decision about three years ago to deliver this important transport infrastructure. Our intervention in education has yielded a highly encouraging outcome, given the results of our students in national examinations. All of these have confirmed that we are on the right track."

In the last one year, Sanwo-Olu said Lagos had recorded massive influx of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to the tune of \$750 million in the technology sector,

attracting global tech brands, such as Equinox, Google, and Microsoft, among others. This, he said, is complementing the rollout of metropolitan fibres by the State Government to promote e-commerce, traffic management and improve security.

The Governor expressed the hope that the meeting would lead to creation of new pathways that would facilitate a more robust relationship with the private sector.

LCCI President, Dr. Michael Olawale-Cole, said the meeting with Sanwo-Olu indicated the Chamber's continued faith in the Governor's administration for a better business environment.

Noting that Lagos had continued to be the investment haven for FDIs coming to the country, Olawale-Cole said the State alone accounted 71 per cent of the \$1,573 billion foreign investment Nigeria recorded in the first quarter of 2022.

He said: "Policy direction is critical for a thriving and supportive business environment in any economy. The quality of the policy is a key consideration for local and foreign investment decisions. With an improved business environment, Lagos can

attract more capital inflows from Nigerians in Diaspora as a more sustainable funding for the provision of required infrastructure. Enormity of needs in Lagos requires the cooperation of both the public and private sector."

The LCCI boss announced that Lagos would be the official chief host of the international tech and telecommunication (ICTEL) expo coming up in August.

LCCI Deputy President and Group Executive Director at Dangote Group, Mr. Knut Ulvmoen, said Sanwo-Olu took his most important decision to come out and meet with the investors.

The Norwegian, who has lived in Lagos for 36 years, said he had witnessed the city transformed before his eyes into a blossoming economy.

He said: "The Lagos narrative is a story in progress. The city is now cleaner than it used to be. I implore the Government to focus more on education and make it accessible to the teeming young people. This is what will sustain the city in the long term. Government leaders should demand more than donations from the international community; they must come and create jobs."



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

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

Elomaz Hotels

Address: 3/5 Emmanuel St, Maryland Lagos
Tel: 0802 318 2295, 07053339183, 08141161113



Buhari begs 22 aggrieved APC senators not to defect

By TUNDE JOSHUA, Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday stemmed further depletion of membership of his All Progressives Congress (APC) in the National Assembly by begging 22 senators not to leave the party.

No fewer than five APC senators had in the last one week defected from the

ruling party to other parties. They include Senators Yahaya Abdullahi, Adamu Aliero (Kebbi) and Baba Kaita (Katsina).

The 22 senators were led by the Majority Whip, Orji Uzor Kalu, to the Presidential Villa where the issue of their planned defection was tabled and the president prevailed on them.

Buhari was said to have urged the Senators to exercise restraint in their decision to

defect from the party.

Appealing to the lawmakers, Buhari said their defections will cause a threat to the APC's majority in the National Assembly.

He assured them that their grievances would be looked into by the leadership of the party.

The aggrieved senators had vowed to dump the party to show their displeasure with the outcome of recent primaries in their state in which many

of them failed to secure return tickets.

This was largely due to tussle with their state governors over control of party structures in their states.

After the meeting, Sen Kalu said the lawmakers felt disenfranchised by the primary elections process.

The former Abia State governor assured that the aggrieved senators have shelved their defection

plans after the interface with President Buhari, who is the leader of APC.

Writing on his social media page Kalu later said "Earlier this afternoon, I led the 22 aggrieved Senators and members of the All Progressive Congress to President Muhammad Buhari, GCFR."

"Our meeting with Mr President was successful and the issue of decamping from our party has been laid to rest".



Gov Okowa

Debate on certificates of Tinubu, running mate rages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to the errors being pointed out by the petitioners and that it was Senator Tokunbo Akifuyomi that did the documentation.

It was also discovered that INEC in 1999 committed an error in its form CF01 that bore a wrong date of 28th Dec 1999 instead of 28th December, 1998. Commissioner of Oath detected the error.

Afikuyomi appeared with Prof Itse Sagay (SAN). He explained that he was heading the unit of Tinubu's campaign responsible for processing of forms and because of the tense circumstances in Alliance for Democracy (AD), then, the mistake was made.

Then Falana submitted that no evidence has been led to show that Tinubu presented forged certificates to INEC.

Then, on June 4, 2013 one Dr. Dominic Adegbola asked Federal High Court Justice Saliu Saidu to reopen the suit filed by Fawehinmi in 1999.

The suit was to compel IG of Police to commence investigation into alleged forgery. The court dismissed the case. The court said that the applicant went to sleep since 2007 when the "toga of immunity" could no longer shield Tinubu and suddenly woke up when the matter is statute-barred.

The committee finally said its finding on the allegation of forgery was that "We Have No Evidence that any forged document was presented to INEC." The only certificate presented to INEC was a transcript of the Chicago State University.

A major concern for Tinubu's supporters is why the renewed uproar is coming about two weeks after he won the APC ticket and seven months to the 2023 election.

Organisations and persons associated with Tinubu dismiss it as a failed one and politically ill-fated, just to demonise the APC candidate ahead of real campaigns in September.

The Legal Adviser of the Tinubu Campaign Organisation, Babatunde Ogala (SAN), said the presidential candidate will not be blackmailed or intimidated over the allegations.

He assured The Punch newspaper that the organisation will defend Tinubu in court on

the allegations and prove to the court that he has complied fully with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Ogala said, "there is nothing to respond to them, the Electoral Act is clear. We are waiting, let them go, let them bring the writ, we will defend it. I think we have gone past this stage of some people on social media, for whatever reason in the media, issuing threats.

"If they have anything, let them bring it. As far as we are concerned, our candidate has complied fully with the provisions of the Electoral Act. If they want to go to court, let them go to court. But we must also let them know that we are not unconscious of the laws of defamation in the country. We know the difference between a court process that is privileged and making unfounded allegations in the Newspapers like they are doing now.

"But honestly, our candidate is not perturbed, he can't be bothered by all these threats. If they want to go to court, let them go to court. When they come, we will react appropriately to the court process. What we know, we have complied fully with the provisions of the law and we will not be blackmailed and intimidated."

Also, the Tinubu campaign admitted that he did not disclose his early schools because the matter was controversial in the early 2000s.

The campaign, however, noted that "Tinubu was exonerated of all charges after Mr Afikuyomi, a former senator, admitted that he mistakenly filled the governorship nomination forms for Mr Tinubu in 1999 and, therefore, responsible for the false claims before a Lagos parliamentary panel that probed the counterfeit academic records.

"Asiwaju was exonerated in the House of Assembly's report because Senator Afikuyomi said he filled the form on his behalf then."

The campaign spokesman Bayo Onanuga in a statement said Tinubu left out his primary and secondary education columns when he sought a second governorship term in Lagos in 2003.

The campaign asked Nigerians to disregard perjury charges against Tinubu

because he has not held any political office since he concluded his two terms in 2007, until earlier this month when he clinched the presidential nomination of the ruling party.

"The same certificate he gave to INEC this year, he used in 2003 and there was no issue then. Why are they raising issues now?"

"This was what happened that time and if in 2022, he (Tinubu) now drew blank on that session, what offence has he committed," Onanuga said.

A public analyst anonymously said that the issue of schools which Tinubu attended together with dates are not required by the law.

According to him, "section 131 of the Constitution which desks with qualification for contest for the position of president of Nigeria only provides for 6 prerequisites, namely: that he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth; that he is at least 40 years of age; that he is a member of a political party, which has nominated him; that he has been educated up to school certificate level or its equivalent; that he is not a lunatic; and that he is not an adjudged bankrupt."

He said in proving that he has the requisite education, Tinubu only needs to satisfy INEC that he has been educated up to school certificate level, not that he should present a primary or secondary school certificate.

"But if he cannot show this, section 318 which defines what 'school certificate or its equivalent' means only enjoins him to prove that he can 'read and write' in English language and that he had worked either in a public or private sector for an unbroken period of 10 years. That's all."

Another public analyst from one of the south west states said the whole brouhaha about Tinubu's certificate is just "a futile attempt to attack destiny."

Pleading not to be mentioned in the print, he said the antagonism is needless because Tinubu is destined for the exalted seat.

He chronicled Tinubu's life journey from 'grass to grace' and concluded that he has appointment with destiny.

In the analysis, he said: "not many indigent 'homeless' hustlers from Iragbiji could

have strayed into Lagos, served as houseboy- with a woman (Abibatu Mogaji) - who, moved by the young boy's diligence and tenacity of purpose to overcome the circumstances of his biological extraction; adopted him for a son, and compelled her brother- a relatively senior police officer and later a successful Lawyer- Kafaru Tinubu- to assist the struggling toddler to 'integrate' into the illustrious Tinubu family of Lagos Island (at the instance of the all-powerful Abibat- who held political sway in Lagos for Awolowo's Action Group).

"He travelled to start a life for himself in America. He spent the first couple of years attending extra-mural classes to access the requisite preliminary qualifications necessary and precedent to entrance into Chicago State University.

"He passed in flying colours under the auspices of his adopted new identity, proceeded to study and pass out of CSU in flying colours, worked with top notch global brands like Deloitte etc, succeeded in attaining permanent stay status in USA (Green card) and - forever mindful of his humble antecedents- integrated his birth name (Amuda) into his new identity.

"He came back to Nigeria to work for Mobil and retired voluntarily as Treasurer (Director of Finance). One thing strikes me about him. And that's his loyalty to his roots.

"He trained Oyetola, present Governor of Osun State, his nephew, being son to his eldest sister, and took him out of poverty.

"But beyond his attachment to his Iragbiji roots, he's been all the more faithful, grateful and loyal to his Lagos 'destiny helpers'; raising Abibatu to national reckoning before her death in old age, and empowering Kafaru's children beyond their wildest imagination.

"Wale Tinubu today heads OANDO Plc- at his instance, Fola Tinubu (another of Kafaru's children) heads PRIMETO TRANSPORT SERVICES- that runs the Lagos BRT system. This is just to mention a few.

"His path crossed Babatunde

Raji Fashola's while the latter was working in the chambers of his adopted 'Uncle' Kafaru. Fashola, as a young Turk in the Kafaru Tinubu and Co Chambers, was also perhaps the best friend and alter ego of Wale Tinubu. So, he literally handed the governance of Lagos to the Kafaru Tinubus. What loyalty and discipline.

"People can say whatever they like about this unique guy- BAT. But me- I see his trajectory over time as divinely inspired. He's never taken a wrong foot politically. That can only be divine.

"And for all you care, he might even be a tool in the hands of the Gods to rework and restructure Nigeria. Who knows? He who the Gods love, let no man loathe."

Meanwhile, facts emerged that Tinubu's surrogate running mate, Alhaji Kabir Ibrahim Masari did not submit vital certificates to INEC.

The Vice Presidential candidate of the APC informed INEC that he lost all his school certificates.

The confession about his credentials was contained in a sworn affidavit for the loss of some original documents submitted to the electoral commission by Mr. Masari who is from Buhari's Katsina State.

In the affidavit he deposed to, Masari said he had misplaced vital documents including C of O of one plot KT 17522 in his state, his Grade II certificate from Katsina Teachers College and his primary school certificate.

"That sometimes in January 2021, while on transit within Wuse Area, FCT-Abuja, I discovered that my original Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) of Plot, No KT 17522, GRA Katsina, Katsina State; Certificate of Kaduna State Development Centre from 1994-1995; Grade II Certificate from Katsina Teachers' College (KTC) from 1978-1983 and First Leaving School Certificate issued by Masari Primary, Katsina State, from 1972-1978, got lost," partly stated the affidavit sworn by Mr Masari at the Supreme Court in July 2021 and submitted to INEC on June 17, 2022.

"That all efforts made to trace the documents proved abortive hence this affidavit," the affidavit read.

Four commissioner-nominees' names, others sent by Okowa to lawmakers

By GABRIEL ELOZINO, Asaba

Governor Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa has named a former member of the Delta State House of Assembly for Ughelli North Constituency 1, Hon. Samuel Oghenevwoyaga Mariere and three others as commissioner-nominees. This was disclosed by House of Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Francis Sheriff Oborevwori, during plenary on Tuesday.

According to the Speaker who read the letter containing names of the nominees to the House, three others were also nominated. They are Chief Sunday Onoriode, a former State Organizing Secretary of the PDP; Mr. Godspower Asiuwahu, a former Chairman, PDP, Patani Local Government Area and Mike Okah.

Also named are Dr. Samuel Ochonogor Chukwuneye, who is nominated as Commissioner on the Board of DESOPADEC. Mr. Kelly Oghenechuko Oghenekevwe is nominated Executive Director into the Delta State Board of Internal Revenue.

The nominees were asked to submit 35 copies of their Curriculum Vitae to the Clerk of the House latest Monday, July 4, 2022, ahead of their screening on Tuesday July 5, 2022.

Mariere is the immediate past Political Adviser to the Governor. He resigned in April ahead of the PDP primary elections which held in May with him as ad-hoc delegate and aspirant for the Udu/Ughelli Federal Constituency ticket for the House of Representatives election.

Kanu tells gunmen to stop killing in S'East

- Court denies IPOB leader, days after Buhari's Rwanda declaration
- Police in Imo arrest killers of ex-presidential aide Gulak

By **PAUL MICHAEL** (Abuja) and **ATHAN AGBAKWURU** (Owerri)

Embattled leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, has admonished those engaged in the killings in the South East in the name of the group to stop the carnage forthwith. According to him, there is no sense in killing the same people for which the Biafran effort was being made.

Kanu, dressed in his trademark Fendi attire, which he has worn since the first time he was arraigned last year, was speaking at the premises of the Federal High Court, Abuja, during the continuation of his trial on Tuesday, according to a video being circulated in the social media.

In the video, Kanu, spotting a well-trimmed white beard, and appearing unperturbed despite being denied bail by Justice Binta Murtala Nyako, the presiding judge at the court, spoke against the backdrop of the official position by the Federal Government and even state governments, linking the IPOB to the killings. Two prominent politicians have been beheaded in less than three months in Anambra, apart from the killing of some other prominent people.

"I want our people to be calm. I want Biafra land to be calm just and peaceful. I want Biafra land to be calm and very peaceful. That's why I'm here. We're fighting to defend our people and not to kill them and we'll continue to do so until we get freedom," he said.

Also, IPOB had declared another sit-at-home on Tuesday in the Southeast ahead of the trial of Kanu.

IPOB's spokesperson, Emma Powerful, said, "We normally announce last time that any day our leader will appear in court, everybody will solidarize with our leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

"Therefore, there will be sit-at-home in Igbo land and other areas where Ndigbo reside."

However, Imo Police Command has arrested one Anosike Chimaobi of Umuedo Obohia, in the Ahiazu Mbaise LGA over the gruesome murder of a former presidential aide, Ahmed Gulak, during his visit to the state in March last year. The suspect was also reportedly nabbed in connection with the burning of police stations at Aboh Mbaise, Ahiazu Mbaise, Ezinihitte Mbaise, Ihitte-Uboma and Obowo areas.

Parading the suspects and others, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Michael Abattam, told journalists in Owerri that Chimaobi had confessed to have kidnapped one Jude Nwahiri at Eke Nguru Junction in Aboh Mbaise LGA as well as the serial attacks and murder of many police officers and stealing of their rifles.

Abattam, on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Barde, listed exhibits recovered from the suspect to include: one locally made pistol with 2 rounds of live ammunitions, one Biafra flag, 1 IPOB, ESN War flag and 30 war cutlasses. The PPRO also mentioned four suspects who he said are members of the outlawed IPOB/ESN but who claimed to be unknown gunmen terrorizing Oru East, Oru West and the State as a whole. His words, "They are among the syndicates that burnt and attacked the Palace of Dr. George Obiozor, the Chairman of the Ohaneze Ndigbo on 19th March this year," adding that the same syndicate kidnapped an abroad based philanthropist- Chief Okoro (Jnr) of Ubachima, Awo-Omamma, Oru East Council Area when the victim visited his home town, shared palliatives and empowered some youths.

"A ransom of N1million was collected by the hoodlums before they released the victim while his police orderly-one Inspector Ado Ibrahim of 43 PMF was murdered by the hoodlums."

Abattam said that the suspects having committed the offence ran to Lagos State before the operatives

of the anti-kidnapping Unit strategized and apprehended them, even as they confessed to be members of IPOB/ESN, kidnapping, armed robbery and murder of the police officer.

Abattam disclosed that the command's anti-kidnapping Unit upon the receipt of credible intelligence that some members of IPOB/ESN had concluded plans to kidnap a Japan based Nigerian who visited his home town, Umutei Mgbale, Oguta Council area, swiftly swung into action, foiled the kidnap "when the terrorists appeared in security officers uniform.

"The potential victim, he said was saved from being kidnapped while the hoodlums resorted to robbing the people they got at the vicinity," he said.

The police spokesman gave names of the other three suspects as; Chigaemezu Esogwa aged 24 of Logara in the Ngor Okpala Council Area, Kelvin Afoku aged 21 of Umuoma Nekede-Owerri West LGA and Munachi Umunnawuiké aged 26 years of Umuanuma Aboh Mbaise LGA arrested for terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery/murder. He hinted that all the suspects have volunteered statements, confessed to the crime of armed robberies within the Naze Timber market and its environs with a number of exhibits recovered from them.

Also, anti-kidnapping Unit of the Imo State Police Command arrested a suspected serial child trafficker who specializes in snatching and stealing children from their parents. Abattam hinted that the 28years old suspect who hails from Amagu Amandimolu in Eziaka LGA of Enugu State, stole a female baby of a year and six month old from one Chinenye Oru from Abakiliki in Ebonyi State.

According to him, the suspect deceived the lady and took her to Umuahia in Abia State in pretence of offering her a job to enable him cunningly collect her baby and sell it off. He said, "when



Nnamdi Kanu

Chinenye then started disturbing the suspect to return her baby, he decided to convey her to where her baby was kept. On there way, according to the PPRO, at a lonely part of Owerri/Umuahia Road, he deceived the lady that his vehicle had developed fault and that she should alight from the car to check under the car. "When the innocent lady obeyed the suspect by bending under the car, the suspect immediately hit her with iron rod on her head and when she slumped, the suspect used his Avalon car and matched her to death."

When interviewed by newsmen, the suspect confessed to the crime of child trafficking and murder saying that this is the second time he is involved in such crime. He said, "I immediately sold the baby at N4,000" and the moment he received alert of the money, he decided to do away with the lady.

"Before her death," according to the suspect "I

deceived her that I would raise N100,000 for her to start POS business while her baby would be handed to someone who would take care of her to avoid anything disturbing her business."

Justice Binta Murtala Nyako denied Kanu bail more than one year into his detention in the facility of the Department of State Services (DSS) in Abuja. Nyako, who had previously granted the IPOB boss bail in 2017, dismissed a fresh application from Kanu, who has been in detention since he was spirited out from Kenya back to Nigeria in June last year, after fleeing to London more than five years ago, from where he assailed the Nigerian government, particularly President Muhammadu Buhari.

The latest development in the high-interest case, is coming about four days after Buhari himself said in Kigali, Rwanda that, considering Kanu's jumping of bail earlier, the Federal Government

may not consider granting him such a privilege anymore.

