

# Nigeria mourns as terrorists kill over 50 church members

By PAUL MICHAEL, Defence Editor, OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH (Lagos) and FRIDAY OMOSOLA (Akure)

## ■ Owo attack directed at Akeredolu–Afenifere

Ondo State, killing over 50 members of the congregation, during service.

No fewer than 50 corpses were moved out of the church with many casualties lying at

the Federal Medical Center, Owo, for medical attention.

An eyewitness explained that some gunmen invaded the church during service, and opened fire, killing no fewer

than 50 people.

He said that the congregation were caught unaware saying the casualty might be more as some

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Terrorists on Sunday morning attacked St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo,

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# The Trumpet

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## MAJOR ASPIRANTS RUN NECK-AND-NECK IN FIVE-HORSE MAKE-OR-BREAK RACE

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Buhari



Osinbajo



Lawan



Tinubu



Amaechi



Fayemi



Onu



# APC's knife fights with long knives climax in do-or-die primary election

By **TUNDE JOSHUA,**  
**GABRIEL OMONHINMIN**

The die is cast as the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) picks its presidential candidate.

Will the knives that have been out for the knife fights be sheathed amid President Muhammadu Buhari's silence on his anointed successor despite his call for deeper consultations among governors and other chieftains of the party?

Well, some say Northern governors' nod for a southern candidate's emergence has whittled down the chances of Senate President Ahmad Lawan who at the weekend was said to be strongly in contention for Buhari's greenlight with former Transport minister Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi as his running mate or vice versa or Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu as dark horse.

Surely, APC has a date with history as it goes into a Special National Convention to elect its presidential candidate for the 2023 election.

The party had managed to survive some political and legal undercurrents to reach this milestone.

A total of 23 aspirants were shortlisted for screening by the party out of the 28 that bought the N100m expression of interest and nomination forms. But after a two-day screening, the John Odigie-Oyegun-led screening committee announced that 13 aspirants scaled the hurdle and were cleared to contest the shadow election while 10

failed.

Declining to mention names of those uncleared gave room to speculation and further heightened the already charged political turf as different names surfaced in the social media.

A clarification was later made indicating that aspirants cleared were Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, Bola Tinubu, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Ahmad Lawan, Yahaya Bello, Kayode Fayemi, Emeka Nwajibu, Ogbonnaya Onu, Ibikunle Amosun, David Umahi, Abubakar Badaru, Godswill Akpabio and Tein Jack-Rich.

Further clarification revealed that those disqualified were Tunde Bakare, Rochas Okorocha, Ben Ayade, Sani Yerima Ken Nnamani, Keobasi Mokelu Deimeji Bankole, Felix Nicholas, Ajayi Borroface and Uju Ken-Ohanenye.

One of the 13 contenders is preferred by President Muhammadu Buhari to succeed him. But he is keeping the name closer to his chest thereby allowing speculations to grow among party members and Nigerians generally.

The president had at a meeting with APC governors and other stakeholders last Monday and requested that he should be allowed to pick his successor as a sign of reciprocity.

According to him, while governors, who just served their first term were given the privilege of securing second term ticket. Outgoing ones, after serving out their consti-



**Buhari**

tutional two terms of eight years, also had the privilege to choose their successors, and so he asked to be allowed to choose his successor.

The 22 APC governors met twice (Tuesday and Wednesday) in Abuja to deliberate on Buhari's request but the two parleys were stalemated as there was no meeting point on the issue of consensus.

The idea of a northern consensus candidate was vehemently rejected by southern governors and pro-Tinubu camp of the divided Progressives Governors' Forum.

Sensing inconclusiveness, Buhari upon return to the country from Spain held another dinner meeting with the aspirants at Aso Rock Villa where he called for further consultation and a final push

towards consensus.

At the Saturday meeting, the President said: "Our party, the APC, has won two successive presidential elections in 2015, first when we were in the opposition and in 2019 when I sought re-election. Both processes were achieved through unity of purpose, strategic alignment, consultation, fairness, determination and effective leadership. In both instances, national and party interests were overriding factors in our deliberations and decision-making."

"I am pleased to note that the party, recognizing the significance of all these demands, has over time developed several democratically acceptable processes and policies, that promote consultation, internal cohesion and

leadership to facilitate victories at the polls.

"Given these circumstances, I charge you to recognize the importance of the stability and unity of the party, which cannot be overemphasized.

"Similarly, I wish to remind you that our choice of flag bearer must be formidable, appealing to the electorate across the board and should command such ability to unify the country and capacity to address our critical challenges.

"Ahead of the Convention, the party machinery has screened and found all aspirants eminently qualified.

Recognizing this fact, the Screening Committee has, amongst others, recommended that consensus building through consultation, be intensified.

"Without prejudice to your qualifications, I urge all of you to hold consultations amongst yourselves and with the party, with a view to building a consensus in a manner that would help the party reduce the number of aspirants, bring up a formidable candidate and scale down the anxiety of party members."

Earlier at the meeting, National Chairman of the party, Senator Abdullahi Adamu had promised that all stakeholders of the party would be reached in the consultation process.

Responding on behalf of the aspirants, Osinbajo as well as the immediate past Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, and Governor Abubakar Badaru of Jigawa State, thanked the President for his leadership and guidance, pledging that they would hold the consultations as counseled "for the unity and strength of our party, the APC."