"His (Kanu's) lawyers have access to him. Remember he jumped bail before, how are we sure he won't do it again if he's admitted to bail?," Buhari had stated.

Kanu, not only called Nigeria a zoo, but insisted that the person in power in Nigeria, was done and not the real Buhari, amid other uncomplimentary remarks against the President and his government.

Nyako, the judge, in her ruling on Tuesday, in the amended 15-count charge bordering on treasonable felony, brought against the IPOB leader, dismissed the application as an abuse of court process having been previously denied.

While counts 6,7,9,10,11,12,13 and 14 were struck out, the defendant is to stand trial on counts 1,2,3,4,5,8 and 15, the court, which struck out eight of the the initial 15-count charge, stated.

Buhari, had while interacting with Boris Johnson, the British Prime Minister on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGOM), in Kigali, sworn that he was not going to intervene in the matter, telling his British counterpart that the IPOB leader would be given the chance, "to justify all the uncomplimentary things said against Nigeria while he was in Britain."

Dismissing the allegation that Kanu was not allowed to see his lawyers privately, the President said the detained IPOB boss was being given every opportunity under the law.

"He felt very safe in Britain and said awful things against Nigeria. We eventually got him when he stepped out of the United Kingdom, and we sent him to court. Let him defend all that he said ththe," Buhari said.

Landlords housing yahoo boys risk 15 years jail term

By **PAUL MICHAEL**

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has stated that landlords found harbouring internet fraudsters popularly known as yahoo boys will be jailed for 15 years when caught.

The anti-graft agency made the announcement on its official Twitter handle on

Monday while announcing the topic of its next edition of #EFCCConnect holding Wednesday by 6pm.

According to the message, EFCC invited the public to take part in the interactive session, an open forum where they discuss with the members of the public.

The message reads: "Okay now! What a juicy topic! E

go sweet wella! Landlord way yahoo-boy dey stay for him house, my people, na 15 years imprisonment for the landlord o! E don set!

"See the details of the public forum below, for landlords that will want to attend. Let's see how they intend to prosecute this and send landlords to jail for 15 years."

Reps summon minister, Immigration CG, NIMC's DG

•Want fair hearing, Gbajabiamila says charge not conviction •'Human life, dignity at stake'

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama; Director-General of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Aliyu Aziz and the Acting Comptroller General of Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Issa Jere, have been invited by the House of Representatives to brief the lower federal legislative chamber on necessary actions taken regarding the arrest and arraignment of former Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu and his wife, Nwanneka, who are in detention in the United Kingdom.

The House also directed the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian High Commission in London to ensure that the couple and the alleged 15-year old minor, Ukpo David, are given with all consular services as they may require in this critical time.

The lawmakers also enjoined federal government agencies and relevant corporate bodies, especially the NIMC, NIS, and banks to expedite action in making available all legitimately requested information to assist in the quick resolution of the charges against Ekweremadu and his wife.

The lawmakers urged the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigerian High Commission in the UK to provide care for Ekweremadu's daughter pending the outcome of the court case.

The resolutions were consequent a motion sponsored by Hon. Abdullahi Abdulkadir Ningi and seconded by Hon. Haruna Mshelia at the plenary on Tuesday.

In moving a motion of urgent national importance, Hon. Ningi said the House had noted the arrest of Senator Ike Ekweremadu, a Nigerian



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama

citizen and serving senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, former Deputy President of the Nigerian Senate and former Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament and his wife by the metropolitan police in the United Kingdom.

He said the House was aware that the Metropolitan Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had since charged the Ekweremadu's of offences relating to human trafficking and exploitation and have had them detained pending the determination of the jurisdiction issues by the Attorney-General of England and Wales.

He further said that the intent of his motion was for justice and fairness of all the parties involved.

Ningi said: "Aware of Senator Ike Ekweremadu's unblemished record as a constitutional lawyer, ranking legislator at the highest level in Nigeria, west Africa sub-region and various international parliamentary bodies and foremost advocate of the right and dignity of man.

"Also aware that Dr. (Mrs.) Ekweremadu has had a flawless career in Nigeria's federal public service, rising to the rank of Director.

"Mindful of the value of human life. It is imperative that Miss Ekweremadu who has a life-threatening ailment is not allowed to come to harms way due to the unavailability of parental care owing to their

continuous detention in the United Kingdom.

"We cannot have a situation where allegation that has not been thoroughly investigated would result in a high-ranking public officer, who has served and is still serving the Nigerian public, the Nigerian state being treated like this; and he has a diplomatic passport. We cannot allow this to happen. If it can happen to some of Ekwemadu's status, I wonder what would happen to ordinary Nigerians.

"The House is, however, hopeful that the authorities in the UK would work with their national security and intelligence counterparts in Nigeria to conduct a holistic and thorough investigation to ascertain all the facts relating to the allegations in order to make a fair determination on the issues in the best interests of equity and justice for all concerned".

Adding his voice, the Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Toby Okechukwu frowned at a situation where anybody, whether highly or lowly placed, is unduly and hastily made to suffer some jeopardy before determining his guilt or innocence.

"This matter is a matter that has to do with freedom. It has to do with the right and dignity of man. It has to do with justice for all. It has to do with fairness.

"Mr Speaker, Hon colleagues, you are aware, as a lawyer, that there is a

presumption of innocence and in that presumption, the law deals with reasonable doubt, beyond all reasonable doubt. Even though we are not talking about conviction here, the law presupposes you have to hear the other side. And as the facts are emerging, it is very clear or there is an alternative narrative that shows that what may have been relied on in the haste may not be the truth.

"Mr. Speaker, as a holder of Nigerian diplomatic passport, should he not be availed the use of that? More also is the fact that there should also be consular services to Mr Ukpo, who is claiming to be a child, so the facts are completely ascertained," Okechukwu stated.

Addressing plenary earlier, the Speaker, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila said that criminal charge does not constitute a conviction or conclusive proof of guilt, and therefore charged the Nigerian High Commission to avail the Ekweremadus every necessary support needed to defend themselves.

"We will all do well to remember that a criminal charge does not constitute a conviction or conclusive proof of guilt. This is merely the beginning of the judicial process to substantiate the fact of the allegation and gather sufficient evidence to sustain the charges therein.

"Until the process is concluded, and even then, let us keep in mind that at the heart of this matter, there are human beings and fellow citizens whose lives have taken a turn none of us would every wish for ourselves.

"I ask the Nigerian High Commission to avail Senator Ekweremadu and his family all necessary defence and support that he will need to defend himself. Indeed I have spoken to the High Commissioner in the UK. I still spoke with him this morning and he has been very proactive. He has done all that needs to be done. The Queen's Counsel has been made available to Ekweremadu. He has access to him. The Nigerian High Commission is doing all that is necessary to make sure that Senator Ekweremadu is given the full opportunities, rights and privileges that he would need to defend himself", Gbajabiamila concluded.

All contributors, including the Deputy Whip, Hon. Nkiru Onyejeocha, spoke in support of the motion, which was unanimously passed by the House.

Edo pays harmonized pension to retirees

Governor Godwin Obaseki has approved the payment of verified pensioners in Edo State for June, reflecting the harmonized rate. It is in fulfillment of the implementation of the harmonized pension announced on Workers' Day.

In a statement, Secretary to the State Government, Osarodion Ogie said "retirees with the state government who took part in the last verification exercise held across the state, have been paid.

"The payment of the harmonized pension to the verified retirees is in line with the government's commitment to provide succour to pensioners, who are overburdened with the weight of the harsh economic realities in the country."

Obaseki had on Workers Day announced the payment of harmonized pension to retirees in the state after 21 years, as well as the increment of the minimum wage in from N30,000 to N40,000.



Governor Godwin Obaseki

'Water from Lagos boreholes, wells dangerous'

Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, has urged Lagos residents to exercise caution with the consumption of water from boreholes and wells in the state.

He warned that such water is not fit for human intake or even suitable for animals because tests have confirmed its contamination by very dangerous pathogens.

Abayomi said the presence of very dangerous pathogens in aquifers has been confirmed in water from boreholes around Lagos. He noted that some residents have even come down with infections after taking borehole water.

An aquifer, according to experts, is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures, or unconsolidated materials. It could be gravel, sand, or silt.

Abayomi disclosed this while speaking at an event organised by the Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium.

According to him, water aquifers in Lagos boreholes and wells have been poisoned as a result of the unhealthy activities of residents.

He said, "When you burn diesel with a generator or when you throw your dead cell phone into the garbage and it goes into the refuse dump, whenever it rains, all those poisons and chemicals from the surface of the earth go into the water aquifers, which is an eco-system itself and is supposed to be clean.

"Many Lagosians know water from all their boreholes and wells is not fit for human consumption. The water is not even fit for animal consumption because we have tried it and if you test the water aquifers in Lagos, you find out that you cannot use them for consumption. And that is not a theory, it is a fact," he said.

The commissioner recalled that about five years ago, female students in Queen's College fell sick because they were drinking water from a borehole.

Some of the girls, he said, were placed on very expensive antibiotics before they got better, while the rest of them died.

Abayomi said, "I am standing here as the commissioner for health and I am telling you that our health system is weak.

"We have got sanitation, waste problem and also we have got a very large number of pathogens."

He, therefore, urged the private sector, and all stakeholders take to work with the state government to ensure Lagos has a

biosecurity framework that could help ensure a prompt response to biological shocks.

"We must be able to mitigate and find the pathogen early and stop it

because in Lagos residents live like sardines. So, any form of contagion whether it's water borne, airborne, or contact borne, will spread like wildfire.

"It is the responsibility of

this government to bring an outbreak under control and restore calm.

"It requires a systemic and strategic approach and that is why we are here today to ask for the

support of private sectors and others and to recognise that we are a very vulnerable environment and our resilience is very low.

"The best policies that will protect the health

system is to recognise and value the role of nature in reducing systemic risks and mitigate the risk of future zoonotic disease outbreaks by addressing their root causes," he added.



L-R: Deputy Dean of Law/Head of Department of Public Law, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof. Muhammed Ladan; UNHCR Nigeria Representative, Ms. Chansa Kapaya; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Federal Commissioner, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim; Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Special Duties, Senator Biobarakuma Degi-Eremiengo; Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Segun Dawodu (right behind) and others during the signing and declaration of Lagos as "City With Refugees" at the American Corner, Local Airport Road, Ikeja.

State unfolds safe, legal pregnancy abortion rules

Lagos State Government through the Ministry of Health has developed a policy document on safe termination of pregnancy.

It is to guide healthcare practitioners to provide safe abortion services within the ambit of the law.

The 40-page policy document, tagged "Lagos State Guidelines on Safe Termination of Pregnancy for Legal Indications" sets out guidelines for safe termination of pregnancy within the ambit of the criminal law of Lagos State.

The document was presented and launched at a stakeholders' engagement by the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye. He noted that the production of the policy document was borne out of the need to provide evidence-based data and information for health workers in public and private sectors who have the requisite skills and training necessary to provide safe terminations to reduce preventable deaths.

Ogboye explained that while therapeutic termination of pregnancy is permissible under the law in Lagos State, absence of clear guidelines has stalled the effective implementation at appropriate levels of care resulting in preventable

deaths.

His words: "In 2011, the Lagos State House of Assembly updated the criminal code, providing for abortion to save the life and protect the physical health of the woman. While physical health is covered under the Lagos legal framework, services conforming to the law have not been available in Lagos State health sector.

"This document provides information on relevant laws applicable in Lagos State while providing standards and best practices with regards to legal indications, pre and post procedure care, methods and monitoring. I must state here that this document has undergone wide consultation with relevant technical stakeholders within the legal and health service context in the State."

Ogboye explained that the process to develop the guidelines commenced in 2018 with the Safe Engage project led by the Lagos Ministry of Health and hosted by the Society for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Nigeria (SOGON), with support from Population Reference Bureau (PRB). He added that stakeholders in the State health sector worked with key opinion leaders in Lagos and the southwest region to develop a tailored advocacy tool for terminations within the legal context.

He pointed out that the advocacy messages on the Safe Engage project focused on two immediate outcome including ensuring that safe abortion services were available within legal indications in Lagos and domesticating the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, supporting women to terminate a pregnancy caused by rape or incest.

He said: "To guide the implementation, one of the follow up recommendations of the project was the adaptation of the National Standards and Guidelines for Safe Termination of Pregnancy within the Lagos State context. The Federal Ministry of Health had developed and disseminated the national guidelines on safe termination of pregnancy which highlights the compendium of conditions and circumstances under which termination of pregnancy could be instituted.

"The guideline was intended to build the capacity of health professionals to identify pregnancies for which legal termination could be instituted. Marie Stopes International in Nigeria in collaboration with the Population Reference Bureau proposed to support the State government to adapt the document."

The Permanent Secretary explained that the process for National guidelines adaptation included technical meetings to discuss sections of the law supporting safe abortion and conditions permitted within the legal framework to save the lives and the physical health of mothers; and validation meeting with the broader stakeholders to review the document.

"All that hand work has culminated in today's dissemination of the guidelines. We hope this dissemination today will help guide health providers to provide this service within the ambit of the law," Ogboye stated.

Earlier in his remarks, the Country Director of Marie Stopes International Organization (MSION), Mr. Emmanuel Ajah, stated that the development and dissemination of the policy document has once again proven that Lagos is leading the way for State-level intervention to stem the tide of unsafe abortion and give women and girls improved health outcomes.

Noting that abortion in Nigeria is not illegal but restrictive, Ajah said significant numbers of health providers are unaware of the legal indications for safe termination of pregnancy. He posited that it is important that the

healthcare providers who have the responsibility to determine when the life of the woman is in danger as prescribed in Nigeria's laws need to have the right understanding and make those critical decisions based on sound medical judgment and not on religion, culture, or other biases.

"The domestication of this policy provides that needed guidance to healthcare providers on medical conditions in pregnancy that pose a high risk to the woman's life and health if the pregnancy progresses to term, and on the standard management of abortion within the extent of the law in Lagos state. This policy is a demonstration of the commitment of the Lagos state government to improving maternal health, especially mitigating the impact of unsafe abortion practices in the State", he stated.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Medical Sciences, Otukpo, Prof. Innocent Ujah, one of the Consultants who developed the document averred that the enunciation, deployment and use of this guidelines will preserve the lives of pregnant women and women whose physical or mental health would be compromised with the continuation of their pregnancies.

Zamfara self-defence directive affirms loss of faith in security system, says Akeredolu

By **FRIDAY OMOSOLA**, Akure

Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu has described the directive by Zamfara State Government that all citizens should obtain guns to defend themselves against bandits as evidence of pervasive loss of confidence in the current security arrangement in the country.

The Ondo State Governor stated that it was a glaring signal of a situation of near-capitulation on the part of the security agencies centrally controlled by the Federal Government. The governor in a statement by his SSA on Special Duties & Strategy, Dr Doyin Odebowale, said the government and the people of Zamfara State have been pushed to the wall as a feeling of despondency was pervasive in the land.

"It was a sad commentary on the increasing inability and impotence of the Zamfara State Government, and other States, to protect their citizens in the wake of relentless and mindless assaults by terrorists and bandits.

"It suggests a total lack of trust between that State Government and Federal Government on one hand, and the helpless and hopeless situation in which the people have found themselves concerning the security of lives, on the other. The stark reality confronting the people of Zamfara leaves the government with no esoteric option than to lean heavily on the current arrangement," said the Chairman of the South-West Governors' Forum.

He commended the boldness of Governor Bello Matawalle to confront the security challenges in his state by adopting a pragmatic approach. He said the deliberate policy of the Federal Government to deny exigent regional security outfits the right to bear firearms, when it was evident that the security agencies in the country are overwhelmed and distracted by centrifugal forces, was a major factor exacerbating the current security challenges in the country.

"A federal system of government cannot be administered as if the country was a unitary colony, controlled, rigidly, at the centre, while the constituent units are treated as mere outposts," he said.

Akeredolu condemned the continued refusal by the Federal Government to grant licenses to security outfits, run by some states, to bear sophisticated firearms capable of restraining acts of criminality and brazen impunity with commensurate responses.

"We must, however, advise caution. The directive of the state arrangements to the Commissioner of Police to issue licenses to qualified citizens to bear arms in the defense of their immediate environments and the state, in general, is commendable. But the NSA and Inspector General of Police may have to issue licenses to possess a certain category of arms.

3,906 escaped inmates still at large, says Aregbesola

Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, has said the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS) is still searching for 3,906 inmates that escaped during attacks on correctional centres in Edo.

He stated this at the opening of a two-day retreat for senior management of the service in Sokoto State.

About 4,369 inmates escaped from the centres in 2020, following attacks by gunmen.

However, the minister disclosed that only 984 had been rearrested.

The minister expressed displeasure over the negative impact of the #EndSARS protests which later turned violent leading to attacks on custodial facilities, hence the rise in the attacks on facilities.

He recalled that during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the policies,

quickly put in place then, was the de-congestion programme under which thousands of inmates were released on compassionate grounds.

"The follow-up to that is the consideration that we should find further ways to keep de-congesting our facilities. We started work on the idea of compiling the list of convicted inmates serving light terms for not too serious offences, who were in custody because they could not pay their fines," he said.

Aregbesola commended the service for being able to manage the centres during the pandemic without recording a single case.

He added that the agency did a good job of keeping the virus away and must continue to keep the facilities safe and sound from inside and outside.

The minister urged that as the

officers deliberate, strategise and set targets for the next five years, it must ensure that the bio-data of all inmates were harmonised with sister agencies

This, he said, such as the Nigeria Financial Unit (NFIU), all banks and the INTERPOL to track all escaped inmates.

"It is also very important to have their fingerprints, pictures and other details you have with you to be harmonised with them."

Meanwhile, Aregbesola said the federal government has biometrics of all custodial inmates in the country, and they have collaborated with the International Police (INTERPOL).

Aregbesola said: "How long can they continue to run from the state? The state is a patient bird. You can run, but you can never hide.

"We have their biometrics.

Whenever and wherever they appear to transact any business, their cover will be blown."



Rauf Aregbesola

Wike hands over Certificate of Occupancy of Nabo Graham Douglas campus to Law School

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** and **CHRIS EZEONOH**, Port Harcourt

Governor Nyesom Wike has handed over the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) to the adjoining property of Nabo Graham Douglas campus of the Nigerian Law School in Port Harcourt.

Almost one year after the Rivers



Gov. Nyesom Wike

State helmsman commenced construction of the Port Harcourt campus of Nigerian Law School, the facility has been completed.

Wike presented the certificate during the inspection of the completed campus by the Director-General of Nigeria Law School, Prof. Isa Chiroma (SAN), and Chief Emeka Ngige (SAN), the Chairman of the Council of Legal Education.

The governor said the law school in Port Harcourt would be a self-sustained institution in Nigeria.

Wike noted that the acquisition of the adjoining property to the campus will enable the operators of the campus to use them for various commercial and revenue generating activities in order to meet the financial needs of the institution.

"We are using this opportunity to present the Certificate of Occupancy of the property we have acquired and paid for by the Rivers State Government for the Nigerian Law School, Dr. Nabo Graham Douglas, Port Harcourt

Campus, to you (Chairman).

"We are giving the property to you for the purposes of making some revenue to run this campus. Whatever revenue derived is to be utilised for this campus alone."

"Very soon, the state attorney-general and commissioner for justice and the director-general will meet to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It will ensure that you won't take revenue from here to subsidise other campuses. Any money you make here, put it here on this campus" Wike said.

The governor said he awaits the Council of Legal Education to choose a date when they desire for the campus to be formally handed over to them.

The Chairman of the Council of Legal Education said they were amazed at what they have seen during the inspection of the facility.

"Last 27th July 2021 was when we came for the foundation laying ceremony and His Excellency promised that this project will be delivered in one-year. Behold,

today is June 27th, not up to July yet and he had delivered.

"Recalled that when we were doing the ground breaking ceremony, His Excellency promised that every month he will give this campus N10 million for four years, and will be given in advance, that is about N480 million to run this institution.

"When I learnt that he had acquired adjoining property, houses, shopping malls and other business facilities for the Law School to rent out to raise revenue to run this institution. I can tell you it is unparalleled" Ngige said.

Chiroma described the Graham Douglas Campus as the best and mother of all law campuses in Nigeria.

Kano govt pays NECO fees for 29,031 pupils

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**

Examination fees for 29,031 pupils have been paid by Kano State Government. They are sitting for the 2022 National Examination Council tests.

Commissioner for Information, Malam Muhammad Garba, disclosed this to newsmen in Kano while reacting to a media report insinuating that the state's pupils might miss the 2022 NECO examination over the government's inability to settle their fees.

He said the money for the examination has been substantially settled as the state paid N336 million as fees for 29,031 pupils.

He stated that the payment included 15,313 pupils that had nine credits from its qualifying examination and 1,018 with disabilities.

Garba said the payment also covered 7,300 pupils for Special Intervention which is basically for Girl Child Education while the local governments paid for 5,400.

Parents lament as pupil dies at Federal Govt College in A'lbom

By **ISAAC JOB**, Uyo

Parents of a pupil who died at Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State have accused its management of negligence. The Trumpet gathered that little Rita Emmanuel, Junior Secondary One (JS1), died after she was transferred from the school Sick Bay to another hospital where she was diagnosed of umbilical hernia.

Sources in the school told our Correspondent that she died after being taken to the school's Sick Bay without drugs and specialist to handle her case. The deceased was said to have been released to the parents and was referred to a hospital where medics could not save her from her condition as the school management described it as "complicated". It was learnt that the parents were sad and

furiously blaming the matter on negligence by the school management.

An eyewitness, who pleaded anonymity, said the parents observed that medical facility in the college is completely dysfunctional to take care of serious cases with a population of 5,000 students in the school.

"The children, as young as 10 years-old, are going through lot of pains from poor medication because of no quality drugs with only two nurses, poor feeding with cooks and teachers always in the habits of carting foods away leaving the children malnourished and water crises all the time in the school," Mayen Ekanem, a parent noted.

"This is a clear case of avoidable death. The school is lacking in everything including discipline and security because young chil-

dren have traumatic experiences almost every day with the seniors brutalizing them, stealing their things and raping some innocent girl children," Enobong Bassey, another parent lamented.

"My late brother-in-law's son, by name Emediong Akpan, was admitted into SS1, and that same term, a senior student hit him on the chest and he started vomiting blood. When my husband tried to arrest the student, the school management promised to handle it. Since that day, Emediong's life has never been the same until he graduated," another parent recalled.

"My son was wounded by his bunk in the dormitory, all they could do at the clinic was to administer rub, not minding the rust on the bunk," Mfoniso Essien, said.

Narrating the circumstances

Northern elder warns Nigerians against electing Tinubu, Atiku

One of the northern leading voices, Professor Ango Abdullahi, has warned that the country will be put to further trouble should either of the presidential candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) or the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, win in 2023.

He, therefore, urged Nigerians to look beyond the two leading candidates while voting in next year's general election.

Abdullahi, who is the convener of the Northern Elders Forum (NEF), in an interview with a news medium said if either of the two is elected president, problems of the country will be further compounded because none of the two has anything to offer the country.

Rather, he projected to the Nigerian voting populace both the Labour Party's, Mr. Peter Obi, and the New Nigeria People's Party's (NNPP's), Alhaji Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, as more serious presidential candidates that should be considered.



Atiku Abubakar and Bola Tinubu

He accused Tinubu and Atiku of being active in the political space for a considerable period of time without manifesting

corresponding results. "How can you look at Tinubu and Atiku and assert that they will fix the country? They've

been on the ground for the past 25, 30, etc. years. What do they have done? "Unfortunately, I do not

know Peter Obi that well. He is a young man, a former governor of Anambra State, and an entrepreneur," he said.

'Akpabio will be on senatorial ballot'

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

Despite reports that the name of Chief Godswill Akpabio conspicuously was missing as the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Akwa Ibom North West senatorial district on the list

released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), one of his aides has insisted that he will be on the ballot in 2023.

Jackson Udom, Chief Press Secretary to Akpabio, dismissed any controversy surrounding the candidature of the immedi-

ate past Minister of Niger Delta Affairs as the APC senatorial candidate.

The CPS reacted to a news story "purporting that the Akwa Ibom State, Resident Electoral Commissioner INEC, Mr Mike Igini, during an interview with the Arise TV, described the victory of Senator Godswill Akpabio, at the Ikot Ekpene Senatorial Primary, as 'laughable'."

Udom said the claim on Igini's interview was false and bias, accusing the writer as doing the bidding of some politicians who are determined to run down the former governor of Akwa Ibom State.

The Chief Press Secretary said "the statement, as far as we know, exists only in the warped imagination of the writer, his Co- purveyors of lies and falsehood as well as his faceless collaborators, who will do anything to tar the former governor of Akwa Ibom State, in order to please their paymaster(s).

"The unbiased minds who listened to the controversial Electoral Officer's interview, are in agreement that at no time, did Igini make mention of the name of the former Minister throughout his highly biased

interview, not to talk of describing his legally won senatorial contest as 'laughable'.

On behalf of the Akpabio campaign organisation, Udom challenged the claimant "to produce the video clip where the quotations he credited to Igini on Akpabio were made.

"It is however sad that who claims to be a reporter, could throughout his biased report, ignore the failure of Igini to provide direct answers to the questions that were asked him.

He also challenged a claim that the NWC of the party had withdrawn from the suit instituted by Akpabio against INEC, describing it as laughable.

"In fact, if there is anything the party has done in the prevailing circumstance to bolster his confidence, is its resolve to stand by all their elected candidates including Akpabio, to ensure that they get their names on the ballot.

"We also hope that the allegation of forgery, leveled against the former Senate Minority Leader, of his procurement of a forged document to prosecute his electoral victory, would be proved by him when called to substantiate his claims at the appropriate time," he added.

Buni declares work-free days for voters registration in Yobe

Governor Mai Mala Buni has declared three work-free days for workers in Yobe State to enable them participate in the voters registration which is ongoing.

The state government has directed civil servants to stay off work on Wednesday, June 29, Thursday, June 30 and Friday, July 1st to register for their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs).

- This, according to the state government, will afford workers in the state opportunity to vote in the 2023 general election.

- The development was confirmed in a circular dated June 27 signed by the acting Head of Service, Alhaji Bilal Garba.

- Meanwhile, the acting head of service has urged all essential service providers in the state to remain on alert.



Chief Godswill Akpabio



Gov. Mai Mala Buni

Senate to go ahead with ex-CJN Tanko's probe

•EFCC should arrest him, says HURIWA

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

Although Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad has stepped down as Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters will go ahead investigating allegations levelled against him as well as other crisis in the the third arm of government.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan, last week, mandated the Committee to urgently wade into the crisis rocking the Judiciary.

Recently, 14 Justices of the Supreme Court leveled allegations of corruption against the former CJN.

The Justices, in a memo, protested against the non-payment of legitimate entitlements by the CJN.

According to them, annual foreign training, meant to enhance capacity building for the country's judicial process, had been blocked.

They also protested the non-replacement of poor vehicles; accommodation problem; lack of drugs at the Supreme Court clinic; epileptic electricity supply to the Supreme Court; increase in electricity tariff; no increase in the allowances for diesel; lack of internet services to residences and chambers, amongst others.

They added: "In the past, justices were nominated to attend two to three foreign workshops or training per annum with accompanying persons for reasons of age. Since your Lordship's assumption of office, Justices only attend two workshops in Dubai and Zanzibar. They were not accorded the privilege of travelling with accompanying persons as was the practice.

"Your Lordship totally ignored this demand and yet travelled with your spouse, children, and personal staff. We demand to know what has become our training funds, have they been diverted, or it's a plain denial?"

However, chairman of the Committee, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, said Justice Muhammad's resignation, notwithstanding, it will go ahead with the assignment because of its national importance.

Coming under Senate Order 41 and 51, Bamidele moved a motion titled "Matter of urgent public importance on the state of affairs in the Supreme Court of Nigeria and demand by Justices of the court". All resolutions therein were unanimously adopted by the Senate.

The Senate, therefore, mandated the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters "to go ahead with its assignment in the quest to find a lasting solution to the matter by interacting with relevant stakeholders to address the complaints raised in the petition by the Justices of the Supreme Court;

"Mandate the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to interface with the relevant

stakeholders in the three arms of Government as well as at the Bar and on the Bench and collate aggregate views and positions on the short term, medium term and long term measures needed to decisively address the crisis facing the Judiciary, including the immediate fiscal intervention as well as long term and sustainable budgetary allocations, required for the optimal performance of the Judiciary, in line with global best practices."

Presenting the motion, Senator Bamidele (Ekiti Central Senatorial District), recalled that on Tuesday 21 June, 2022, the President of the Senate, Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (Ph.D), CON, drew the attention of Senate to the media reports on the state of affairs in the Supreme Court of Nigeria, whereby Justices of the Court, through a petition signed by majority of them, raised issues bordering on deplorable welfare conditions and difficult working environment for the Justices, which was addressed to the Hon. The Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, National Judicial Council.

He noted that the President of the Senate emphasized the need for the Senate to urgently step into the matter as any issue that concerns the Judiciary is an issue of urgent national importance that the Senate cannot afford to sit idly by and allow to spiral out of control.

The chairman also noted that poor welfare of Judicial Officers would affect the delivery of the judiciary in respect of their output



Senate President Ahmad Lawan

and will prevent them not to perform optimally.

He observed that "the sacred image of the Judiciary, which is the epicentre of the temple of justice should be preserved by the Senate through appropriate legislative measures in order to safeguard this highly revered institution and prevent it from being ridiculed.

"Observes also that Justices are taciturn and reticent in handling issues outside their judicial domain but resorting to such measures in order to protect the

Judiciary, requires the Senate to rise up to the occasion to ensure that their demands are addressed.

"Regrets that the Hon. The Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Ibrahim Tanko Muhammed on Sunday 27th June, 2022, voluntarily resigned his appointment on grounds of ill-health, leaving the most senior Justice to act as the Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria. However, this development will not prevent the Committee from going ahead with its assignment in the quest to find a probable lasting solution

to the matter".

However, advocacy group, Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria, (HURIWA), said Justice Muhammad's resignation was not enough to clear him of corruption allegations levelled against him by the 14 Supreme Court chiefs.

HURIWA's National Coordinator, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, in a statement, demanded the immediate arrest, investigation and if culpable prosecute the retired CJN by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC).

He said: "Justice Tanko must be prosecuted just as his predecessor, Walter Onnoghen, who was probed and later removed on a controversial note following some allegations against him probed by both the NJC and the CCT.

"The investigation and probable prosecution of Tanko if indicted, will set a precedent that Buhari's anti-corruption crusade is not a joke unless it is a joke. Tanko's prosecution if found culpable of those sets of allegations will also serve as deterrent for any proven corrupt justices that the judiciary won't be a haven."

Though Tanko denied the allegations, HURIWA earlier asked the National Judicial Council and the Code of Conduct Tribunal to probe him over the weighty allegations by the Supreme Court justices.

Onwubiko applauded Buhari for swearing in Justice Olukayode Ariwoola as the acting CJN.

Why N'Assembly will further amend electoral law, by Lawan

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

Senate President Ahmad Lawan has said that it has become pertinent for the National Assembly to amend the Electoral Act 2022 owing to inadequacies identified in the law.

This is coming on the heels of controversies that surround the provisions of Section 84(12) of the Act.

The urgent review, he said, needed to be done to correct certain anomalies before the 2023 general election.

This came to the fore on Tuesday during plenary, consequent upon a matter of national importance brought to the floor



Sen. Yahaya Abdullahi

by former Senate Leader, Senator Yahaya Abdullahi (APC, Kebbi North).

Lawan, in his remark, described the judgement by the Supreme Court on Section 84(12) of the Electoral Act as a "landmark" judgment that vindicates the National Assembly.

According to him, further amendment of the Act would strengthen it ahead of the 2023 general elections.

He said, "Let me say that this is one major landmark judgement by the Supreme Court, that the National Assembly had done their job and the court upheld it.

"The idea of what method of primaries should be adopted at the moment is entirely left for the political parties to decide.

"But as we implement the electoral act 2022, we are supposed to be very observant of the strengths and weaknesses of the law.

"This law is supposed to improve on the electoral processes and procedures in our country.

"So, it is for us to ensure that where there are weaknesses, we try to come up with measures, amendments to deal with the issues of weaknesses in the law.

"And, I'm sure it will come full circle when the 2023 elections are held.

"I have no doubt in my mind that all of us in the National Assembly, not only in the Senate, but in the House as well, feel that we must do everything and everything possible to make this electoral act serve the purpose for which it was passed and assented to.

"Therefore, I believe that we should work tirelessly to take note of those areas that we feel are not strong enough - that are weak points in the law - with a view to strengthening them before we finally take our exit in 2023."

Rising under Order 42 of the Senate Standing Orders, Senator Yahaya Abdullahi lauded the 9th Assembly for resisting the pressure from the executive to amend section 84(12) of Electoral Act 2022.

He also applauded the Supreme court for the clarity, decisiveness and unanimity of its verdict in upholding the separation of powers principle enshrined in our 1999 constitution.

He said the Supreme Court verdict is a major victory towards true democratic governance anchored on the rule of law.

"In my view, the Supreme Court verdict should be celebrated for the following reasons. It restored and anchors the power of making laws to the National Assembly;

and establishes a principle that once the President accents to a Bill he/she can't approbate and reprobate, i.e. he/she cannot go to the courts to amend/reject the Bill in part or in whole", he said.

Abdullahi, however, underscored the need to amend the Electoral Act to revert to the Direct mode of primaries.

"One issue still remains outstanding, and that is amending the Act (after the 2023 elections) to revert to our earlier stance on Direct primaries.

"Our recent nasty experience of the misuse of consensus and delegate system has vindicated our earlier position on the merit of direct primaries provided that a verifiable membership register of political parties kept simultaneously at the Ward level and with INEC with all the necessary safeguards against corruption and data manipulation, is put in place.

"As the political process towards 2023 unfolds, the National Assembly needs to be observant of the loopholes and weaknesses of the 2022 Electoral Act, so that a comprehensive assessment is undertaken to provide adequate grounds for making amendments to the Act before the end of the term of office of the 9th Assembly in May 2023", the lawmaker added.

Absence of judge delays Saraki's suit against EFCC, ICPC, others

By PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR, ABUJA

Hearing in a suit filed by former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, against the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and others could not proceed this week due to the absence of the presiding judge.

Though the two separate suits were on number five and six on the day's cause list, Justice Inyang Ekwo of a Federal High Court, Abuja was said to be on another official engagement.

The matters were consequently fixed for October 5 for further mention.

The court had, on May 12, fixed June 27 for the suits.

Justice Ekwo had adjourned the matter to enable parties file and exchange their processes in the suit.

The development followed non-appearance of counsel for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respondents in the case.

While Saraki is the applicant, the At-

torney General of the Federation (AGF), Inspector-General of Police (IGP), and State Security Service (SSS) are 1st to 3rd defendants respectively.

Others are EFCC, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) as 4th to 6th respondents respectively.

According to reports EFCC had, in 2019, said it would probe Saraki's earnings between 2003 and 2011 when he was governor of Kwara.

The commission was reported to have seized some of his houses in the Ikoyi area of Lagos then.

However, Saraki, on May 10, 2019, filed two separate suits marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/507/19 and FHC/ABJ/CS/508/19 respectively before Justice Taiwo Taiwo to challenge the action of the EFCC.

Justice Taiwo, who was the presiding judge, ruled on an ex parte application filed along with the substantive suits.

The judge ordered the anti-corruption agency (4th respondent) and the other five

respondents to the suits to stay action on the probe pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice filed by the applicant.

The order was granted after Sunday Onubi, Saraki's lawyer, moved the application, on May 14, 2019.

The court had directed the parties to maintain the status quo by suspending the probe.

But the EFCC later applied that the judge should recuse himself and the matter be transferred to another court.

Justice Taiwo sent back the case file to the chief judge and the matter was reassigned to Justice Anwuli Chikere for adjudication.

When the matter came up on July 14, 2021 before Justice Chikere, EFCC Counsel, Chile Okoronkwo, complained that Taiwo's order had hindered the agency "from performing its duty for about two years now."

The lawyer, who stated that Saraki continued to hinge on the order of the court any time he is invited, urged the court to vacate the order.

But the suits were reassigned to Justice Ekwo following the retirement of Chikere.



Bukola Saraki

ICPC sensitizes staffers of Bauchi Revenue Service on integrity, others

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has charged management staffers of the Bauchi State Board of Internal Revenue Service to imbibe the tenets of integrity and transparency and be accountable in every business that concerns their official responsibilities.

Mr Mohammad Baba Fika, an officer of the

ICPC Bauchi office, gave the charge during a sensitization and mobilization session carried out with the Board on how to tackle the menace of corruption that has marred every sector of the country recently.

Presenting a paper titled 'Integrity Structures and Corruption Prevention Plans for the Bauchi State Board of Internal Revenue Services', Fika took the management through the brief history of the Commission, offences

and punishment under the ICPC Act as well as some achievements of the Commission.

The Executive Chairman of the Board, Alhaji Ahmed B. Jibril in his remarks, commended the Commission especially the Bauchi State office for the initiative to sensitize the management and staff of the Board.

He affirmed that their management agreed to be sensitized first as the drivers of the

policies of the Board before other categories of staff.

He appreciated the paper presented by the Commission and promised to institutionalize the integrity structures and corruption prevention mechanism recommended in the paper and admonished the management staff to live above board in the discharge of their duties and manage their subordinate officers.

Lawyer jailed for forgery in Kano

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has secured the conviction of a Kano-based lawyer, Abdullahi Mohammed Hanga, before Justice Aisha Mahmud of the Kano State High Court sitting in Kano.

A statement by the media team of the EFCC on Tuesday said Hanga was jailed on Friday, June 24, 2022, after being found guilty of forgery based on a four-count

charges bordering on uttering and forgery preferred against him by the EFCC.

At the point of arraignment, he pleaded not guilty to the four counts charge, thereby setting the stage for full trial.

In the course of the trial, prosecution counsel, Musa Isah called a total of four witnesses and tendered many documents that were admitted as exhibits by the court.