The readiness of the aspirants to abide by APC's consensus decision was acknowledged in the report of the screening committee which said it was surprised that 98 to 99% of them agreed that the party is supreme.

"Against every aspirants, the issue of consensus and it is pleasant surprise that And that whatever the party finally decides with proper consultation, they will likely to accept", he said but was emphatic in saying "we had only one exception who said yes, he will accept consensus so long as it is build on him," adding that the party should not be afraid for a contested primary if anybody insist on the contest," the report read.

However, the Odigie-Oyegun Committee in form of recommendation sent a word of caution to the party, saying "that there is this cleavage that is gradually becoming the Centre stage in a national discourse. As between the north and the south and the presidency. And we just want to advise strongly that the party should please think of it in making its decision, address it and let it influence their thoughts because it has its own implications."

Probably considering this

advice that stakeholders should note the influence of the north-south regional discourse in their decision, 12 Northern States APC governors on Saturday agreed to cede power to the south. They urged all northern aspirants to opt out of the race while commending Badaru for withdrawing.

The APC governors and political leaders from the northern states of Nigeria at the meeting reviewed the political situation, welcomed President Buhari's invitation to them and other stakeholders to contribute to the emergence of a strong presidential candidate for the party.

In a statement jointly signed by all the governors, they agreed that "after eight years in office of Buhari, the presidential candidate of the APC for the 2023 elections should be one of our teeming members from the southern states of Nigeria.

"It is a question of honour for the APC, an obligation that is not in anyway affected by the decisions taken by another political party.

"We affirm that upholding this principle is in the interest of building a stronger, more united and more progressive country.

"We therefore wish to strongly recommend to President Muhammadu Buhari that the search for a successor as the APC's presidential candidate be limited to our compatriots from the southern states.

"We appeal to all aspirants from the northern states to withdraw in the national interest and allow only the aspirants from the south to proceed to the primaries.

"We are delighted by the decision of our esteemed colleague, His Excellency, Governor Abubakar Badaru to contribute to this patriotic quest by withdrawing his presidential aspiration.

"The APC has a duty to ensure that the 2023 elections offer a nation-building moment, reaffirming that a democratic pathway to power exists for all who value cooperation and build national platforms."

This decision, no doubt, will whittle down the confidence that the President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan has in the race."

Increase in cross-country consultations and activities within the Lawan's campaign organisation in the past one week was informed by permutations that the APC might be compelled to settle for a northern candidate following the emergence of Atiku Abubakar as candidate of the opposition PDP.

However, a few hours to the primary, there is unease in the camp of one of the leading aspirants, Tinubu as events in the last few days around the political juggernaut may be a great threat to his chances.

On Thursday, June 2 in Ogun State, Tinubu in an emotion-aden address to the state delegates had painted a picture of how he assisted

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## Nigeria mourns as terrorists kill over 50 church members

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worshippers who were taken to the hospital have also gave up on Sunday.

According to him, the gunmen also used some explosives within the compound of the church but said most of the people were hit with gunshots.

The perpetrators were said to have fled the scene.

Some dead bodies were seen soaked with blood in the church in a video that has gone viral on social media.

Reacting to the ugly incident, President Muhammadu Buhari said Nigeria will defeat evil and wicked people. He condoled with the families, the Catholic Church, and the Government of Ondo State, while mourning the dead victims

In a statement signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, on Sunday, Buhari ordered emergency agencies to swing into action, and bring succour to those wounded to avoid further casualties.

The President, who condemned the heinous killing, said only fiends from the nether region could have conceived and carried out such dastardly act, adding that eternal sorrow awaits them both on earth here, and

ultimately in the hereafter.

"No matter what, this country shall never give in to evil and wicked people, and darkness will never overcome light. Nigeria will eventually win," the President said.

Meanwhile, the Governor of One State, Arakunrin Akeredolu has owed to hunt down the killers and ensure they are brought to book.

Akeredolu, who visited the scene of the incident to get first hand assessment, described the attack as a satanic assault on the peace-loving Ondo people.

In a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Richard Olatunde, the governor condemned the attack while condoling with the family of the victims.

He said, "It is a black Sunday in Owo. Our hearts are heavy. Our peace and tranquility have been attacked by the enemies of the people. This is a personal loss, an attack on our dear state.

"I have spoken to the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Ondo, Most Reverend Jude Arogundade, who is presently on his way to Owo. Similarly, I have had to cut short my party's national assignment in Abuja and visit Owo immediately.

"This is an unexpected development. I am shocked to

say the least. Nevertheless, We shall commit every available resource to hunt down these assailants and make them pay. We shall never bow to the machinations of heartless elements in our resolves to rid our state of criminals.

"I commiserate with my people in Owo, particularly families of the those who lost their lives to this ugly and unfortunate attack. I extend my condolences to Olowo of Owo, Oba Gbadegesin Ogunoye as well as the Catholic Church.

"I urge our people to remain calm and vigilant. Do not take laws into your hands. I have spoken to the heads of the security agencies. I have equally been assured that security operatives would be deployed to monitor and restore normalcy to Owo kingdom." Akeredolu said.

Pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, has said the attack on the innocent people worshipping at the St Francis Catholic Church Owa-luwa Street, Owo local government on Sunday was directed at Ondo State Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu and the Southwest.

The Organising Secretary of the association, Apagun Kole Omololu, in a statement, the attack was because of the the

governor's support for security in Yoruba land, championing of the Amotekun regional protection outfit, his stringent upholding of the open grazing law, and his 'big mouth' about Southern co-operation for equity and justice in Nigeria.

The statement read, "The massacre in Owo Catholic church is a direct attack on Yoruba land. We will not succumb to terrorist threats or attack.

"They will not be allowed to bring down our civilisation. We will hunt the killers down. Citizens should not take law into their own hands by attacking innocent northerners. Only the terrorists, who are mostly foreign Fulani, should be fished out and finish off by the security forces.

"This attack is to cause confusion and cause war in our land. We should not play into their hands. This evil is condemned in the strongest term."

Afenifere further commiserated with the government, the Catholic Church, the Olowo of Owo, the people of Owo and the entire people of Ondo state at large.

"May the soul of the departed rest in peace," the statement added.





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# APC's knife fights with long knives climax in do-or-die primary election

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a democratic pathway to power exists for all who value cooperation and build national platforms."

This decision, no doubt, will whittle down the confidence that the President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan has in the race."

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However, a few hours to the primary, there is unease in the camp of one of the leading aspirants, Tinubu as events in the last few days around the political juggernaut may be a great threat to his chances.

On Thursday, June 2 in Ogun State, Tinubu in an emotion-aden address to the state delegates had painted a picture of how he assisted Buhari to gain power in 2015.

Many Nigerians particularly northerners felt insulted and termed Tinubu's statement as meant to denigrate the person of the President.

One of the persons who condemned Tinubu's statement was one of his staunch supporters and promoters in the north, Babachir Lawal, a former Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

In a refutation on Friday, Tinubu said his comments were not meant to disrespect the President and had been taken out of context. He said reactions suggesting he had been disrespectful were sensational and incorrect.

But, the former Lagos State governor was also reprimanded by no other person than the APC national chairman, Abdullahi Adamu who threatened possible sanction.

In an interview with journalists on Saturday at the party secretariat, the chairman said "within the last three days, the country, and the world of the social media have been undaunted with the report of one of our leaders Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, former Governor of Lagos State when he went for his campaign in Ogun -Abeokuta in the course of his address he went as far as to mention what happened between him and president Muhammadu Buhari.

"He went as far as to tell his audience how Buhari went to him, even prostrating in tears, begging him to endorse him for the presidency. He claimed Buhari went to him.

"The words in Youruba language, the interpretation was very very insulting, very very unbecoming of a person of that standing to do what

he did to a sitting president produced by the votes of APC. It is amazing how a fellow APC person to make that kind of comments about the president.

"We take exception to this and this doesn't show any appreciable level of respect for the office of Mr President and the person of Mr President. Therefore, we want to make it public that we are saddened about the audio and video in that reportage and we condemn it in the strongest terms... those of APC extraction to make those kind of unbecoming comments.

"Between yesterday and this morning it was retract but that effort is not adequate, it doesn't wipe out the impression that event has left in our minds. This our position. I as chairman of the ruling party has the duty to come out and stand by our government, to stand by our president."

Asked whether punitive measure could affect Tinubu's screening outcome, the national chairman said "I don't want to take this together because they are mischief laden. I don't want to take the primary screening to answer this question because doing so is finding the way to justify, give some reasons that may have caused what he did. For one thing I know at the time this event took place the screening committee had not made the report to us at all.

"The question of punitive measure yes and no. This morning we saw some traces of withdrawal statements. You see these are statements that can emerge not with the intention of the actual actions. So yes, we can't say we don't see in the papers what was reported. It happened. What is out is out. It is not an apology, it is trying to retract. We will be on the watch...for us to penalise any member of the party not just Bola Tinubu, anybody. We will watch events as they unfold."

Rising in defence of Tinubu and discarding Adamu's sanction threat as empty, the APC National Vice Chairman (North West), Dr. Salihu Lukman it was unfortunate that Tinubu made those statements and it is his right to express his frustration, but should be recognised as such.

Challenging Adamu's threat, he said "but nobody, no matter the position of the person can use it against him unless the party follow due process through the rightful organs of the party to discuss it.

"So, the opinion expressed by Abdulahi Adamu was his personal opinion and it is his own right to present it to any organ of the party for consideration. But until that opinion is adopted by organ of the party, it cannot be considered as the position of

party. It is not the position of APC, it is his personal opinion."

Also, there is a legal case challenging the eligibility of Tinubu to contest the party's primary election.

Some APC members under the aegis of Gaskiya Youth Movement, had approached the Federal High Court in Abuja asking the court to disqualify Tinubu, from the party's presidential primary.

In a suit marked FHC/ABJ/CS/774/2022, filed before the Court, the plaintiff listed the APC and Tinubu as first and second defendants, while the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is listed as the third defendant.

Part of their prayers include, asking the court to determine whether Tinubu can participate in the APC primaries or that of any other political party, given his "questionable educational background and date of birth".

They are also asking the court to declare that "upon consideration of the relevant laws, Tinubu cannot participate or contest in the primary election on the platform of the first defendant (APC)".

They are also seeking a "declaration that given the questionable educational background and date of birth, (Tinubu) among other questionable issues, the first defendant (APC) cannot allow and/or permit his participation in the primary election for the office of the president".

The group also wants the court to declare that Tinubu "cannot participate by presenting himself in any primary elections with any political party in Nigeria to be nominated as a presidential aspirant for the 2023 general election."

This no doubt will be a great distraction to the Tinubu's ambition.