In his judgment, Justice Mahmud found the defendant guilty on count 3

but discharged and acquitted him on counts 1, 2 and 4. He was subsequently sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N250,000.

Hanga's journey to prison started when a petitioner alleged that he sold a property meant for a specified buyer already named in a document, to one of his relations and forged the prepared document to reflect the name of the new buyer. He also converted the proceeds of the sale of the property to his personal use.

Court sentences ten fraudsters in Uyo

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Justices Toyin Bolaji Adegoke and Agatha Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State have sentenced ten (10) fraudsters to jail terms for different offences.

A statement by the media team of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Monday said the fraudsters were convicted on Friday, June 24, 2022 after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Uyo Zonal office of the Commission.

According to the statement, "While eight of the convicts: Amos Richard Perekime, Ben Goodluck, Solomon Oghenefejiro Daniel, Ugbabe Ogah Nelson, Prosper Oweifah, Christopher Samuel Akpan, Ojei Ekene Franklin and Uzobo Lucky Divine pleaded guilty to one-count charge bordering on criminal impersonation and obtaining by false pretense, the other two convicts: Ekere Ekong and Obot Eshiet pleaded guilty to a charge bordering on obtaining by false pretenses."

"That you, Prosper Oweifah sometime in 2022 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to obtain property and gain advantage for yourself, fraudulently presented yourself as David Fumero, a medical doctor from Turkey to one Leslie Akers and obtained the sum of \$500 from her and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (b) (iv) of the same Act," the lone count against one of the convicts read.

Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, E. Ubokudom and Adebayo Soares prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

However, defence counsel, Ndifreke Inyang-Ette pleaded for leniency and lighter sentence.

In his ruling, Adegoke convicted and sentenced Perekime, Goodluck, Daniel, Nelson and Oweifah to one year imprisonment each, without an option of a fine and sentenced Ekong and Eshiet to two years

imprisonment each, without an option of fine.

The other three defendants, Akpan, Franklin and Divine were convicted and sentenced by Justice Okeke to three months, one month and six months jail terms respectively, without an option of fine.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre started when they were arrested on different dates, and at different locations within Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and Calabar, Cross River State for different offences.

"Perekime, Goodluck, Daniel, Nelson, Oweifah, Akpan, Franklin and Divine were prosecuted and convicted for impersonating foreigners and defrauding their victims, mostly foreigners of various sums of money, while Ekong and Eshiet sold a plot of land to a petitioner in the Shelter Afrique area of Uyo for N9,000,000 (Nine Million Naira only) only for the petitioner to discover that the land belonged to someone else entirely.

"They neither returned the money to the petitioner nor offered him an alternative plot of land," the EFCC said.

Court jails two for internet fraud in Abuja

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Justice S.B Belgore of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) sitting in Bwari, Abuja, on June 27, 2022, convicted and sentenced Augustine Ogar and Eze Samuel to one year imprisonment each for internet fraud.

Ogar and Samuel were prosecuted on a one count charge each by the Abuja Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Ogar's charge reads, "that you, Augustine Ogar sometime in 2020 within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court by deceiving while pretending to be a medical doctor, Thomas White from USA through the means of Facebook and Hangout account created with jameswhite@gmail.com cheated by inducing one Karen Gilbert from America to deliver to you the sum of N515,000 (Five Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Naira only) in the guise of assisting her in getting drugs for her ailment, a fact which you knew to be false and that you thereby committed an offense contrary to Section 320 (b) and punishable under Section 322 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation (Abuja), 1990".

On his part, Samuel was arraigned for attempting to cheat unsuspecting victims while pretending to be in romantic relationships with them.

They both pleaded guilty to the charges when read before them.

Following their guilty pleas, Justice Belgore convicted and sentenced both to one year jail term.

However, the court gave Ogar the option of a fine of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only (N150,000), and Samuel, Fifty Thousand Naira only (N50,000).

Intensifying the war on hard drugs

The high rate of hard drug related crimes in Nigeria is most worrisome. Unfortunately, the victims of the drug business cartel are the youths who are in the productive stage of their lives. The unquantified economic burden this illegal business imposes on government and its agencies is better imagined. We may also add that increase in robbery, gun running, kidnapping, destruction of lives and properties, cultism, are often drug related. Recently, Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, Archbishop Henry Ndukuba noted that, "the speed and desperation at which Nigerians are getting involved in hard drugs is alarming and the country is becoming a strong hob for hard drugs, hence there is a need for the authorities to stop the menace."

Chairman and Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) announced that about 17, 647 drug offenders and ten barons were arrested in the last 17 months. Of this figure, over 2,369 were convicted and jailed. He also revealed that more than 11,000 users were undergoing counselling and rehabilitation within the same period. We must note the efforts which Marwa has put into the NDLEA since he assumed the mantle of leadership of the agency. Indeed, he has done to the NDLEA what the late indefatigable Professor Dora Akunyili, OFR, did for National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control of Nigeria (NAFDAC) between 2001 and 2008.

Despite the above, more efforts should be put into the drug war. This would require more human and material resources. First, the level of drug education and public awareness should be increased and sustained. Not many people are aware of the adverse effects of drug abuse. Many parents live in self-denial. Some teenage children and adults, perhaps out of peer influence, are into drug abuse. Common in most Club Houses and private parties is cannabis use – often used as condiments for cakes as well; it is mixed with soft and alcoholic drinks – smoking of

hashish, cigarettes of various degrees, etc. This is common even among females. Reports are rife among students of the use of drugs such as amphetamine, heroin, diazepam, codeine, cough syrup and tramadol, ice, and Colorado. Most manual daily paid labourers are usually sustained and energised by tramadol abuse. We may add sex enhancing drug use by men. Drug education will make parents know the symptoms exhibited by addicts as well as educate them on how addicts may be medically helped.

A major impediment to drug abuse war in Nigeria is the culture of drug use in motor parks and bus terminals. Parks in major cities such as Lagos, Warri, Port Harcourt, Aba, Onitsha, Jos, and Kano are notorious for this. Government should make these spots drug free. Drivers and their assistants have as their neighbour

hawkers of various brands of alcohol and other hard drugs, packed in factory made sachets. Many who hawk "local medicines" commonly called agbo are disguised drug peddlers.

The NDLEA cannot be left alone to prosecute the war if we desire success. Some of the drugs are imported into Nigeria with many powerful barons behind the trade. It is even reported that many well-placed politicians and security officers are backers of this business. Club houses thrive on drug patronage.

The government should strengthen the NDLEA to make the agency an effective and efficient drug bursting organisation. There is also the need to invest in drug rehabilitation facilities in the country. Our hospitals and correctional centres should be equipped with the requisite professionals that can carry out such tasks. Apart from these measures, collaborating with existing non-state players and agencies to curb and eradicate this menace is important. No drug war can be effective without a good intelligence system. End users can be easily apprehended at the club houses, motor parks and even by random drug and alcohol tests of drivers by Federal Roads Safety Corp (FRSC) officers on our roads.

The international dimension of the drug trade should not be ignored in this war. Nigeria is a major producer of cannabis and its corollaries, and a major transit route of cocaine and heroin. Our sea and airports and Nigerian couriers of hard drugs should not be underrated in the task. Nigerian embassies and drug fighting agencies must get involved in the war. The State must not be seen to protect those fingered for drug related crimes. Drug sellers and barons as well as their blood or close relatives must not be allowed to benefit from the proceeds of this illegal business. This is one way of deterring others from getting involved in the drug business. Commending the yeoman job by the NDLEA is not enough effort by all to end the destruction of our society and community being caused by hard drug use. All hands must be on deck if this scourge must be wiped out of our families, communities, and country.



THE TRUMPET

PUBLISHER/CHAIRMAN: JOEL-ONOWAKPO THOMAS

GMD/VICE CHAIRMAN: GLORIA JOEL-ONOWAKPO

EDITOR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: OMOKIOJA JJK ETO

WEEKEND EDITOR/DEIC: OBAH SYLVA

ELOMAZ COMMUNICATIONS LTD

DIRECTOR: NDUBISI FRANCES

MANAGING DIRECTOR: ENDURANCE EDAFEWOTU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: CHIEF JOHN ARAKA

ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN: PROF. HOPE EGHAGHA

MALLAM LAWAL MOHAMMED HAMIDU

DR. PROMISE ADIELE

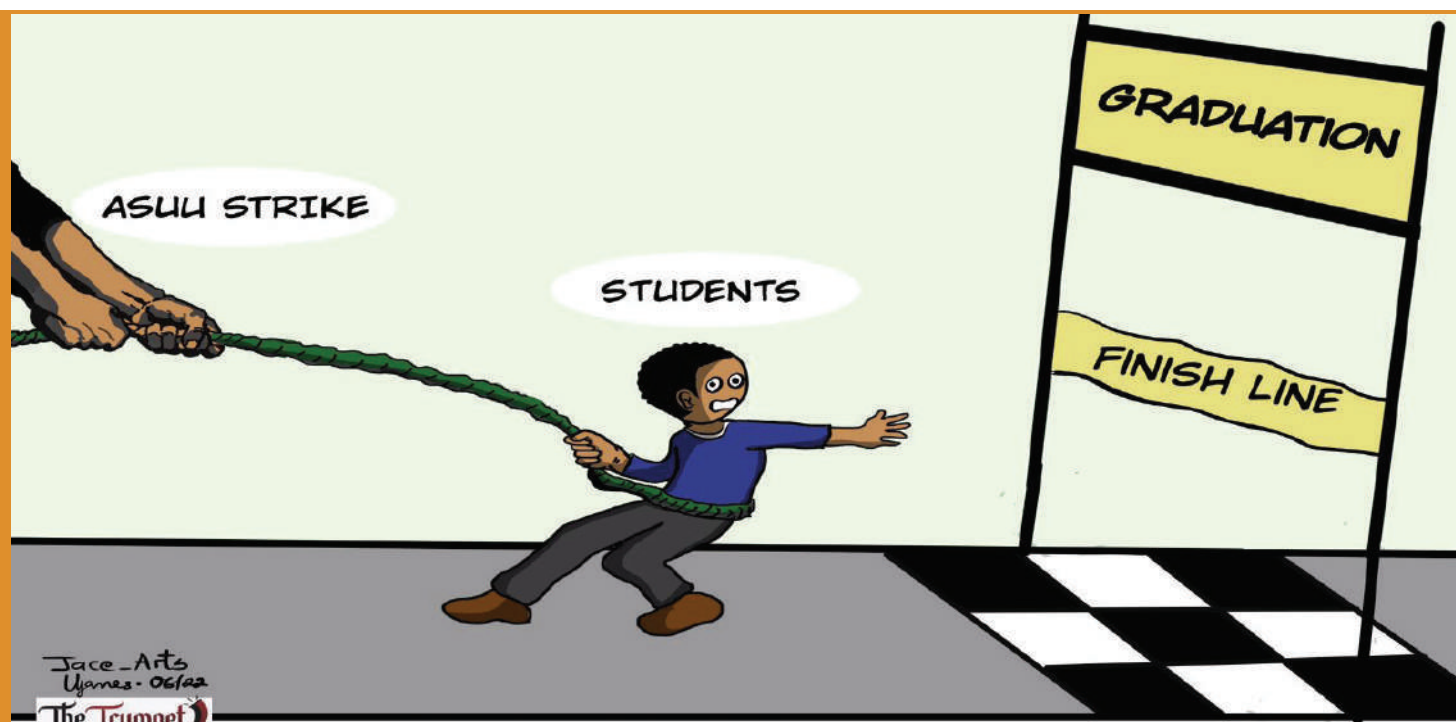
DR. KAYODE EESUOLA

ASSOC. PROF. SAMSON ALHAJI SHAIBU

DR. RALIA MAIJAMA'A ABDULLAHI

PROF OGHENEKARO OGBINAKA

EMAIL US @: trumpetng@gmail.com



Administering discipline in schools

Whoever holds back his rod* (*Or "discipline; punishment") hates his son, But the one who loves him disciplines him diligently." -Proverbs 13:24.

"Foolishness is tied up in the heart of a boy* (*Or "child; youth"), But the rod of discipline will remove it far from him." -Proverbs 22:15.

"Do not hold back discipline from a boy* (*Or "child; youth"). If you strike him with the rod, he will not die. With the rod you should strike him, In order to save him from the Grave." -Proverbs 23:13, 14.

"The rod* (*Or "discipline; punishment") and reproof impart wisdom, But a child left unrestrained brings shame on his mother."

-Proverbs 29:15.(All quotations above are from the "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures").

Discipline in schools is very important! It helps to build the foundation for the school children's success later in life. It is what helps children achieve good performance in school and it is responsible for maintaining order in the classroom, yet it constitutes one of the greatest challenges facing teachers nowadays. Discipline is defined as "the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behaviour, using punishment to correct disobedience."

A lack of proper parental and school discipline can result in disruptive behaviours in the classroom. Disruptive behaviour interferes with the teacher's ability to effectively deliver a lesson, as it requires a large amount of the teacher's time

and attention, in order to be addressed. Disruptive pupils/students can also influence their peers with their actions and encourage them to behave similarly, thereby compromising the teacher's authority

Nowadays however, the views of many child psychologists on discipline conflict with what is recommended in God's Word, the Bible, as recorded in the verses of Proverbs quoted above. Their theories collide head on with the counsel we find in the Holy Scriptures.

What have been the results of sowing the seeds of permissiveness? What has resulted from a lack of proper parental and school discipline? In one publication of Jehovah's Witnesses ("Making Your Family Life Happy"), in Chapter 10, titled "The Value of Disciplining in Love," paragraph 3 (accessible on www.jw.org), we find this report: "The bumper crop of crime and delinquency is well known. Youth crime accounts for over 50 percent of serious crimes in many industrialized nations. In some parts of the world, school campuses are hotbeds of class disruptions, fights, verbal abuse and obscenities, vandalism, assault, extortion, arson, robberies, rapes, drugs and murders." A spanking may therefore be a lifesaver to a child, as God's Word recommends in the Book of Proverbs. If parents and teachers hold the children's life interests dear to them, they will not weakly or carelessly let disciplinary action slip from their hands. Love will motivate them to take action, wisely and fairly, when it is needed.

As regards discipline itself,

it is not limited to punishing. Discipline basically means 'instruction and training that holds to a certain order or framework.' Discipline, rightly given, is evidence to a child that he is loved.

Three types of discipline are: -
PREVENTATIVE DISCIPLINE: Establishing expectations, guidelines and rules for behaviour.

SUPPORTIVE DISCIPLINE: Measures taken when rules are broken, usually a verbal warning or a suggestion for the correction of behaviour.

CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE: Measures taken when supportive discipline has failed to change the child's behaviour after repeated attempts. It mostly refers to the consequences delivered following an infraction.

Children need consequences to mold and learn the correct ways to function. Without consequences, they will only continue poor behaviour choices, and many will escalate those behaviours over time. Children are always trying to figure out their world, and they do that by testing limits, pushing boundaries until they reach resistance. That is very likely why Proverbs 22:15 says: "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child" Therefore, if that resistance, discipline, never comes, then they never learn what is right and wrong.

However, one blog about "Classroom Discipline" on www.eurekly.com, contains this advice: "Before proceeding with punishment, teachers should think carefully and understand its pros and cons. While punishing students can quickly stop a problem, it tends

**Daniel
IGHAKPE**

0817 479 5742

e-mail:
ighakpe@gmail.com.



to be a short-term solution that can often be accompanied by negative side effects, such as a drop in positive attitudes towards school and a more negative perception of teachers. Punishment is defined as inflicting a penalty as a retribution for a transgression. According to that definition, since school children often commit transgressions, it would make sense to punish them for their bad behaviour. However, teachers must refrain from applying such a "black and white" approach to dealing with unruly behaviour and use critical thinking instead to determine whether punishment is necessary. Teachers should always consider alternative options for dealing with bad behaviour, before proceeding with punishment."

Acceptable forms of punishment include but are not limited to: demerit systems, apologies, time-out, detentions, being made to write essays, being made to pick up litter around the school, among others.

However, in case of severe problems with classroom management and children that are unresponsive to corrections, teachers should reach out to colleagues for support and involve

the school's administration and the child's family when necessary.

There is never an easy answer, or even one correct answer, when it comes to raising children. Discipline is no different, and there are many theories on how it should be administered in school settings.

In conclusion, here are eight steps for parents and educators on raising children to be balanced adults: -

LOVEABUNDANTLY.
DISCIPLINE CONSTRUCTIVELY.

SPEND TIME TOGETHER.
TEACH YOUR CHILDREN RIGHT FROM WRONG.

DEVELOP MUTUAL RESPECT.
REALLY LISTEN TO THEM.
OFFER GUIDANCE RATHER THAN A SPEECH.

BE REALISTIC.
I hope that over time, educators, administrators, parents and policy makers can work together to create better discipline policies in education. We all play an important role, and we all deserve to be heard!

•IGHAKPE, a teacher, writes from FESTAC Town, Lagos State and can be reached on 0817 479 5742 or via danny.ighakpe@gmail.com.

Tinubu, Atiku and Nigerian Project

By ALBERT OLAJIDE AKINYEMI

The recently concluded primary elections significantly produced two political heavy weights, Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Atiku Abubakar, as presidential flag bearers of their respective political parties, APC and PDP, being the two major political parties in Nigeria.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu was a former governor of Lagos State, Nigeria's commercial and industrial capital, where he held sway from 1999 to 2007. Atiku Abubakar won his election also as governor of Adamawa state, same year, but was brought into the villa by former President Olusegun Obasanjo as Vice President of Nigeria.

Interestingly, both of them while in office, respectively engaged the incumbent President, a retired Army General in a battle of wits and will.

I am not a fan of Tinubu, neither am I a fan of Atiku. But I know the two of them too well, having interacted with

them during the convoluted political transition programme of retired General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida, the self styled military President. I was a Governorship aspirant under a defunct party in Ondo State at the time. Both of them are experienced and inexorable personalities, strong willed and unwavering. They are not likely to be surrounded and controlled by self seeking and insensitive opportunists Nigerians derogatorily refer to as "the Cabal". We are likely going to see in either of these men, a determined, no nonsense President poised to reset Nigeria.

Yes, the two candidates are stupendously rich. At the primaries, both reportedly armed themselves with war chests loaded with dollars, a chunk of which was doled out to delegates to secure victory. Though, this delegate buying strategy for electoral victory is abhorrent, we cannot blame them because delegate buying is a culture we have embraced and entrenched over the years.

However, I believe either of them would consider what to do to put an end to the culture if and when he gets to the Villa in 2023.

In certain quarters, it is believed that Tinubu and Atiku are not likely to loot the national treasury because they are richer than Nigeria. I concur with this school of thought. I think the two men are propelled not by the desire to become richer, but by the desire to make history, write their names in gold by putting Nigeria on the path of economic recovery, political stability, national unity and progress. I know that in transforming the economy for instance, each of them will give the MSME sector, regarded as the engine of economic growth, greater consideration.

Any government that creates the conducive environment for this critical sector of the economy to thrive will surely make Nigeria an economic giant and a prosperous nation.