However, the national chairman, Adamu has cleared the air on delegates eligible to vote in today's convention.

This is coming against a purported court ruling in Kano which allowed statutory delegates to participate at the convention.

Adamu said "well, I am a lawyer. We have serve notice of appeal and matter is in the court and as far as we are concerned, this convention is concerned, statutory delegates are excluded."

Party members look up to the 2322 elected delegates across the country to do APC proud by electing its flag bearer in the 2023 presidential election.

Last minute intrigues and the resolve by some APC Governor's to teach Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo a political lesson he will not forget in a hurry, have revealed that at least 17 APC governors may have backed the presidential aspiration of their Ekiti State counterpart,



Tinubu

Dr. Kayode Fayemi.

The Trumpet gathered that 17 governors include Babagana Zulum of Borno and Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano States, among some loyalists of Tinubu.

Multiple sources confirmed that diverse re-alignments were on-going to ensure that the APC state helmsmen put Fayemi, who is the Chairman of Nigerian Governors Forum, on the party's ballot for the 2023 presidential election.

Sources further confirmed that that the Ekiti helmsman has been able to reach and regrouped 17 out of the 22 APC governors delegates who are sympathetic to his presidential ambition. But five governors have prevented him from having access to their delegates.

The source said: "In light of the push by the governors for one of their own to take over as president, Fayemi has been rallying them around his candidacy."

There are more twists and turns.

Contrary to reports that Buhari had during a meeting with presidential aspirants, discussed that the Presidency should go to the South in 2023, Malam Garba Shehu, a Senior Special Assistant, Media and Publicity to the President, has said that nothing as such was discussed.

Speaking in an interview with the BBC Hausa Service on Sunday, Garba Shehu said "the meeting was among the series of meetings that President Muhammadu Buhari commenced with the chieftains and party bigwigs in the APC, to ensure that the APC Presidential primary election is conducted peacefully; and to make sure the APC is placed on the right pedestal that will bring victory to the party during the forthcoming presidential election in 2023."

When asked if the issue of power shift was discussed at the meeting, Malam Garba Shehu said "no, that was not discussed. What President Muhammadu Buhari said was that he had called them to advise them. That they should go and discuss within themselves, in their capacity as Presidential aspirants, they should deliberate among themselves and with the

party on how they could bring forth a sole candidate for the presidency."

When told that some Nigerian newspapers had written that the President was in support of power to go to the South, Garba Shehu said " nothing as such was discussed as even if the President had such an opinion, he did not come out to say it at the meeting."

When reminded that, that were rumours President Buhari might come out to announce the person he was supporting to succeed him, Malam Shehu explained that " what the President was saying was that he was prepared to continue providing the leadership that would lead to the emergence of a candidate through a peaceful and harmonious process that the aspirants, governors and other party leaders would adopt. But these talks that the President had said he alone would bring out the presidential flagbearer of the party, no, this is not Buhari's character. That is not even democratic."

Asked if time was by their side, Shehu recalled that such had happened previously when the party leadership was elected.

" It was on the edge that the party stood firm and agreed on one person to be the leader. Also, in 2015 it was a day to the election that the governors gave the delegates the direction to follow, who to vote. So I don't think it would be any different, this time around," he said.

When asked what President Buhari would do if the aspirants fail to arrive at a consensus arrangement, Garba Shehu said the President would've no choice. " We have to follow the election process," he concluded.

And following the decision of the northern APC governors to cede power to the south, the race for the presidential ticket was trimmed down to just seven southern aspirants.

A source said the northern governors in specific terms want the ticket to go to the South West. This leaves Osinbajo, Tinubu, Fayemi and former Ogun State

Governor bikunle Amosun as serious contenders.

The Trumpet gathered that meetings of the South West aspirants with critical stakeholders from the zone held Saturday night till early Sunday morning without concrete agreement on consensus.

This it was learnt was followed up with another meeting Sunday which further reduced the contest to Osinbajo and Tinubu.

As at press time, there were conflicting stories speculating that either of the two had stepped down for the other.

Our source said leaders of the party persuaded Tinubu to consider stepping down for the Vice President.

Reasons advanced according to the source were that Osinbajo has age on his side and that having served under Buhari for two terms, he will be preferred by the President as a reliable successor.

Also, Osinbajo is seen by interests close to the Presidency as a veritable vehicle for the continuity agenda of the APC administration. The leaders thought Osinbajo will be sellable to Nigerians than either Tinubu or Fayemi. It will also douse southwest tension and resentment to the APC at the 2023 polls.

Our source said after much ado, the former Lagos State governor agreed in the interest of the zone, accepting to once again make sacrifice for the South West not to lose the offer which Buhari might give on a platter of gold.

The leaders, the source added assured Tinubu that certain interests of his would be taken care of if the APC retains power under Osinbajo.

According to the source, there was no much ado in convincing Fayemi who was said to be willing to step down for Osinbajo.

But earlier, an unconfirmed report had it that Tinubu was given the nod as a consensus Yoruba candidate because of the belief that he has political structure, sagacity and financial muscle to tackle Atiku.

The proponents of the Tinubu candidature at the meeting were said to have argued that Osinbajo is a neophyte in politics, who has no structure and political associates across regions. Giving the ticket to him, they argued, may spell doom for the APC because of the believe that Osinbajo can easily be trounced by Atiku and the PDP in 2023.