Tinubu and Atiku are likely going to concern themselves

with uniting the country rather than pursuing an ethnic agenda that will further exacerbate the already tense atmosphere in the land. I say this because both of them belong to the liberal school of thought. Atiku is a Muslim but not a fundamentalist, he is married to Titi, an Ijesha woman from Osun state. While Tinubu is married to a Christian. Both of them are nationalists; they think about Nigeria and how to make it great. They have built bridges of understanding, friendship and collaboration across the six geopolitical zones. Considering their dispositions and antecedents, I am sure that their Ministerial and other political appointments will not be influenced by religious or ethnic considerations, but by merit and adherence to the principle of equity, justice and fairplay. With a government formed by either of these men, we are not likely going to hear cries of marginalization or we want to leave Nigeria from any zone.

I have a strong feeling that any

of them, on getting to power, will attend to those lingering constitutional issues threatening the unity and survival of this country. Already, Tinubu in his manifestos has promised to create State Police. And I know Atiku is in favour of True federalism. Anyone that becomes the next President will rebuild Nigeria. With anyone of them, I know there will be security of life and property, there will be an end to terrorism, banditry and kidnapping. Every Nigerian will feel at home wherever he or she decides to live and make a living without any fear of intimidation and domination or threat to life and property, our country will be a haven of peace and stability. So with Tinubu and or Atiku, Nigeria will rise again, the project will not die.

•Dr. Akinyemi is the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Forum of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Business Membership Organisations of Nigeria, MSME Forum.

Zamfara inaugurates security committees to tackle banditry

By PAUL MICHAEL,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Governor Bello Matawalle has inaugurated four security committees to tackle the banditry and other security challenges in Zamfara State.

Jamilu Iliyasu Magaji, Press Secretary to the Governor, in a statement, said the committees include Special Committee on Intelligence Gathering on Banditry activities, Management Committee on Operations of the Community Protection Guards (CPG), Committee on Prosecution of Banditry Related Offences, and State Security Standing Committee.

According to the him, "Governor Bello Matawalle said the establishment of these Committees is part of the tireless efforts of his Administration to address the over a decade old problem of Banditry confronting the State and other states in the Northwest zone."

The Governor explained further that it is on record that his administration has explored all workable options to address the issue of crime and other related crimes in the state.

He said the options include dialogue, reconciliation and disarmament strategy, regular engagement with Federal Government on the issue of security, collaboration with the neighbouring States and the authorities of Niger Republic, and shutting down of mobile telecommunication networks to give Security forces the leeway to take the battle directly to the bandits' fortresses.

The Government recalled that his administration has provided a settlement popularly known as RUGA for Nomads and has made provision of logistical support to security forces including vehicles and drones.

He expressed confidence that the Committees inaugurated would further boost the State Government's efforts to combat the dreadful

challenge, in both the short and long run.

Governor Matawalle said the Committee members were selected and appointed based on their track records of performances, and urged them to do a thorough job to accomplish the intended goals.

He added that 20 brand new Hilux vehicles and 1,500 motorcycles have been provided to the Committees to commence operations in earnest.

"We are aware of misgivings expressed in some quarters regarding the new measures, particularly the decision to encourage members of the communities suffering almost daily from the inhumane aggressions from the bandits to acquire firearms to defend their communities.

"As those entrusted with the safety of lives and property of the people, we will do everything possible to uphold this responsibility within the ambit of the law.

"We are also aware that the security forces are doing their



Gov Marawalle

best to combat this formidable challenge, their efforts are however, hampered by lack of adequate modern warfare equipment and the dearth of personnel.

"Our decision to mobilise people to secure their communities is therefore for the people to complement the efforts of the conventional Security forces in dealing with banditry and fishing out informants, pointing out that the acquisition and usage of

firearms by members of the general public who desire to do so would be governed by the Nigeria Firearms Act," the Governor stated.

In an acceptance speech on behalf of the Committees inaugurated, the chairman of the State Security Standing Committee, DIG Mamman Ibrahim Tsafe (Rtd) assured the Governor of their readiness to justify the confidence reposed in them, so as to accomplish the intended goals.

Police ban tinted glasses, covered number plates

By PAUL MICHAEL,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Says arbitrary use aiding crime

Yobe State Police Command has banned the arbitrary use of tint in vehicle glasses as well as covered number plates.

The ban was announced in a statement by the spokesperson for the Command, DSP Dungus Abdulkarim, who noted that criminals hide behind tinted glasses to perpetrate evil and conceal their identities from security agents and the general public.

He stressed that some car owners and drivers deliberately cover their

number plates, which makes it difficult for police to identify them in case of accident, traffic violation or other offences.

Abdulkarim said, "This is to inform the general public that arbitrary use of Vehicle Tinted glasses and covered number plates has aided the perpetration of crime in the state.

"Intelligence gathered revealed that, people with dubious character hide behind tinted glasses to perpetrate crime thereby concealing their identity

from security operatives and good members of the public.

"Similarly, some motorists are in the habit of covering their Vehicle Number Plates or removing it completely which makes it difficult to trace their identity in event of accident, traffic violation or further information required by police in curtailing crime.

"It is therefore, pertinent to note that such acts are against traffic regulations and a breach of public safety.

"Consequently, the Command wishes to notify the general public that,

punitive measures will be taken against motorists who contravene the offence of unauthorized use of tinted glasses. The command therefore gives [fourteen] 14 days grace period/ultimatum for users without license to remove same or face the wrath of the law.

"These includes vendors who counsel/procure/ cause such to be fixed on motor vehicle glasses, who are hereby warned to desist forthwith as the Motor Vehicle (prohibition of tinted glasses) regulations

describes it as an offence.

"Furthermore, motorists in the habit of covering their number plates or drive around in vehicles without number plates are liable to be arrested and charged to court accordingly."

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, CP Haruna G. Garba, advised motorists to adhere to all laid down traffic regulations and avoid unauthorized use of tinted glasses and covered Number Plates to enable effective policing of the state.

CP Garba restated his commitment towards ensuring public peace and safety.

Shaibu visits community of slain Catholic priest, condemns killing

By ISAAC OLAMIKAN

Edo State's Acting Governor, Rt. Hon. Philip Shaibu, has condemned the killing of a Catholic Priest, Rev. Fr. Christopher Odia, in Ikabigbo, Etsako West Local Government Area.

The Trumpet learnt that Comrade Shaibu, who led other government functionaries and heads of security agencies in the state, on Monday, to Ikabigbo, called for calm among residents in the community.

The acting governor also

commiserated with the Head of Ikabigbo Community, Aleghe Braimah; family of a member of the Edo Vigilante Network who lost his life in an attempt to rescue the priest, Yusuf Nurudeen, and the Ogieneri of Uzairue, Kadiri Omogbai.

Shaibu said he was in the area to commiserate with the Uzairue people and get first-hand knowledge of the incident, noting, "The unfortunate attack resulted in the killing of Rev. Fr. Christopher Odia at St. Michael Catholic Church, Ikabigbo in Etsako West Local

Government Area. I received briefs from eyewitnesses in the community and assured the troubled community that the assailants will be brought to book and made to pay for their crimes."

He continued: "We are pained by the loss of both the Reverend Father and the member of the vigilante group, who was killed, but I am particularly happy with our youth and the vigilante group and the hunters. We also commend the police and the military for their prompt action. We're very saddened

that we lost our loved ones.

"I insisted that we must come to see what has happened for ourselves. We have gotten some information already. Last night, I insisted that the military should remain in the bush to comb the forest. As we speak, they're still there because we want to make sure that none of the culprits escapes.

"We will also look at what has happened here critically because Edo State has been relatively peaceful. We will not allow these miscreants to come into our state and disrupt

the peace that we're already enjoying. Edo will be too hot for them. We will assess what has happened to know how to correct them," Shaibu noted.

The Edo State Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro, assured the community members and relatives of the casualties that the security outfits will not rest until the criminals are brought to book.

He implored the community to partner with the Police and charged anyone taking actions to work within the ambits of the law to ensure that they do not run afoul of the law.

CP promises community partnership, intelligence-led, tech-driven policing

By PAUL MICHAEL,
Defence Editor, Abuja

Sokoto Commissioner of Police, CP Mohammed Usaini Gumel, has said he shall engage community partnership initiatives, intelligence-led and technology-driven policing strategies to combat nagging security challenges in the State.

Gumel gave the assurance during a press conference held in Sokoto on Monday to officially assume duty as the Commissioner of Police in the State while noting that Sokoto is one of the most hit States by terrorism.

According to him, "the first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the State."

He further added that the worsening security situation, has become unimaginable and a disturbing occurrence in the country and particularly, Sokoto State.

He said his policing strategy to tackle insecurity, which he described as a way-forward policing strategy, will key into the wider efforts of the Federal and State Governments to restore lasting peace in the State as well as guarantee the safety of lives and properties.

His words, "Let me inform you that my vision is to drive the Police Command transparently built on community partnership initiatives, intelligence-led, technology-driven people-friendly strategy with respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

"Our policing strategy will key into wider efforts of the Governments at both Federal and State Levels in the areas of: Implementing all Peace Sustainability Initiatives and Plans. And this means that the State Police Command will actively participate in managing the fragile security situation, eradicating political violence, communal violence, other clashes etc;

"Boosting Operations Fuff Ader, Operation Restore Peace Initiative and the IGP's Action Plan that was fashioned out at the Year 2022 Retreat held in Akwa Ibom State etc;

"Carrying out periodic reviews and to test the workability of requisite Police Assets deployed in the State; Providing Patrol and Guards services, technology-driven intelligence-led operation activities; effective utilization of supports such as from the C4i platform, Technical Intelligence Unit (TIU), Early Warnings and other Real-Time Emergency Response Mechanisms made available to the State police command;

"Strengthening Policing initiatives such as the effective functioning of the PCRC at Local Government Areas and State chapters, for identifying persistent security issues, aggregating abnormal behavior among vulnerable groups: the youths, women & children;

"Leveraging on the existing Community initiatives policing programs; Accompanying the state to implement its developmental plans and programs, including Sustainable Development Goals;



ADVERT RATES

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

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

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

COLOR RATE			PUBLIC NOTICE			CORPORATE NOTICE			PRODUCT, COMPULIFE AND PROPERTY			
SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	Obituary, Goodwill Message, Annual Reports & AGMS, Financial Statements	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	6,135.10	6,595.23	1 x 1	5,664.59	6,089.43	1 x 1	4,587.47	4,931.53	1 x 1	3,786.98	4,071.00	
1 x 2	12,448.80	13,382.46	1 x 2	11,294.45	12,141.54	1 x 2	9,174.94	9,863.07	1 x 2	7,573.97	8,142.02	
2 x 2	24,941.96	26,812.61	2 x 2	22,588.91	24,283.09	2 x 2	18,349.89	19,716.64	2 x 2	15,147.94	16,284.03	
3 x 2	37,413.09	40,219.07	3 x 2	33,987.48	36,622.04	3 x 2	27,524.84	29,589.20	3 x 2	22,721.91	24,426.05	
4 x 2	49,884.02	53,625.42	4 x 2	45,177.83	48,566.17	4 x 2	36,700.09	39,452.60	4 x 2	30,295.53	32,657.70	
5 x 2	62,355.15	67,031.71	5 x 2	56,472.29	60,707.71	5 x 2	45,866.19	49,315.34	5 x 2	37,863.00	40,710.09	
6 x 2	76,142.50	81,853.18	6 x 2	67,975.12	73,073.25	6 x 2	55,049.68	59,178.41	6 x 2	45,443.82	48,852.10	
7 x 2	87,297.21	93,844.50	6 x 3	101,962.78	109,609.99	6 x 3	54,074.55	61,200.90	7 x 2	53,017.79	56,993.61	
7 x 3	166,172.00	179,229.37	6.5 x 3	110,459.64	118,744.11	6.5 x 3	89,455.78	96,164.94	8 x 2	60,591.76	65,136.14	
7 x 4	197,125.00	211,909.37	7 x 2	79,304.29	85,252.11	7 x 2	64,224.63	69,041.48	9 x 2	80,454.83	86,488.95	
8 x 2	99,768.24	107,250.85	7 x 3	128,456.43	138,090.67	7 x 3	96,336.94	103,562.21	10 x 2	86,147.92	92,609.02	
9 x 2	112,183.69	120,597.47	7 x 4	158,608.73	170,504.38	7 x 4	145,965.10	156,912.48	14.5 x 2	124,915.92	134,284.61	
9 x 3	168,358.90	180,985.39	7 x 5	198,260.25	213,129.77	7 x 5	182,500.19	196,187.71	5 x 3	56,804.77	61,065.13	
10 x 3	187,065.45	201,095.35	8 x 2	90,633.42	97,430.92	8 x 2	73,399.58	78,904.54	6 x 3	68,170.86	73,283.67	
14.5 x 2	260,395.00	279,924.62	8 x 3	135,950.22	146,146.48	8 x 3	125,871.78	134,674.05	7 x 3	79,526.68	85,491.18	
8 x 4	199,536.48	214,501.71	8 x 4	181,266.93	194,841.95	8 x 4	167,043.40	179,022.80	8 x 3	103,375.58	111,130.80	
9 x 4	224,478.54	241,314.43	8 x 5	226,238.74	254,477.52	8 x 5	208,805.79	224,469.23	6 x 4	100,634.10	110,944.41	
10 x 4	299,302.72	321,752.57	8 x 6	271,900.48	292,008.02	8 x 6	250,284.32	26,911.09	7 x 4	120,404.56	129,434.90	
14.5 x 4	520,790.19	559,849.45	9 x 2	101,962.78	109,609.99	9 x 2	93,773.60	100,872.44	8 x 4	137,692.17	148,019.082	
7 x 5	218,243.02	234,629.74	9 x 3	152,944.01	164,414.81	9 x 3	141,108.54	151,691.68	10 x 4	172,301.37	185,224.22	
8 x 5	299,304.72	321,752.57	9 x 4	203,925.29	219,219.69	9 x 4	187,921.52	202,015.71	14.5 x 3	187,057.43	201,086.73	
8 x 6	359,165.65	386,103.08	9 x 5	305,373.04	328,276.02	9 x 5	281,288.07	303,022.10	14.5 x 4	249,838.03	268,575.88	
9 x 5	404,061.37	434,365.97	9 x 6	367,065.92	394,595.86	9 x 6	337,805.68	363,141.11	7 x 5	141,001.98	161,793.93	
10 x 5	448,957.08	482,628.86	10 x 3	169,651.36	182,375.21	10 x 3	156,602.81	168,348.02	8 x 5	172,116.65	185,025.40	
11 x 5	493,852.78	530,891.74	10 x 4	226,258.00	243,176.28	10 x 4	208,808.58	224,469.23	9 x 6	278,649.91	299,548.66	
9 x 6	484,873.39	521,239.16	10 x 5	354,037.54	380,590.16	10 x 5	325,815.11	349,966.25	11 x 5	295,636.20	317,808.91	
10 x 6	538,748.49	579,154.53	10 x 6	424,845.04	456,708.42	10 x 6	390,978.13	420,320.48	11 x 6	340,573.10	340,466.08	
11 x 6	592,622.16	637,068.82	11 x 5	389,441.887	418,650.01	11 x 5	358,396.62	385,276.37	HP7.25 X 6	218,226.87	234,593.89	
HP 7.25 x 6	317,178.40	340,337.5	11 x 6	447,303.49	480,851.24	11 x 6	412,916.45	443,885.19	FP14.5 X 6	379,943.00	408,438.72	
FP 14.5 x 6	560,500.00	602,537.50	14.5 X 2	197,128.09	211,912.70	14.5 x 2	151,178.45	162,516.84				
			14.5 X 4	394,256.19	423,825.40	14.5 x 4	362,827.71	390,039.79				
			14.5 X 5	472,286.06	507,707.52	HP7.25 X 6	246,131.63	264,591.50				
			HP7.25 X 6	269,191.05	289,380.38	14.5 X 5	431,525.39	463,889.79				
			FP 14.5 X 6	460,275.00	594,225.62	FP14.5 X 5	423,373.39	455,126.39				
						Double Spread Half Page	832,371.68	894,805.68				
						Double Spread Full Page	1,334,669.15	1,434,769.344				

SPECIAL POSITIONS

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Earpiece Front Page 1x2	201,875.00	217,015.62	Page 8 (Full Page)	750,000.00	806,787.50
Earpiece Front Page 2x2	403,750.00	434,031.25	Page 9 (Full Page)	674,500.00	725,087.00
Earpiece Front Page 3x2	593,750.00	638,281.25	Wrap around 1 Front Strip 1 Back Strip 4 Full Page Pull Out	25,650,000.00	27,573,750.00
Earpiece Back Page 2x2	409,687.50	440,414.06	4x6 Front Page	5,187,000.00	5,576,025.00
Earpiece Back Page 3x2	628,187.50	675,301.56	6x6 Front Page	6,982,500.00	7,506,187.50
Inside Earpiece 2x2	199,500.00	214,462.50	7x6 Front Page	9,975,000.00	10,723,220.00
Inside Earpiece 3x2	285,000.00	307,325.00	10x6 Front Page	14,250,000.00	15,318,750.00
Centre Spread	1,795,500.00	1,930,162.50	FP (Strip) 2x6	641,891.25	690,033.09
Double Spread	1,558,000.00	1,674,850.00	BP (Strip) 2x6	625,452.64	670,319.08
Centre Spread (HP)	1,017,063.80	1,093,343.59	Back Page 10x6	5,320,000.00	5,782,750.00
Double Spread (HP)	741,000.00	796,575.00	ROP 2x12	771,400.00	829,255.00
Page 2 (Full Page)	1,420,250.00	1,526,768.75	ROP (Strip) 2x6 Colour	266,000.00	285,950.00
Page 3 (Full Page)	1,311,000.00	1,409,325.00	ROP (Strip) 2.6 (B/W)	717,000.00	763,825.00
Page 4 (Full Page)	1,187,500.00	1,276,562.50	3x6 Front Page	1,140,000.00	1,225,500.00
Page 5 (Full Page)	1,064,000.00	1,143,800.00	2x6 Under Mast Head	3,990,000.00	4,289,250.00
Page 6 (Full Page)	940,500.00	993,937.50	12x2 Front Page	4,788,000.00	5,147,100.00
Page 7 (Full Page)	817,000.00	878,275.00			

LOOSE INSERT ADVERTS

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



SIFAX Group donates vicarage, bus, others to Anglican Diocese

Chairman of SIFAX Group, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi has donated a Church, vicarage, children hall and a bus to the Ijebu-Ode Anglican Diocese in Ogun State.

He announced the donations during the commemoration of his 60th birthday at a special thanksgiving service at the Samson Afolabi Anglican Church, Ijebu-Ode, saying that the Church would seek to meet the spiritual needs of residents of the Government Reserved Area of the town.

At the church's dedication service, Afolabi, in company of his family, friends and wellwishers, appreciated God for His mercy and favour in the last 60 years of his life, adding that the donation was his own way of showing gratitude to God for the journey of six decades filled with abundant grace and multiple blessings.

He said: "Let me start by expressing my appreciation to God Almighty, who has remained my source and inspiration over the years. He has not only kept me alive, but has also granted me grace, gave me a beautiful family, loyal friends and associates. I don't know how else to say Thank You God than to build a befitting place where His people can come and worship Him."

In his sermon, Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Rotimi Oludipe, commended the SIFAX Group boss, describing him as a shining light to this generation and a great philanthropist. He also congratulated him on the milestone 60th birthday and further urged him to continue affecting the society positively.

Those who attended the event are Governor Dapo Abiodun; Former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo; former Governor Gbenga Daniel; Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi; Oba Saheed Elegushi; Senator Iyiola Omisore and former Minister of Finance, Kemi Adeosun, among others.



Dr. Taiwo Afolabi

Minister urges sustained synergy among maritime agencies

•Jamoh pledges to sustain tempo

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

Minister of State for Transportation, Gbemisola Ruqayyah Saraki, has embarked on a tour of facilities and assets of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) including NIMASA Command, Control and Computer Centre (C4i), Modular Floating Dockyard, e-Library and vessels undergoing dry docking at the Naval Dockyard on Victoria Island, Lagos.

Saraki, who expressed delight at NIMASA's equipment and assets, stated that the facilities underscored the importance the Federal Government attaches to combating maritime crimes and ensuring zero tolerance for illegal activities on the nation's territorial waters.

While commending the synergy and collaboration among the various government agencies in the maritime sector, the minister expressed delight at the fact that Nigeria has experienced piracy-free waters since 2022.

Her words: "For over 28 years, we have been in the press for the wrong reasons

over piracy issues in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). We were there when President Muhammadu Buhari commissioned the Deep Blue Project last year and within that short time, we have broken the jinx and for the last five months zero attacks. So, I think that says it all for my assessment of NIMASA."

Furthermore, Saraki noted the need to sustain the momentum was to ensure that Nigeria remained attractive to investors, adding that the ministry is delighted at the steps NIMASA is taking to address War Risk Insurance premium on Nigerian bound cargoes.

"The most important thing now is that we don't rest on our oars. The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA) and how it affects Nigeria is our focus. We hope to create an enabling environment to be attractive and highly competitive when compared to neighboring countries and collaboration among all maritime agencies of government in terms of information gathering and sharing remain key in achieving this," she said.

On his part, Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, disclosed that the focus of the



Gbemisola Ruqayyah Saraki

agency was in sustaining the achievements in recent times, adding that plans were in three categories of short medium and long term.

"Our focus now is to sustain the tempo. We are very optimistic that the clamor for the removal of war risk insurance premium on Nigerian bound cargoes will soon yield positive results. The international community desires sustainability of the war on piracy and maritime crimes in Nigeria. The good thing is that they are part and parcel of our processes and

procedures.

"We have the Nigeria Joint Industry Working Group where all stakeholders including the INTERTANKO, the largest owners of tankers in the world, the INTERCARGO, the largest owners of cargoes in the world and the major oil marketing companies are meeting regularly and discussing developments in the Nigerian Maritime industry.

"We have also strengthened our collaboration with the Nigerian Navy. The SHADE Gulf of Guinea is another platform where inter regional organisations, such as the ICC and the European Union (EU) to foster collaboration in securing the Gulf of Guinea."

He explained that although Nigeria was removed from the red list of piracy nations on March 3 this year, it was natural that the international community still desired sustainability.

"Our hope is that by September this year, the issue of War Risk Insurance will be addressed when the Lloyd's of London, coordinators of insurance surcharges on Nigerian bound cargoes meet to deliberate on our position paper, which highlights the short, medium and long-term plans to sustain the achievements in our war against piracy in Nigeria," he added.

Another round of marginal oil licences issuance coming

As OPEC raises Nigeria's crude production quota

By **EDU ABADE** and **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Two years after the authorities sought bids for the oil blocks, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), has, hinted that it will commence issuing prospecting licences to companies that won rights to develop marginal oilfields.

Marginal fields are smaller oil blocks located onshore and in shallow waters and are typically developed by local companies.

Head of the commission, Gbenga Komolafe, said in a statement that issuing the licences were some of most critical tasks for the agency, which was established last year after a new

petroleum law was passed in the country. Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil producer and exporter, wants to boost production from the fields to generate more revenues and increase local participation in the oil sector, which provide the bulk of the country's foreign exchange.

While local companies have become increasingly important to the industry, it remains dominated by international oil majors that are selling onshore assets to concentrate on deep-water drilling.

Meanwhile, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has raised Nigeria's oil production quota from 1,772 million barrels per day (mmbpd) target approved in June 2022 to a new

target of 1,999 million barrels per day for July 2022, according to a statement issued by OPEC which confirmed that the decision was reached at the 29th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting.

The new target is 27,000 barrel per day (bpd) higher than the approved quota for June just as OPEC also increased the monthly overall production by 648,000 barrel per day.

"The 29th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting was held via videoconference on June 2, 2022. The meeting noted the most recent reopening from lockdown in major global economic centres necessitated the increase. It further noted that global refinery intakes expected to increase after

seasonal maintenance," the statement reads.

The meeting highlighted the importance of stable and balance market for both crude oil and refined products and extended the compensation period to the end of December as requested by some underperforming countries, and requested that underperforming countries submit their plans by July 17, 2022.

It also revealed that the meeting directed that compensation plans should be submitted in accordance with statement of the 15th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting adding that the figure is 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) higher than the average crude oil production in April, which stood at 1.35 million barrels per day (mmbpd).

NDE trains farmers on goat production

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Tuesday commenced a five-day training programme for 50 farmers on small stock goat production in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

NDE Director General of NDE, Mallam Nuhu Fikpo, who was represented by Director, Rural Employment Promotion (REP), Edem Duke, inaugurated the training organised by the agency in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

Fikpo stated that the federal

government was very anxious to ensure there is food security in the country.

Fikpo stated that Rivers State is one of the 18 states that were chosen for the five - day training.

The NDE's top official stated that the programme had an empowerment component, adding: "We are going to train 50 people, but we will resettle those who are serious with the training.

We believe that at the end of this programme, you will be able to take your destiny in your own hands and start a new life

for your environment. We have a model revolving loan seed. We are going to empower you through the model revolving where you will be given two goats, one male and one female.

"You will pay in kind by giving back a kid reproduced by the goats, after three months which we will put together to settle other trainees that will be coming after you.

We will also teach you how to know the type of breed to train, so that you will make choice of the breed you want after training,"

he said.

Fikpo commended NDE in Rivers State for carrying the Federal Government and the state Ministry of Agriculture along in its programmes.

Speaking earlier, Rivers State Coordinator of NDE, Mrs. Maureen Okeji, who said agriculture had taken over the test of time globally, as the world works seriously towards food security and urged the participants to focus on the training to enable them to benefit maximally from the empowerment programme at the end.

NGX pledges commitment to build innovative structures for SMEs funding

Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) has restated its determination to provide investors seeking viable return on investments (RoIs) access to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

Chief Executive Officer of NGX, Temi Popoola, gave the assurance in his keynote address at the 2022 Annual Business Luncheon organised recently by the Capital Market Solicitors Association (CMSA) in Lagos.

The event with the theme: *Capital Market Startup Financing and Syndicate Funding, Ability of Small and Medium Enterprises to Access the Capital Market*, brought together stakeholders across the capital market to discuss and proffer solutions to the constraints confronting SMEs.

Popoola noted that the role of SMEs in economic development of the country could not be undermined, adding that the Nigerian SMEs were critical components of the economy and were increasingly serving as the principal vehicle for the creation of employment and revenue generation.

"SMEs offer the economy steady supply of ideas, skills and innovation, which are vital for promoting competition and efficient resource allocation. In spite of the importance of the sector, it faces several challenges that continue to lead to decline in productivity.

"Some of these include power supply challenges, substandard trade facilitation infrastructure, multiplicity of fees and taxes, and of course lack of financing," he said.

He stressed the NGX's resolve to expand the Nigerian capital market and provide inclusive platforms for a diverse range of stakeholders, including SMEs to access capital, adding: "It is important that the capital market plays a crucial role in catalysing growth in the sector.

"The launch of the NGX Growth Board in 2019 is in keeping with this commitment. The NGX Growth Board is a veritable platform dedicated to encouraging small-capital and growth-oriented businesses to leverage the capital market in raising long-term capital to stimulate growth and promote liquidity. We are working to establish the Technology Board which will connect technology companies with an extensive pool of investors."

He also pointed out that the technology part of the SMEs would constitute formal ways of attracting funding to the sector.

Over 10,000 Nigerian seafarers to lose jobs

Stories by **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

No fewer than 10,000 seafarers working on Nigerian fishing trawlers may lose their jobs in the next two months, if feelers from the President of Nigerian Ship Owners Forum, Mrs. Margret Orakwusi during the week are anything to go by.

Orakwusi, who was former President of the Nigerian Trawlers Owners Association (NTOA) raised the alarm at a stakeholders meeting in Lagos, maintaining that the cost of diesel has increased from N150 per litre to N800 per litre in less than two years, adding that this has increased the operational cost of trawling business among other many other challenges.

"Most of our trawlers have left the country and those remaining operationally are less than 20 per cent. It is not a thing of pride, but this is exactly where we are. We all know that we use Automated Gas Oil (AGO) popularly known as diesel 24

hours per day to power all our equipment on the vessel. Each fishing trip lasts from between 45 and 50 days.

"Now, less than two years from getting diesel at N150 per litre, we are now getting it at N800 per litre, the fact is that nobody can survive under a business environment. About 90 per cent of our products are exported and in the export market, we are just managing one per cent share of the market, so we cannot pass the excessive cost of production to the end users.

"So, we are calling on government to provide incentives in order to reduce the impact of what we are going through. I have personally tried to do "Mother Christmas" by trying to pay people for not doing anything, because the trawlers are tied down for about four months now in other companies.

"In two months, we might have about 10,000 people in the job market, who will lose their jobs and so, we need incentives

and reduction in taxes. The Federal Government can do these to keep the business afloat. The various agencies should facilitate trade and businesses, as well as avoid competition and unnecessary pressure for revenue generation.

"If you kill our businesses, what happens to the sector? The focus should be on facilitation. We pay taxes to government's various agencies," she said.

Orakwusi, stressed the need for a fishing terminal which would make it easier for traveler owners to operate at cheapest rate.

According to her, for you to be a trawler owner today, you need to have your cold room certified by government and all sorts of auxiliary services.

Speaking further, she said: "All these should be in a proposed fishing terminal, The government can come in and set up fishing terminals. In terms of maritime security, I will commend the effort of NIMASA at ensuring at no attack on the sea in the last four months."



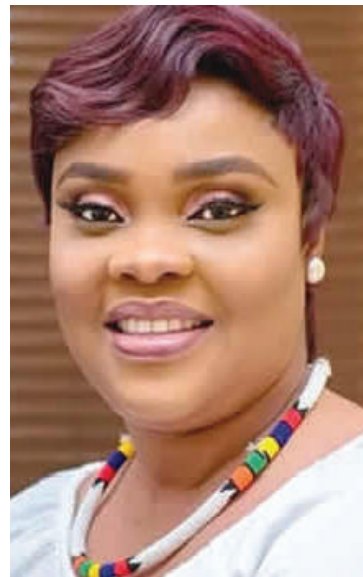
Mrs. Margret Orakwusi

She, however, lamented that sea robbery still thriving within the nation's waterways, adding: "When it comes to security, we are getting it right, especially at the outside bar, but in our waterways, we still have pirates and something has to be done about it urgently."

NANTA seeks release of \$450M airlines trapped funds in CBN

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA) has expressed concern over the \$450



Mrs. Susan Akporiaye

trapped funds of foreign airlines operating in the country, insisting that the situation is portraying Nigeria in bad light in the international community.

President of the association, Mrs. Susan Akporiaye, said the council members were deeply worried about the situation, adding that NANTA as a strategic partner in the downstream sector of the aviation industry, have over the years, appealed to the Federal Government through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Ministry of Aviation to see to the possibility of reducing the humongous trapped funds estimated at over \$450 as of May 2022.

The body said the current situation presented a real threat to the industry and the continuity of businesses as travel professionals, bearing in mind the potential job losses and attendant national

economic losses as the country gradually exits the COVID-19 pandemic era.

It noted that foreign airlines might resort to taking out lower inventory in the system, which could resulting in high cost of tickets in the Nigerian market, adding that a six hour trip to London from Nigeria might attract a fare rate about \$2,000 or more and also encourage tickets sold outside the country to flood Nigeria, thus affecting the survival of Nigerian traveling agencies and consequently loss of taxes and levies from such transactions.

"As Nigerians, we are patriotic and have presented our country well in the global travel industry and as such, we rightly feel disturbed that Nigeria is on the brink of a wrong narrative at the just concluded 78th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

of International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Doha, Qatar on account of airlines trapped funds for which Nigeria is a major culprit in Africa.

"We are by this outing once again, appealing to the CBN, the Ministry of Aviation and the office of the Vice President to speedily intervene to bring down the amount of trapped funds to help resolve the operations of these airlines.

"NANTA restates that it is not a good business environment for investors to be unable to take their funds out of the country and at the same time expect to operate in accordance with international best practices.

"Indeed, a bleak future more than the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic awaits Nigeria's operators, if nothing concrete is done urgently to address the disturbing situation by the CBN," it said.

How Erotan managed oil well spill in Niger Delta

A Nigerian oil firm, Erotan Exploration and Production Limited, has reported that an oil well at a site it operates has been spilling some crude oil content into the Niger Delta creeks.

Erotan produces and exports crude from its Oil Mining Lease (OML) 18 Bloc through the Nembe Creek Trunk line in Bayelsa State.

The Trumpet learnt that last year, a nearby well run by Nito Eastern Company spilled crude oil for over one month, which polluted the Delta creeks before it was successfully

contained.

Head of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Idris Musa, who confirmed that Erotan had reported the spill to the authorities, blamed it on a leak from the company's well head.

According to a Reuters report, Erotan has however, admitted that the incident started on June 15, 2022 adding that preliminary findings showed that it was caused by vandalism.

The company said the well head platform had been removed, making it difficult to gain access to the well adding:

"Our team of well engineers are working with contractors and evaluating the safest procedure that will be required to bring the well under control."

However, the volume of oil produced from the well, which is part of assets acquired by Erotan in 2015 from oil major Shell could not be immediately ascertained.

Oil spills following vandalism or corrosion, are common occurrences in the oil-rich Niger Delta region, exacerbated by a vast maze of creeks, mangrove swamps and pipelines across the entire region.



Idris Musa,

UASC considers uniform customs duties, freight rates in member countries

Stories by **ADAKU WALTER**

As part of efforts to address different shipping surcharges, high and unstable cost of transport to African countries, the Union of African Shippers Council (UASC) has commenced the process of harmonising Customs duties and freight rates of homogeneous cargoes imported and exported by member countries.

The novel initiative was proposed by the UASC member countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Angola and Cameroon at the ongoing two-day meeting of the UASC Committee of Experts on Costs organised by the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) in Lagos.

At the event, some of the products considered for data synchronisation for harmonised charges include; wheat, frozen fish, cocoa, ginger and spices, cooking oil and barley, among others.

The committee also explored the varying port costs at the countries

as well as the inland freight costs, stating that ascertaining the transport cost of homogeneous products would reduce the cost of shipment to the member nations.

In his welcome address, Executive Secretary of NSC, Emmanuel Jime, charged the committee to analyse the maritime transportation cost component in the region and ensure that all elements relating to delays, corrupt practices are eliminated from the system.

Jime, who was represented by the NSC Director of Consumer Affairs, Cajetan Agu, drew UASC's attention to the inter relationship between the cost of transport and trade.

"Transport provides mobility that ensures movement of goods from production centers to areas where they are mostly needed. High transport cost translates to high landing cost for goods.

"In Sub-Sahara Africa, the proportion of transport cost in the overall cost of goods is between 35 and 40 per cent,

while in developed economies of Europe, Asia and the United States of America (USA), it is less than 10 per cent.

"We must identify the anti-competitive behaviour of multi-national shipping operators in the region, which is directly linked to the high cost of transport in West and Central Africa," he stated.

He assured that the Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to adopting the outcome of the committee's work and to implement them in order to reduce the cost of doing business, promote efficiency and competition in our country.

Freight, Logistics and Statistics Manager of Angola Shippers Council, Filipe Silva, who expressed the hope that activities of the UASC Committee could open new opportunities for increased intra-African trade, however, lamented that non-availability of sufficient transport data in most African countries was responsible for increases in the transport cost and limits intra-African trade.

He also identified the lack of African ship-owners and shipping



Emmanuel Jime

lines to be responsible for high cost of shipping to African nations, even as he noted that freight forwarders charge between three to five per

cent to allow for negotiation and competition in Angola.

On his part, Head of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation at Ghana Shippers Authority, Emmanuel Arku, noted that cargoes of similar characteristics should have similar Customs duties and freight rates.

He, however, pointed out that terminal operators fares might differ based on other economic and regulatory factors peculiar to the respective nations.

The Committee also resolved to hold meetings every six weeks in a bid to enhance synergy and reduce the transport cost to member nations.

Some of the committee's terms of reference are to determine the components of shipping and other logistics costs in the supply chain in West and Central Africa; identify all surcharges and tariff headings applicable in the sub-region; confirm the jurisdiction or otherwise of all surcharges and tariff headings; identify the factors responsible for delays and high cost of cargo clearance in the sub-region, among others.

Disbursement of \$350m CVFF critical for AfCFTA, says Saraki •FG to position Nigeria as seafarers nation in Africa'

Minister of State for Transportation, Gbemisola Saraki, has affirmed that the ministry is collaborating with the National Assembly for the disbursement of the \$350 million, which accrued from the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF) to the indigenous shipping community.

She expressed displeasure over the delay of the funds to empower ship owners since the passage of the Cabotage Shipping law in 2003, that although there had been some hitches in the disbursement of the fund over the years, it had become expedient to disburse the fund for the country's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The minister stated this in an interactive session with journalists after a weeklong inspection of facilities and town hall meetings with maritime stakeholders in Lagos.

Her words: "We need the CVFF to be disbursed, especially with the coming on stream of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). I know the number of vessels that Nigerians had 10 years ago and I know how many they have now and as such, we need to ensure that the indigenous ship owners are empowered."

She assured Nigerian ship owners that the fund was still intact contrary to speculations in some quarters that it may have been misappropriated.

The minister said the delay in the disbursement of the fund is not the fault of the Federal Ministry of Finance but rather more of securing approval of the guidelines for the disbursement from the National Assembly.

"The guidelines for the disbursement of the fund have been

formulated and would soon be presented to the National Assembly for approval. It would immediately be followed by the actual disbursement of the funds to the already shortlisted beneficiaries.

"The approval of the guidelines is not something that is going to take like four years, it is just about the political will and I can assure you we have the political will to ensure that we do start the disbursement," she said.

According to her, the CVFF is an important part of the maritime sector growth, as it will aid in the development and employment of seafarers, having more professionals in the field as well as help Federal Government in getting taxes.

Speaking on the National Seafarers Development Programme (NSDP), she said it was long overdue for a review compared to the India and Philippine seafarers programme maintaining that seafaring remains one of the largest foreign exchange earners for the Philippines.

Noting that Nigeria with a population of 200 million should take a cue from other countries and position itself in Africa as a seafarers nation, she said: "One of the issues we have is sea time. This is becoming a problem and most of the time you notice that seafarers and crewing of the vessels and the different other professions do require sea time.