It is expected that a few moments to the ballot, a clearer picture of who really will be the APC candidate, will emerge.



# SERAP, others sue INEC for not extending voter registration

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is facing a lawsuit asking the court to “declare unconstitutional, illegal, and incompatible with international standards” the failure of the body to extend the deadline for voter registration “to allow eligible Nigerians to exercise their rights.”

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and 185 concerned Nigerians have filed the suit, saying:

“Against its earlier stance, INEC recently extended the deadline for the conduct of primaries by political parties by six days, from June 3 to June 9. But the commission has failed to also extend the online pre-registration which ended May 30 2022 and the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) ending 30 June 2022.”

In the suit number FHC/L/CS/1034/2022 filed at the Federal High Court, Lagos, SERAP is asking the court to determine “whether the failure of INEC to extend the deadline for voter registration is not a violation of Nigerian Constitution, 1999 [as amended], the Electoral Act, and international standards.”

SERAP is asking the court for “a declaration that the failure of INEC to extend the deadline for voter registration is a violation of eligible Nigerians’ rights to participate freely in their own government, equality and equal protection.”

SERAP is also asking the court for “an order of mandamus to direct and compel INEC to extend voter registration by a minimum of three months and take effective measures to ensure that eligible Nigerians are able to register to exercise their right to vote in the 2023 general elections.”

SERAP is arguing that: “Enforcing unrealistic voter registration deadline while extending the deadline for party primaries would deny and abridge the constitutional and international human rights of eligible voters.

“INEC mandates ought to be exercised in a fair, just and non-discriminatory manner. The extension of voter registration would ensure that Nigerian voters are treated equally and fairly. The future of Nigeria’s democracy depends on it.

“Voters are also critical stakeholders in the electoral process. Treating all eligible Nigerian voters fairly would advance the people’s right to vote and to participate in their own government.

“INEC must not only be independent and impartial in the exercise of its constitutional and statutory responsibilities, but must also be seen to be independent and impartial.

“An order restraining INEC, its agents, privies, assigns, or any other person(s) claiming through it from discontinuing the continuous voters’ registration exercise from the 30th June 2022

or any other date pending the hearing and determination of this suit.”

The suit filed on behalf of SERAP by its lawyers Kolawole Oluwadare and Opeyemi Owolabi, read in part: “Extending the voter registration exercise would also bolster voter confidence in the electoral process.

“One of the people’s most sacred rights is the right to vote. The commission has a constitutional and statutory responsibility to ensure the effective exercise of the right of all eligible voters to participate in their own government.

“Extending the deadline for party primaries without providing adequate time and opportunity for eligible voters to register and participate in the 2023 general elections would amount to an unfair and discriminatory treatment of Nigerian voters, and violate other human rights.

“Extending the voter registration deadline would provide more time for eligible voters, including young people, the elderly, people living with disability, as well as those resident in states facing security challenges and living in IDP camps to participate in the 2023



INEC boss, Mahmood Yakubu

elections.

“Extending the deadline for voter registration would be entirely consistent with constitutional and international standards, and the Electoral Act. Any such extension would also not impact negatively on INEC’s election calendar and activities.

“The public perception of the independence and impartiality of INEC is essential for building public confidence in the electoral process, and ensuring

the credibility and legitimacy of the 2023 elections.

“Where Nigerians have doubts about the independence and impartiality of INEC, they are more likely to have less confidence in the electoral process thereby undermining democracy.

“Extending the deadline for voter registration would also be justified, given reports of challenges in the voter registration exercise, especially for young people, the elderly, persons living with disabilities, and those resident in states facing security challenges and living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

“The will of the people is expressed through democratic elections. This requires that people should be afforded adequate time and opportunity to register to vote. Extending the voter registration deadline is crucial for promoting the independence and impartiality of INEC and building public confidence in the electoral process.

“The Nigerian Constitution 1999 (as amended) provides in Section 14(1)(c) that, ‘the participation by the people in their government shall be

ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

“Section 9(6) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides that ‘the registration of voters, updating and revision of the Register of Voters under this section shall not stop not later than 90 days before any election covered by this Act.’

“Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance guarantee the right to political participation.

“These human rights treaties also require states parties including Nigeria to ensure the independence and impartiality of national electoral bodies responsible for the management of elections, as well as to promote the establishment of the necessary conditions to foster citizen participation.

“The right of people to participate in their government is a fundamental feature of any democratic society, and any undue restriction of the right would strike at the heart of representative government.”

No date has been fixed for hearing of the suit.

## Ebun Adegboruwa decries terrorist onslaught in Ondo

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Ebun Adegboruwa, has decried the early Sunday morning massacre of worshippers in Owo, Ondo State.

He says under no circumstances is killing of a fellow human justifiable.

According to him, it is ungodly to take life, while also calling on the security agents to identify and punish the perpetrators.

The residents of Owo woke up on Sunday to the news of attack on a Catholic Church in the town. The attacks led to the gruesome death of an unspecified number of people.

As at press time, it was not yet clear who the perpetrators are and their motive, though some witnesses alluded that they were Fulani herdsmen.

Below is the statement from

Adegboruwa:

“The Tragedy in Owo is ungodly. Today, the people of Ondo State and Nigeria woke up to the sad news of the massacre of worshippers in Owo, Ondo State, right inside the church.

“It is ungodly to take any life, whatever the motive may be. Whether in the mosque or church, innocent worshippers should not be killed in the course of the practice of their faith.