"We look at how we can encourage them. So, we need to review the seafarers' development programme to see if we are on the right path. And if there is something we can do to make it better for us to position Nigeria as a seafarers nation in Africa," she said.

Seafarers decry global rejection of certification, sea time challenges

Nigerian seafarers have expressed concern over the continued rejection of the Certificate of Competence (CoC) issued by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) at the global level, stressing the need for urgent government intervention to find a lasting solution to the challenge.

They made the call at the second yearly Seafarers Colloquium organised by the Nigerian Merchant Navy Officers and Water Transport Senior Staff Association in collaboration with the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) to commemorate this year's Day of Seafarers in Lagos.

President of the Merchant Navy officers association, Bob Yousuo, noted that the restriction of the CoCs of Nigerian seafarers had deprived them of several

opportunities to be recognised globally.

He said discussions on the issue of CoC, which is long overdue, has been ongoing with NIMASA daily, noting that it only requires putting the right structures in the nation's maritime institutions and provision of training vessels.

He said perhaps the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) can conduct inspection and prove that Nigeria is due to have unlimited certificates, as most of the certificates the nation's seafarers have are the NCV (Near Coastal Voyage), which is limiting them to be recognised globally.

Yousuo, who urged NIMASA to have bilateral agreement with other maritime nations so as to recognise the CoC issued by Nigeria and reverse the worrisome trend, stressed the need for provision of training vessels to address the problem of sea time training for cadets.

According to him, local and foreign shipping lines doing business in the country should be mandated to take on board cadets for training noting that most vessels operating in the country were cabotage vessels, which he said, the seafarers do not have access to work on with their certificates because they feel the flag state do not recognise Nigerian certificates.

On his part, President General of MWUN, Adewale Adeyanju, applauded Nigerian seafarers, who contribute to keeping the ship of the maritime industry revolving under tough and sometimes extremely dangerous circumstances through their work.

Adeyanju, therefore, urged the Federal Government to consolidate its efforts by initiating and implementing processes and policies that would enable the upgrading of maritime institutions of training to enable them to come to par with global standards.

He also asked the government to enable many interested persons to access basic sea training and costs of acquiring medical certificate, endorsing CoCs and Seafarers Identity Document (SID), among others

This, he stressed, would curb the need for indigenous seafarers to travel to Malaysia, Ghana, India, Singapore and other maritime countries to obtain Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) 95 and other such sundry sea-going certifications.

Adeyanju, who expressed confidence in the ability of Nigerian seafarers to compete globally if necessary action is taken, assured that the union would continue to promote the seafaring career of its members.

Speaking on the theme for the 2022 Day of Seafarers: *Your Voyage, Then and Now, Share Your Journey*," President of the National Association of Master Mariners, Captain Tajudeen Alao, recalled seafarers voyages in the past and how it has evolved over the years.

He noted that while technology had impacted positively on the seafaring profession with acquisition of modern ships and few seafarers onboard as well as better wages, the challenge of rough seas and feeling of loneliness has remained unchanged.



Bob Yousuo

'ASUU strike forcing Nigerian students to seek alternative education abroad'

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Queensland, Australia-based MEL Educational Services and international agent for universities in Australia, New Zealand and other countries, Mrs. Olufolake Adeniyi, in this interview with AKPOR ABADE, avowed that apart from the fact that Nigeria's educational system lacked adequate technical orientation, the lingering industrial actions by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was forcing most Nigerian students to seek alternative education abroad. An experienced teacher, trainer and member of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), Adeniyi, who is also a registered teacher and education consultant in Brisbane, Australia, x-rays the challenges facing the Nigerian educational system and suggests success tips for Nigerian students wishing to study abroad, especially in Australia.

What was your background like before you left Nigeria to Australia in search of greener pastures?

My name is Mrs. Olufolake Adeniyi and I have four siblings. I am a registered teacher with the board of teacher registration in Queensland, Australia and I have the opportunity of teaching Mathematics, Science and Physics. Currently, I am an education consultant and founder of Mel Educational Services, which started 11 years ago. I was born in Lagos, Nigeria and had my primary education at Tunwase Primary School, Ikeja. I had my secondary education at Government College, Agege and thereafter studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) from where I graduated in 1990.

Being an Electrical Engineer in the 1990s, were there a lot of female engineers and what was your experience like?

As an Electrical Engineer in my class of 1990, there were only 24 students and I was the only female in that class. After I graduated, I had the opportunity of being posted for my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to WAPCO Cement and I had the privilege of working with the WAPCO Factory and instead I had to educate the Human Resources manager because she didn't know much about the Portland electrical repairs, which is a subsidiary of WAPCO and I had the opportunity of working there as the only female engineering staff. I worked in a while at Portland electrical repairs, which was into rewinding of electric motors and transformers. After my NYSC programme, I got a job as Sales Representative with a one-man business. When I left the company, I got another job with John Holt Plc as Sales Engineer. And it was at that point that I realised that it will be difficult for me to get a job as a qualified engineer, because all the job offers I was getting, being a female engineer had to do with sales of electrical equipment. So, I resigned from John Holt after getting married and I decided to do something on my own. Five years later, I wanted to go back to the workforce, so I got a job with Avery Nigeria Limited. At that time, the company just got a franchise with Videojet and they were into date coding machine that is an inkjet printer that writes the expiry date on most products. So, it had a contract with all the coca cola factories in Nigeria and my job entailed installation of equipment, servicing, maintenance, repairs and training. It was at that point I realised that I had a lot of interest in training, so I worked there for a while. The pay wasn't too good, because at that time I was earning N4,200 monthly. At that point, I decided that as an engineer married with two kids earning N4,200, I had to resign from the job. Thereafter, I started applying for other jobs after which I secured a



Mrs. Olufolake Adeniyi,

job with ETCO Nigeria limited and it was a good thing I resigned because my salary with ETCO was N44,000 monthly. So, I moved from N4,200 to N44,000 per month. And it was from ETCO Nigeria Limited that I applied for skilled migration and thereafter I travelled to Australia with my family.

In 15 years you have experienced some career changes and you stayed longest as an education consultant, what motivated you?

To start with, I will say it was the passion, because as I said earlier, I realised that when I was working with Avery I had the passion to teach and train people and when my family and I migrated to Australia, I studied education and I realised that I enjoy working with young people plus all those skills I have had in engineering in all the places I have worked as a personal assistant. I also realised that I could bring all the skills together to help myself as an education consultant and I decided to start my own business. And it just didn't happen like that, I never thought of starting a business, but it was when people came to me and were asking me questions about how to study in Australia, I now realised there was an opportunity for me to turn the enquiry and my passion into a business and that has always been the driving force, the passion, the interest and the skills I have. Although, even with that I had to take some courses to be a qualified counselor, to be ISES certified and I had to take other courses just to become a certified agent in Australia

which means that in the last five years we have not had any visa refusal.

Do you have a branch or affiliate in any country where students can continue their education?

No, we don't but we are looking at working out affiliation with some colleges soon. We already have in place a number of partners where students can study.

In comparison with other country's tertiary education system, what can you say about Nigeria?

First and foremost, the incessant and prolonged strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) have been very challenging and making Nigerian students to seek alternatives overseas. All things being considered, the tertiary institutions abroad provide opportunities for students to have real world experience, because they experience what it is like working outside the classrooms. It is not just all theoretical studies but a lot of hands-on experience and they have a lot of resources that can facilitate the learning of the students. Compared to Nigeria, although I graduated from a tertiary institution in 1990 (it's been a while now), but even with what I had seen in Nigeria, I noticed that a lot of people and even institutions don't have enough resources to allow students to get real world experience. There is a lot of theoretical stuff they are learning and sometimes they don't have the opportunity to have companies where they can do internships and learn on the job. And I think that would have been a great thing. In summary, I would say there is a need for students to experience on the job internships. A number of Nigerians are not granted visas to Australia or New Zealand due to fraudulent documents, a number of times people use fake work documents and falsified bank statements. They may have character issues maybe if they declare correctly or if they don't get a police character report. However, to those seeking admission, I advise them to do a lot of planning, sign up with an authorised agent that works with a number of universities in this destination. The next thing will be to plan for at least six months in advance wherever you want to study, have their bank statements ready, take the English test and get all documents ready, because normally the visa application may take between four and eight weeks and that will give them enough time. When they get the services of their migration agents, they can then access their documents, certify them and prepare the application for them. Applicants should also have a number of opportunities to make two or three applications in case the first one doesn't work out and ensure that all their documents are legitimate.

and New Zealand.

You are the founder of Mel Educational Services, how and when did it all start?

Mel Educational Services actually started in 2008, because then I was still teaching in Australia and in one of the colleges I was teaching, being an international college, I wanted to use the opportunity to recruit African students for them. So, when I travelled to Nigeria in 2008, I organised an information session at the Airport Hotel, Ikeja and quite a number of people attended because people were interested in studying in Australia and that is how we started. So, when I went back to Australia at the end of the holidays in 2008, I decided to apply to some Australian universities so I could assist them with recruitment of students from Nigeria and ever since then I have been organising information sessions in recruiting students for universities, colleges and schools.

Since you started Mel Education Services, how many visas have you processed for Nigerians and other Africans?

I would say we have processed over 100 visas. However, what is really important is not the number of visas, but the visa rating and the number of visa refusals we have not had. It is not the number of visas we get, because if you apply for 100 visas and you get 10, that is just 10 per cent rating. What I can say at the moment is that in the last five years we have had 100 per cent rating,

Fashion & Style

Tricks on lasting pedicure

It's not uncommon to leave the salon and discover you have chipped nail polish. You can stub your toe, trip and scrape your new polish or smudge the colour as you're putting sandals on to leave. One sure way to damage your newly polished toes is to put on shoes. Even when you think your polish is dry, the material can stick to newly-polished nails. Wearing shoes that are too tight increases your chances of a ruined pedicure.

Besides, one may not have the luxury of time to get a nail salon appointment on a regular basis. Rather than leave out this beauty indulgence, learn how to get more mileage out of your polish.

Smooth it out: Having a nice polish on your toe nails can make your feet look more presentable but not if you have dry, callused skin. Use a pumice stone to regularly slough off dead skin from your feet to keep them soft, smooth and sandal worthy.

Moisturize: If you're not already moisturizing on a regular basis, it's a must that you start. Moisturizing your feet not only helps your pedicure look better by keeping your skin and cuticles soft and hydrated, but it also helps your feet stay smooth and look great in between trips to the salon.

Carry cuticle oil: Another way to make your pedicure last is to carry a cuticle oil and keep your feet soft, moisturized and prevent the polish from chipping. Having rough or dry cuticles can mean painful hangnails and unsightly rough skin. Keep a small bottle of cuticle oil in your bag or at your desk to apply on your cuticles and nails one to two times a day to prolong the life of your pedicure.

Top your topcoat: The top coat that the manicurist applied in the salon typically wears off in a couple of days, so prevent your polish from chipping and keep your toes looking fresh with a touch-up. It helps the toes to maintain its high shine and luster.

Keep them covered: This tip might go against the whole point of getting a pedicure but it's one to think about. Although we get pedicures in order to show off our well-groomed feet, constantly exposing them to the elements can lead to chipped or faded polish, or dry and rough skin. Of course it's okay to wear open toed shoes and sandals, but make sure you protect your feet and keep them covered on days you can.

Avoid heat: You might think that once you get fast-dry top coat on your nails, you are pretty much good to go, but not quite. Nail polish takes about 12 hours to harden so if you get your pedicure and run to the sauna or jump in a hot tub, you're running the risk of ruining your pedicure!

Bring your own polish: If you're unsure whether your nail salon carries new bottles of polish, why not bring your own? Many salons use nail polish thinners to prolong the shelf life of nail polish, so if you want to ensure you're really getting a fresh coat, bring your own nail colour. This way, you can do your own touch-ups if you accidentally smudge a toe nail.

Dodge fragrances: If you like to use scented body lotions, the fragrance in the lotion might not be great for your pedicure. Synthetic fragrances have been known to make nail polish crack, so when you're moisturizing your feet, go for unscented lotions or use essential oils to keep your skin soft.



Wellness

Want that healthy sight? Try this

By OMONIYI ALLI

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are packed with carotenoids, including lycopene, which helps give tomatoes their vibrant red color. Research shows that the lycopene

present in ocular tissues helps prevent light-induced damage to the retina and other areas of the eye.

Tomatoes are also an excellent source of vitamin C, another vision protector. Processed tomato products or fresh tomatoes eaten with a little olive oil will help boost the absorption of lycopene. Researchers say eating foods rich in antioxidants is better than taking supplements.

Corn

Yellow corn is great source of lutein and zeaxanthin. These naturally occurring yellow pigments are lost during ARMD, (Age-related macular degeneration) but research shows that older adults who boost their blood levels of lutein and zeaxanthin through eating foods like corn and other carotenoid-rich fruits and vegetables significantly reduced their risk of losing these pigments. A study even found that women who ate the most fruits and vegetables, including yellow corn, reduced their risk of developing cataracts.

Carrot

Vitamins found in carrot can help promote overall eye health. Carrots contain beta-carotene, a substance that the body converts to vitamin A, an important nutrient for eye health. Carrots can easily be included in your diet in the vegetables salads or fried rice and can also be consumed and enjoyed in its raw form.

Olive Oil

This oil which is low in trans and saturated fat helps prevent retina diseases. Several studies suggest that olive oil is recommended for healthy vision. Not only is olive oil free of trans fats and is low in saturated fat, Australian researchers found that subjects who reported consuming the most olive oil were 48% less likely to develop ARMD. When

buying olive oil, look for extra virgin for the additional antioxidant boost it provides

Walnuts

Walnuts are the best nut source of omega-3s. In small amounts they can be converted to EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid), another omega-3 fatty acid used by the eye, along with DHA. They are full of antioxidants and vitamin



E, which work to combat inflammation and preserve cardiovascular health. What's more, walnuts help to lower C-reactive protein, a marker that signals there is inflammation in the body. Having a handful of walnuts a day can cut your risk of a cardiac event by as much as 50 percent, according to several large research projects, including the ongoing Nurses Health Study.

Berries



Blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, mulberries, cherries and even grapes are outstanding foods for protecting cardiovascular health, which makes them stars for eye health, too. They're great for lowering both inflammation and blood pressure. And high blood pressure is a risk factor for macular degeneration. Blueberries and blackberries also contain anthocyanins, which have the dark purple pigments that fight inflammation and improve blood flow.



They also help prevent blockages to the arteries that feed oxygen to the retina. Berries don't grow in Nigeria but they are available though they are a little bit expensive.

Eggs

Eggs contain the omega-3 fatty acid DHA and are the most readily available source of lutein and zeaxanthin. An egg per day for most people, unless you have diabetes, is excellent eye food. Diabetics need to ask their doctor whether eggs can be a part of their diet.

Avocados

Avocados are one the most nutrient-rich fruits we eat, so it's no wonder they're great for eyes. They contain lutein and help prevent macular degeneration and cataracts. "They're also a great source of other important eye nutrients such as beta-carotene, vitamin C, vitamin B6 and vitamin E," Gerbstadt says. Those vitamins place avocados among the top-10 eye foods.

Turkey

Turkey contains zinc and vitamin B, which makes it effective when it comes to warding off cataract. It is also a healthier option than red meat and tastes great. It is definitely a delicious option for the eyes.

Sweet potatoes

This is a very easy accompaniment to any meal, as it contains loads of beta-carotene which makes them a total necessity when it comes to eye health.

Sardines

loaded with Omega-3 fatty acids, sardines should be included in your diet at least once a week to get the best benefits out of it. They work by protecting the tiny blood vessels in the eyes and maintaining overall eye health. According to a study featured in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, eating fatty fish can also reduce the risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD).⁷ If you don't eat seafood, taking fish oil supplements are other ways you can get a good supply of omega-3

Moringa

Moringa leaves contain iron, calcium, potassium, vitamin A, vitamin C and protein. These are low in calorie, sodium and rich in antioxidant, vitamins, minerals and essential amino acids. Its leaves can also be used to treat various eye problems. Moringa leaves can be used as eye wash and can also be put in eyes. Extract of its fresh leaves juice mixed with honey are also used as eye drop in some parts of India



Okagbare's ban disqualifies Nigeria from 4x100m relay in World Championship

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

Following a further one year ban on Nigerian sprinter, Blessing Okagbare, the Athletic Integrity Unit (AIU) has disqualified Nigeria's 4x100m relay team from participating in next month's World Athletics Championship in Oregon.

AIU noted that Okagbare while evading the anti-doping test last year, participated with her team in the National Olympic trials, the event that qualified the team to partake in next month's world event in Oregon 2022.

In a statement by the independent body created by the World Athletics to manage athletics' integrity issues, the additional one-year ban meted on Okagbare for trying to evade doping sample collections and temper with the doping control process necessitated the decision to ban Nigeria from the 4x100m event.

AIU added that any event Okagbare was involved in to qualify Nigeria for an Athletic tourney, the country stands disqualified.

The statement reads in part: "The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has announced that banned Nigerian sprinter



Blessing Okagbare has been found to have committed additional anti-doping rule violations – specifically evading sample collection, and tampering or attempted tampering with the doping control process.

"While Okagbare has had her current 10-year ban from athletics extended by one year (now 11 years in total), another significant consequence of this decision against her is that Nigeria has lost its potential qualification place for the women's 4x100m relay at the next month's World Athletics Championships Oregon22.

"This is because six days after Okagbare evaded sample collection (13 June 2021), she competed in the 4x100m relay

event at the Nigeria Olympic Trials, with her relay squad qualifying for this year's World Championships. All individual and relay results involving Okagbare, from 13 June 2021, are now disqualified under the rules," AIU stated.

According to Brett Clothier, AIU Head, the integrity organ has over time experienced a situation of this nature where athletes, who have trained so hard for an event are disqualified following the excesses from a teammate.

Clothier explained that Okagbare's ordeal has affected Nigeria from an important qualifying spot, and stressed that in a relay team, once a teammate fails a doping test, everybody

bears the consequences.

He said, "Over the years, we have repeatedly seen how one person's actions adversely affect teammates who have trained hard and worked honestly for their results.

"In a relay team, if one member violates the anti-doping rules, everyone bears the brunt of results being expunged. They all pay the price. In this instance, Nigeria has lost an important qualification spot. Those are the rules and we will not compromise on integrity," Clothier reiterated.

Previously, Okagbare was banned for 10 years by the Disciplinary Committee on February 14, 2022, on two counts which border on the 'presence and use of multiple prohibited substances, and for her refusal to co-operate with the AIU's investigation into her case'.

In her results, the Olympian tested positive for the prohibited human growth hormone (hGH) and recombinant erythropoietin (EPO).

However, the AIU after concluding a further investigation into the behaviour of Okagbare, who attempted to temper with the doping control process while also evading sample collection, hand-ed her an extra one-year ban to increase the total ban to eleven years.

Villareal want Almeria's Nigerian striker

Spanish club Villarreal have joined a host of European clubs in the hunt for Nigerian international, Umar Sadiq, who strikes for newly promoted La Liga team, Almeria.

Almeria last season, got a promotion to La Liga's top division after they won the Spanish second-tier division while pipping their closest contender, Real Valladolid, to the trophy on goal differences.

Nigerian prolific striker, Umar, catalysed such resurgence for the club which have been out of the Spanish topflight division for seven years after being relegated in the 2014/15 season where they finished two-step at the bottom of the La Liga table.

The 25-year-old Super Eagle was instrumental to the club's success. He converted 18 opportuni-ties into goals while providing 12 assists in his 36 appearances for Rojiblancos last season.

However, his superb performances have drawn the attention of several European clubs from Spain, Portugal and Holland.

Spanish reports reveal that

Villarreal have already circled on the Nigerian forward as a perfect replacement for Arnaut Danjuma that is wanted in the English Premier League by West Ham United.

Aside from Yellow Submarines, Portuguese topflight club Benfica, Spanish club Sevilla, Dutch league champions Ajax and Valencia are also interested in the seven-capped Super Eagle, who opened the scoresheet against Guinea-Bissau in Group D match at the 2022 AFCON tourney in Garoua, Cameroon.

If Villarreal and Almeria agree on a deal that is reportedly worth about €20m, it will result in a blend between Umar and his fellow compatriot Samuel Chukwueze in Estadio de la Cerámica.



Tottenham eyes wonderkind Edogie

Tottenham have turned their searchlight towards Udinese defender Destiny Udogie after a report from England claimed the North London club have already contacted the player's representative.

According to Tuttosport, Udogie is pleased with the news that a top European club is interested in him, adding that while he concentrates on the pitch doing his job, he has trusted representatives to handle the discussions.

"It is very nice to be approached by top-level clubs," Udogie responded elatedly.

"I live serenely, thinking about the football pitch. My agents think about the market. They know my thoughts and have my total trust," he noted.

Reportedly, the 19-year-old Italy U21 left-back will suit Antonio Conte's 3-5-2 formation at Tottenham with his attacking-minded style which resulted in 5 Serie A goals in 35 appearances last season.

However, Udinese

director Pierpaolo Marino has ruled out Udogie's possible move to Tottenham according to HITC.

Marino claimed that it is inconceivable to sell a player who has barely completed a year in Stadio Friuli from Hellas Verona.

According to him, the player's actual value can not be determined presently by Le Zebrette, who need more time to come up with the right value for the attacking-minded left-back.

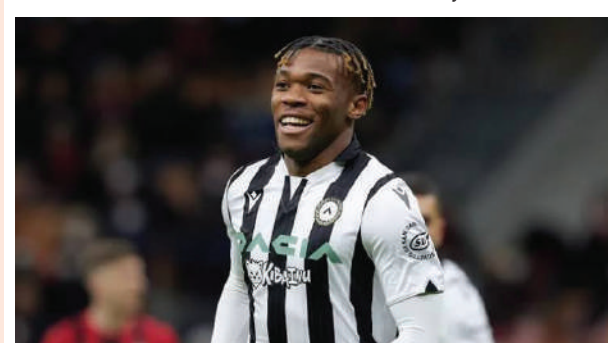
"We're not used to selling our talents after one season," Marino said.

"It's difficult to see Udogie leaving this summer.

"We're convinced that if he stays with us for another season, we'll have a clearer idea of his value.

"His current price tag is difficult to determine after just one season," he claimed.

Le Zebrette had earlier turned down bids from their neighbouring Juventus and also Tottenham but reports claim Udogie is valued at £17m judging by his performance in the 2021/22 season in Italy.



'Katsina Utd vs Remo Stars 30-minute extra time report erroneous, says LMC

League Management Company (LMC) has condemned reports alleging that the matchday 35 fixture between Katsina United and Remo Stars had a 30-minute additional time.

The administrators of the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) stated that the reports being circulated on various social media platforms and blog sites do not reflect the true situation of the event.

According to LMC on Monday, June 27, 2022, there was a disruption in the game which erupted after the home team contested the late equalising goal by Remo Stars.

Following the occurrence, there were encroachments on the pitch and it took time to restore the situation to normalcy while the referee upheld the goal scored by the visitors.

LMC in a statement said, "Some social media accounts have been spreading information that the match between Katsina United and Remo Stars had over 30 minutes added time.

"This is not true. The match was disrupted by players of Katsina United who protested Remo Stars' second equalising goal late in the game.

"In the process of the players contesting the Referee's decision, there was an encroachment on the field of play and it took some time

before the encroachment was cleared and normalcy was restored," the statement added.

Furthermore, LMC stressed that there is no occurrence in a 45-minute half that would warrant the referee to include a 30-minute added time.

Also in their explanations, the organisers of the Nigerian topflight division noted that some of the journalists, who may have followed the match through certain online sites that provide live scores of match events in real-time, may have been misled by the timing of the sites.

The statement continued: "The goal stood and the match duly restarted to conclude the remain-ing added minutes.

Chelsea make contact with Man City over Sterling, eye Juventus's De Ligt

Chelsea have contacted Manchester City over a possible signing of England forward, Raheem Sterling, to Stamford Bridge this summer.

The West London club according to Sky Sports are yet to make an offer for the player the Blues boss, Thomas Tuchel, fancies to boost their attacking ranks next season.

With Romelu Lukaku back to Inter in a season-long loan, the club under a new ownership have pencilled Sterling as one of their prime targets in the summer transfer window.

Sterling joined City from Liverpool in a deal worth £49m and has played 339 games for Manchester City, netting 131 goals in all competitions.



"However, most of those commenting, including some Sports Journalists followed the match on online live game trackers such as Livescore, Betway, flashscore and it needs to be pointed out that these platforms hardly

indicate that a game was inactive and most times leave their match clock active throughout the match.

"It is not possible for a Referee to allow 30 minutes of added time in a 45 minutes half. We appeal to fans and the media to always verify the information they share, especially such that are detrimental to the health of the brand," LMC advised.

However, the LMC recalled that such an incident occurred in matchday 33 fixture between Lobi Stars and Heartland of Owerri where there were a series of injuries in first-half that resulted in a false report of 27-minute added time by blog sites and websites.

Julian Alvarez from River Plate.

With these inclusions into City's attack, Sterling's appearances in the squad's starting lineup will greatly decline next season.

According to Daily Mail, Chelsea's new owner, Todd Boehly has made contact with City intend-ing to wrap up the deal in the coming days.

Although a bid has not been tendered, Daily Mail reports that with City's value for Gabriel Jesus, who is being courted by Arsenal is circa £45m, Sterling's value would be about £55m.

If the deal sails through as planned, the former Liverpool forward will become the first signing for Todd Boehly since his consortium took over the ownership of the club in May.

Dare hosts victorious Eaglets, lauds NFF

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

Youth and Sports Development minister Sunday Dare has heaped plaudits on the leadership of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) for making merit and competence its watchwords in the selection of coaches for the age-grade national teams, as agreed with the Ministry, and which has started to bear fruits with excellent performances at U20 and U17 levels of recent.

He made this pronouncement on Tuesday while hosting players and officials of the U17 Boys, Golden Eaglets to a reception following their victory at the WAFU B U17 Championship in Cape Coast, Ghana.

"I want to give credit to the NFF for implementing the cardinal principles that we agreed at meetings on youth football development," Dare said.

"Now, we can see that the emphasis on merit and competence has started to bear fruits. The U17 and U20 girls have qualified for their FIFA World Cup competitions with aplomb and the U17 and U20 boys have emphatically won regional tournaments, with



promises of what we can look forward to at their African championships next year.

"Our hard focus on grassroots development in all sports will continue. I congratulate the players and their coaches of the Golden Eaglets for winning so convincingly in Ghana and I want to charge you to remain focused on the continental championship in order to get the ticket to the World Cup. For you players, you must stay humble, hard-working and obedient to your coaches," he added.

On his part, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Alhaji Ismaila Abubakar warned the players against allowing distractions from

all manner of agents and player-managers, and rather be dedicated to improving their craft with temperance, endurance and a level head.

NFF General Secretary, Dr Mohammed Sanusi introduced each player and team official for a special handshake with the Honourable Minister, stating that Head Coach Nduka Ugbade was the captain of the first Nigeria team to win the FIFA Cadet World Cup, and was also assistant coach to Manu Garba when Nigeria triumphed in the United Arab Emirates in 2013. "He is also a global consultant on football science."

Ugbade hailed the event as "a special occasion" and said

the team is encouraged to do its utmost to continue to bring honour to the nation, first by putting up a stellar outing at the U20 AFCON in Algeria and then going on to hold its own at the FIFA World Cup finals in Peru.

Also at the occasion were the President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Engineer Habu Ahmed Gumel; Director of Federations and Elite Athletes Department, Dr Simon Ebhojiaye; NFF's Director of Communications, Mr Ademola Olajire; Director of Facilities in the Ministry, Mr Olatunji Okedairo and; special assistants to the Honourable Minister, Ms Mary Onyali and Messrs Toyin Ibitoye and Kola Adeyanju.

S'Eagles' players owed AFCON allowances, bonuses

Super Eagles have accused the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) of complicity in the non-payment of their match allowances and bonuses accrued in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) championship in Cameroon.

The Nigeria senior men's football team in Group D won all their three matches before losing 1-0 to the North African side, Tunisia, in the Round of 16.

However, five months after the continental event where Senegal won Egypt in the final on penalty shootouts, the Super Eagles are yet to be paid by the leadership of the nation's football governing body.

According to a report being circulated on a media platform, some players,

who pleaded anonymity, told Thenevsguru about the Super Eagles' predicaments.

The players lamented that their plea through the team's secretary, Dayo Enebi, to the Glass House never yielded fruitful results instead NFF informed them they will be credited individually by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

In their statements, they noted after the country's AFCON campaign in Garoua, Cameroon, the team's secretary ask for their account numbers with an assurance that they will be credited.

"After the loss to Tunisia in Garoua, the team secretary collected our account details and assured us that our match bonuses and allowances will be paid directly into our

accounts," the sources said.

These sources added that it is the usual practice that has been used before now but the delay experienced this time around calls for concern.

"That has always been the practice so it wasn't strange to any of us. It is five months since AFCON and we are yet to get any alert.

"We have made frantic efforts to know where our money is and all they keep telling us is that the money will be paid soon," they complained.

Moreover, the troubled Super Eagles' players, banking on the assurances given from the Glass House, have waited patiently but that has begun to diminish because they now feel otherwise after they got the hint that some of their colleagues have been

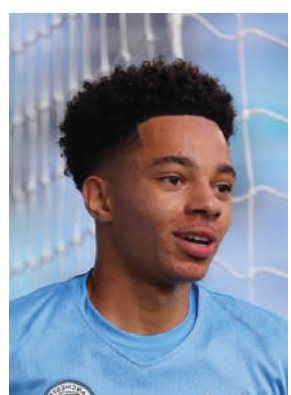
credited.

They continued: "We don't know when that will be and our patience is waning. That is because we are beginning to suspect foul play since most of our colleagues have received their full entitlements.

"We have decided at this point to petition the Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports, Sunday Dare, on this matter because it is now obvious that someone is sitting on our money," they added.

Thenevsguru added that all the four players have been invited for post-AFCON matches involving the Super Eagles and have vowed not to stop honouring national team invitations while stressing that they will not rest until their outstanding match bonuses and allowances are paid.

Leverkusen to sign City's Sam Edozie



Bayer Leverkusen have agreed with Premier League champions Manchester City to sign 19 years old winger Sam Edozie, reports revealed.

Sam Edozie, a product of City's youth team featured only once for Pep Guardiola's senior squad last season in the Community Shield against Leicester City where they lost 1-0.

According to Fabrizio Romano, a two-year

contract valid until 2024 will be signed soon after an agreement was reached with Manchester City to bring the winger to the Bundesliga.

If the deal is completed, Edozie will become the latest youngster to leave England to the Bundesliga to further his career after the likes of Jadon Sancho, Jude Bellingham, and Reece Oxford took this route.

Sancho left Manchester

City to join Borussia Dortmund where he performed to earn him a big-money move to Old Trafford. Back in England, the player has tried to replicate the same Bundesliga form but has struggled in the process.

While Bellingham, who signed for Dortmund in 2020 from Birmingham in a deal worth over £25m plus add-ons, became the most expensive 17-year-old player in history.

14 athletes to represent Nigeria in UK at Commonwealth fencing championship

By **ADAKU WALTER**

A total of 14 athletes, consisting of six females and eight males, will represent Nigeria at the 2022 Commonwealth Fencing Championships slated to hold at University of East London

SportsDock, United Kingdom from 9th to 20th August, 2022.

It is a fencing event held in the Commonwealth of Nations. The first was held in 1974 and had been held in the same cycle as the Commonwealth Games overtime.

This edition, which comprises different fencing events and categories will feature both males and females in the Cadet, Junior, Senior, Veteran categories and

also wheel-chair fencing while all three weapons (Foil, Epee and Sabre) will all be featured.

The President, of Nigerian Fencing, Adeyinka Samuel said his federation will field athletes in the Cadet and Junior categories for both individual and team events in the Epee and Foil disciplines of the sport.

He said the team will be participating in a total of 10 events out of 24 on the card.

Also, Adeyinka hinted that the team will go for a one-week training camp ahead of the competition in London to help them acclimatise and prepare in the environment where the event is scheduled to hold.

Nottingham Forest need versatile Aribo

Premier League newcomers, Nottingham Forest, have launched a hunt for Rangers midfielder Joe Aribo after they signed Union Berlin's striker Taiwo Awoniyi, his fellow compatriot, last week.

Aribo, who complemented Gers last season's blistering campaign where they reached the final of the Europa League against Frankfurt in Seville, has seen Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest swoop into Ibrox to snatch him away to the English Premier League.

According to Scottish Sun, Nottingham Forest have overtaken Crystal Palace in the bid to bring the Nigeria international to add flair to Steve Cooper's squad for next season.

With the heat the news has generated in recent times, there is every tendency that the player who has a year left in his contract, will be sold by Rangers seeking to cash out from a deal valued at £8m speculatively.

Moreover, Rangers signed the Super Eagle for circa £300,000 from

Charlton Athletic in 2019 and with a year left to run in his contract, will be eager to sell him to avoid losing out totally if he refuses to renew it next season.

In another report by a Scottish media outlet, Aston Villa manager Steven Gerrard is studying the circumstances and would not hesitate to bring the player he once coached at Ibrox to Villa Park alongside Calvin Bassey.

Nottingham Forest chairman, Evangelos Marinakis, is prepared to spend a lot in the transfer matter to prevent the club, who just gained promotion to the English top-tier division, from a possible return to Championship.

Scottish Sun added that after the Greek billionaire sanctioned Awoniyi's £17m deal, he directed Cooper to wrap up the versatile midfielder's deal, who is reportedly also under the radar of Fulham.

Joe Aribo is highly rated by the Super Eagles and was named midfielder of the year at Nigerian football's annual 'Ballers Awards'.



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

— Leo Tolstoy

www.thetrumpet.ng

The Trumpet

P A T R I O T I C V O I C E

@TheTrumpetNig @thetrumpetng @thetrumpetngr

JUNE 29-30, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 064 N200



Buhari heads to Portugal for state visit, UN ocean conference

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**

President Muhammadu Buhari is on a state visit to Portugal at the invitation of President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

According to a statement by the Senior Special Assistant to Buhari on media and publicity, Gar-ba Shehu, the president will attend the United Nations Ocean Conference in Portugal.

The conference which began in Lisbon on Monday, June 27, and runs till July 1 is co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal and supported by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

The event aims to accelerate the adoption of science-based innovative solutions to challenges facing oceans and the global marine ecosystem.

Buhari will also hold official talks with his Portuguese counterpart and be conferred with the country's National Honour and decorated with the "Great Collar of the Order of Prince Henry."

The two Presidents are expected to chair an enlarged bilateral meeting and witness

the signing of some agreements bordering on issues of mutual concern.

President Buhari will also visit the Portuguese Parliament and hold discussions with its president, Dr Augusto Santo Silva, as well as the Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Costa.

In the course of the visit, the President is scheduled to address a Forum of Nigerian and Portuguese businessmen and hold separate meetings with

select Portuguese Chief Executive Officers and prospective investors in Nigeria.

He is expected to also engage members of the Nigerian community in Portugal on matters affecting them and developments at home.

The President will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama; Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed; Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment,



Buhari

Adeniyi Adebayo; and Sports, Sunday Minister of Youth Dare and Minister of

Communication and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami.

Others are National Security Adviser, Maj-Gen Babagana Monguno (Rtd); Director-General, National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Amb. Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar and Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) Honorable Abike Dabiri-Erewa.

The President is expected back in the country on Saturday, July 2.

46 migrants found dead in back of truck

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

Bodies of at least 46 people believed to be migrants who crossed into the United States from Mexico were found dead on Monday in a truck that had been abandoned on the outskirts of San Antonio, state and city officials said.

Sixteen (16) others, including children, were taken to hospitals alive but suffering from heat ex-haustion and apparent dehydration.

The deaths occurred during an apparent human smuggling attempt along the US-Mexico border.

San Antonio, which is 250km (150 miles) from the US-Mexican border, is a major transit route for people-smugglers. Human traffickers often use trucks to transport undocumented migrants after meeting them in remote areas once they have managed to cross into the United States.

This appeared to be one of the worst episodes of migrant death in the United

States in recent years.

"They had families and were likely trying to find a better life," San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said. "It's nothing short of a horrific, human tragedy."

Police Chief William McManus said a city worker at the scene was alerted to the situation by a cry for help shortly before 6pm on Monday. Officers arrived to find a body on the ground outside the trailer and a partially opened door of the truck.

McManus said three people were

taken into custody over the incident, he noted that authorities aren't certain they're connected to the situation. The incident is now under federal investigation.

The number of people migrating globally has steadily risen in the past two decades as poverty, climate change and violence have led people to flee their homelands.

The death toll of deceased migrants found inside a truck in Texas has risen to 50, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Tuesday.

"I want to offer my condolences to the relatives of this catastrophe," Lopez Obrador said.

Lopez Obrador said he will meet with US President Joe Biden in Washington DC on July 12 and migration will be a central issue in their discussions.

Mexico Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Twitter on Tuesday that 22 Mexicans, seven Guatemalans and two Hondurans were identified among the dead.

There was no information on the citizenship of the other 19, Mexican officials added.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said that its Homeland Security Investigations division was conducting a criminal investigation into "an alleged human smuggling event" in coordination with local police.

Biden's wife, daughter barred from entering Russia

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

Mrs. Jill Biden and daughter, Ashley would no longer be allowed to travel to Russia.

This is because Moscow on Tuesday announced that it was banning the

wife and daughter of President Joe Biden from entering the country, in response to widening sanctions against Russia.

The president himself and Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, as well as hundreds of lawmakers, are already on the

blacklist.

The Foreign Ministry said 25 names were being added to the country's "stop list" including the family of United States President.

It also banned entry to four senators whom it identified as responsible

for the formation of the (U.S.) Russophobic course, Republicans Mitch McConnell, Susan Collins and Ben Sasse and Democrat Kirstin Gillibrand.

The list also includes prominent academics including Francis

Fukuyama, noted for his book "The End of History and the Last Man".

The U.S. and Canada had added two adult daughters of Russian President Vladimir Putin to their sanctions list in the wake of Russia's war against Ukraine.