‘Although no one has claimed responsibility for this dastardly act, the security agencies bear a duty to unravel the perpetrators and bring them to justice.’

“My appeal is to all those who have grievances to adopt the rule of law to ventilate them. The bloodshed in the land is too much and no reason can be advanced for this desperate act of wickedness.

“Owo, being the hometown

of Governor Oluwarotimi Akereolu, I pray that this dastardly act has nothing to do with his principled stand on national issues such as restructuring, resource control, power rotation, restriction on open grazing and state police.

“The Governor has been at the forefront of the implementation of the regional security outfit, Amotekun; which has been hugely successful in crime reduction. I urge him not to relent in any of these noble pursuits, if that is the genuine desire of the people that he represents.

“My heartfelt condolences go to the families of the innocent souls that were brutally terminated, the Catholic Church and the people and government of Ondo State.

“I hope in no time, the perpetrators will all be fished out and dealt with according to law. May Nigeria survive.”



Ebun Adegboruwa

## Sanwo-Olu commiserates with Ondo over Owo attack

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commiserated with his Ondo State counterpart, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi (SAN), and the State Government, over the attack and killings of worshippers at St. Francis Catholic Church at Owa-luwa Street, Owo, by unknown gunmen on Sunday.

Sanwo-Olu, who described the attack as callous, inhuman and a despicable act, also sympathised with the people of Ondo State, especially the residents of Owo,

Akeredolu’s hometown and members of the St. Francis Catholic Church, Owa-luwa.

Sanwo-Olu in a condolence message issued on Sunday by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, condemned the attack by the gunmen, saying it is crime against humanity to open fire on worshippers on Sunday morning killing scores of people.

The Governor, who also commiserated with the Catholic Church of Nigeria and the Christian Association of Nigeria

(CAN), expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the ugly incident.

He said: “On behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, I commiserate with Governor Oluwarotimi Akereolu, Ondo State Government and the entire people of the State over the tragic loss in the state caused by the attack and killings of worshippers by the evil men this morning.

“Attacking a congregation and shedding innocent blood during a divine service in the temple

of God is condemnable as it is a crime against humanity. It is barbaric, callous and despicable crime for any man to attack and kill worshippers or any fellow man in a manner the yet-to-be-identified gunmen carried out the heinous crime in the Catholic church on this morning.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, families and the Christian community and the people of Owo as well as the entire people of Ondo State, who are affected by this unfortunate incident.”



# Police demote officer allegedly involved in cultism

By **PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR**, Abuja

Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has approved the punishment of reduction in rank for an officer caught in a viral video allegedly promoting and showcasing his involvement in cultism.

According to a statement on Sunday by the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the officer, Isaac Mathew, who is attached to the Ebonyi State Police Command, was demoted from Corporal to Constable.

Recall that the officer was caught in a viral TikTok video on May 7, 2022, dressed in full Police

uniform while singing, dancing and brandishing an AK47 rifle in praise of a secret confraternity.

"This decision follows the outcome of the Orderly Room Trial of the concerned officer and a review of the recommended punishment for the offences of Discreditable Conduct, Promoting Secret Cults and violation of the Social Media Policy (SMP) of the Nigeria Police Force.

"The Force is currently looking into many other disciplinary cases of unprofessionalism and misconduct by officers in encounters with members of the public. Meanwhile, orderly room trials are ongoing and decisions reached at the end of such trials will be

made known as the current police administration is committed to a transparent, accountable and proactive policing system in Nigeria

"The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, psc(+), NPM, fdc, therefore charges all police officers to uphold professional ethics, discipline and the ideals of the Nigeria Police Force. He further charges them to be committed to self-discipline in line with the IGP's policing agenda of ethical regeneration, restoration of professional standards, enhancement of anti-corruption drive with a view to having the desired Police institution Nigerians deserve," Adejobi said.



IGP Usman Alkali Baba

## NDLEA arrests physically challenged lady, 11 other alleged drug dealers

By **PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR**, Abuja

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have arrested a physically challenged woman, Kasarachi Onumajuru, and 11 others.

A statement on Sunday by the Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi, said the 35-year old lady who was arrested on 29th May, 2022, was hiding under her condition to deal in illicit drugs in Umudumaonu community, Mbaitoli local government area of Imo state.

The statement also said 11 other suspects were arrested after their attempt to beat security at the Lagos and Abuja Airports with large consignments of assorted substances failed.

"Several attempts by agents of drug cartels to break through the security at Nigerias main airports in Lagos and Abuja with large consignments of assorted illicit substances have been thwarted by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA.

"No fewer than 11 members of the trafficking syndicates have been arrested in connection to the seizures," the statement said.

It explained that Ofor Chima Chileobi was first to be arrested after he attempted to export to

Dubai, UAE, 200 blocks of cannabis sativa weighing 30.20kg concealed in 40 sacks of bitter leaf through the SAHCO export shed, a cargo wing of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, on May 20.

"On the same day, 10 cartons of khat with a gross weight of 354.600kg were also seized at the NAHCO import shed of the airport. The following day, Saturday 21st May, a freight agent, Roland Orinami was arrested by NDLEA operatives attached to the local wing of the Lagos airport with 1.90kg Loud, a variant of cannabis, factory packed in some bottles while trying to send same via flight to Abuja.

"A follow up operation in Abuja led to the arrest of a taxi driver, Nsirik Evans sent to collect the consignment. His confession also led to the arrest of the actual owner, Adesanya Olakunle Isaac at his house in Life Camp area of Abuja. Adesanya who claims to be into Information Technology, accepted ownership of the seized drug, which he said was meant for an upcoming birthday party of one of his friends," the statement added.

In another development on May 24, another freight agent, Moshood Azeez Olaide was arrested at NAHCO export shed of the MMIA when he presented a cargo containing psychotropic substances heading to Dubai.

According to the statement, "The illegal consignment was packed into other items such as can drinks, liquid bitters and other non-controlled drugs. The seized drugs include Tramadol 225mg, Rohypnol and MDMA. A follow up operation led to the arrest of another suspect linked to the crime, Olagboye Selim on Friday 27th May.

"Also on the same day, operatives of the Nigerian Customs Service at NAHCO import shed transferred 15 cartons of khat leaf with a gross weight of 256.70kg, which came into the country on Royal Air Maroc to NDLEA command at the airport."

Similarly, another freight agent, Lasebikan Felix Gbega was arrested with 200 bottles of pentazocine injection, with a brand name "Drutapent" weighing 1.05kg on May 23rd.

The consignment was said to be heading to the United States of America.

Also, on May 26, another agent, Akuta Chioma Lucy was arrested at the SAHCO export shed while attempting to export 14.75kg of khat concealed inside other vegetable leaves and food condiments such as bitter leaf, scent leaf, pepper, all packed in bags for shipment to the United Kingdom.

The statement further revealed that "At the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, a 45-year-old Ezika Ugochukwu Nicholas from Ichida, Anocha area of Anambra state was arrested on Thursday 26th May for ingesting 60 pellets of cocaine weighing 1.037kg on arrival from Addis Ababa on board Ethiopian airline.

"Ezika who claims he's into shoe business before his arrest travelled to Ethiopia on 23rd May on the invitation of the person who gave him the drug, which he ingested before returning into the waiting arms of NDLEA officers at the Abuja airport."

In the same vein, efforts by drug cartels to export 4kg methamphetamine concealed in nylon rolls to New Zealand were also frustrated by anti-narcotic officers attached to a courier company in Lagos.

The officers also blocked different quantities of cannabis sativa and Tramadol hidden in soles of slippers from being shipped to Oman through the same firm.

Meanwhile, no fewer than 335,820 tablets of Tramadol, Exol 5, Diazepam and Rohypnol as well as 400 bottles of codeine syrup concealed in bags of vegetables have been intercepted in Abuja in a hummer passenger bus coming from Enugu on 30th May.

"The bus driver, Augustine James, 35, is currently helping investigation," the statement said.

It added, "In Imo state, 1,111kg of cannabis sativa heading to the Orlu forest, which has become a fortress for non-state actors, was intercepted on Thursday 26th May."

Chairman/Chief Executive of NDLEA, Brig-Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) commended the officers and men of NDLEA for sustaining the heat on drug cartels.



Brig-Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa

## Terrorists abduct 'many' in Katsina

By **JAMES DANJUMA**, Katsina

loved ones.

Terrorists have abducted an unspecified number of people, including women and children, at Farfaru and Kwari communities in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina state.

The Farfaru incident happened at about 3pm on Saturday, while the Kwari incident occurred at about 9.30pm of the same day.

It was gathered that the terrorists also rustled several domestic animals from the two communities, and shot some of the residents that were trying to flee from the attack.

No lives were said to have been lost, however, several persons were said to have been injured and currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

It was also gathered that the attack led to a mass exodus of residents from the two communities, with several of them currently located at Jibia town.

A source living in the area said the number of those abducted were "many", and that several community members were yet to know about the whereabouts of their loved ones.

He said several of those abducted were women and children, including the elderly ones, as they were not able to flee into the bush when the terrorists stormed both communities.

He said that as at Sunday afternoon, some of the residents were still making frantic efforts to know about the fate of their

One of the residents of Farfaru community said the terrorists were on a reprisal mission.

According to him, the terrorists were unhappy because of the arrest of some of their colleagues few days ago by security operatives.

He added that the terrorists were suspecting that some people in the community gave security operatives the information that led to the arrest of their colleagues.

"Only God knows the number of our villagers that the terrorists kidnapped. They also burnt down our houses and rustled our animals.

"Security operatives who arrived Farfaru later saved us from further punishment in the hands of the terrorists. The Security operatives drove them back to the forests. Many of us have relocated to Jibia for our own safety," he said.

Terrorists also ransacked Kwari village, shot several people and rustled dozens of animals.

Some of those injured are receiving treatment at the Jibia hospital, while the village is said to have been deserted.

When contacted, spokesperson for the Katsina Police Command, SP Gambo Isah confirmed the incidents, but did not provide details.

Isah said he would need to get across to the DPO in charge of the two communities to know what actually happened.



# Omo-Agege bemoans PDP's failure in Delta

## •Calls on citizens to join him in rescue mission

By **KELVIN OHOROR**

Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege has lamented the gross negligence of key economic and development indicators in Delta State by successive governments.

The senator flayed what he described as the deplorable development indices following the choking economic grip of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on the state.

Director, Communications and Media Strategy of the Omo-Agege Campaign Organisation, Ima Niboro, in a statement said despite the state's huge oil and non-oil earnings, successive PDP governments have effectively run t aground.

Niboro, a former presidential spokesman in the administration of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and ex-Managing Director, News Agency of Nigeria

(NAN), invited members of the public to soberly ponder on the aggravating negative social indicators in the state, including escalating crime rate, decaying infrastructure, sky-rocketing unemployment and overwhelming poverty eclipsing it.

He said Omo-Agege who is the APC governorship candidate considered these social indicators in the state and accordingly challenged himself to commit to a career of working tirelessly and seeking the collaboration and support of men and women of goodwill to join in the mission to rescue and reposition the state for economic and social renaissance.

Niboro stated that the backwardness and crippling debts which successive PDP governments in the state has imposed on Delta were not deserved given the huge,



Ovie Omo-Agege

abundant human and natural resources that she is blessed with.

He said Omo Agege has developed a carefully thought-out roadmap to take the state out of its current distress and

hopelessness.

He noted that the current PDP administration in the state has received over N770 billion from the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC). However, Niboro wondered why far less endowed states in respect to receipts from the Federation Account and internally generated revenues, IGR, such as Ebonyi and Borno would be pulling landmark development projects back-to-back while Delta was nowhere to be found.

He contended that the "deplorable socio-economic situation on ground was enough justification to act radically to reverse the steady degradation,"

Niboro appealed to Deltans to rally under the unfolding political movement led by Omo-Agege to rescue Delta, enthrone good governance and reposition the state as a leading economic powerhouse in the country.

## Okowa commended over healthcare, roads

Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa has been commended for ongoing distribution of free insecticide treated nets to the people as well as road projects.

However, there are complaints elsewhere about infrastructure deficits.

Speaking with newsmen at Ogbolokposo in Uvwie Local Government Area, Mrs. Ejio Oniovosa, a pregnant woman commended the state government for tackling malaria in the community through the distribution of free insecticide treated net.

According to her, Okowa as a medical doctor knows the negative consequences of mosquito bite on pregnant women and children.

She commented the health officers for their effective distribution of the insecticide treated net to the doors of the people.

Mamma Elohor, an elderly woman who spoke in Urhobo, commended the government for the free insecticide net.

"Governor Okowa is a good

person who cares for the health of Deltans and he do not want us to fall sick of malaria, he has a good heart, may God bless him," she said.

She appealed to the state Government to bring down the prices of foodstuff making life difficult.

Chairman, Ughelli North Local Government, Chief Godwin Adode and the Ughelli North Primary Healthcare Development Agency, kicked off the distribution of free house to house insecticide treated nets (ITNs), to prevent the spread of malaria.

Speaking at the event held at Ughelli north council hall, wife of the chairman, Chief Evelyn Adode, stated that malaria constitutes "a huge burden for our health situation as it is the highest cause of hospital attendance responsible for absenteeism from work, school and many other places."

Okowa has also been praised over the rehabilitation of Commissioner Road, Effurun by some residents and commuters.

They stated that the rehabilitation of the road was a huge relief to them as it will boost the socio-economic life of the area.

Most passengers avoided the road when it was bad. They preferred passing through Effurun / Otokutu Express Junction to Uti Road.

"But now, we have been witnessing boom in our business since the rehabilitation of the road," Hassan Isah, a commercial cycle rider said.

It is a major link between the East West (by Effurun/ Ughelli Express Way) and Uti roads, Effurun.

However, Yoruba Road in Otovwodo (Agbassa) Community area in Warri has been overtaken by weeds.

The once beautiful but now beleaguered road is bordered

on both sides by the fence of the deplorable Agbassa Primary School and uninhabited and dilapidated Government Quarters, close to an abandoned vehicle maintenance workshop and a sparsely occupied residential building.

A resident of the residential building who not did not want her name mentioned, stated: "We ( occupants of the building ) tried our best to clear the weeds even on non-environmental sanitation days but our effort was not enough because we are few that live in entire Yoruba Road."

She also complained that besides being impassable, the road is now inhabited by dangerous reptiles, particularly snakes.

The residents passionately appealed to the relevant authorities to permanently get rid of the weeds and restore the road to its original state befitting a city like Warri.

## Food scarcity, price increase fears grip farmers amid floods

Some farmers and concerned individuals have expressed fear of scarcity of staple foods like garri, yam and others as well as astronomical price increase due to early flooding ravaging farmlands in some communities in Delta State.

The floods, which came as a surprise to them, according to one of the farmers whose farmland was affected, has destroyed their yam and cassava, forcing them into early and fruitless harvest.

One of them, a retired civil servant in Okpe Olomu, Ughelli South Local Government Area, Mr James Etele, said all his cas-

sava and tomatoes farms were destroyed,

Etele explained that they normally harvest cassava from the farm in July but this time the flood came in May.

He lamented that his only hope of survival as a retired civil servant had been dashed, adding that if the trend continues, prices of garri and other foodstuff may rise astronomically in the near future.

He appealed to the Delta State Government for assistance.

Another farmer, Mrs Emeren whose yam farm was affected by the flood, while harvesting them expressed fear that hunger

was imminent, just as she noted that the price of garri had been on a steady increase since late last month, jumping from one thousand naira (#1000) to one thousand two hundred naira (#1200).

Emeren disclosed that most farmers were already harvesting their cassava because of the weather.

Mrs. Dora Oru, a primary school teacher in Ughelli South Local Government Area, expressed fear that hunger was palpable.

She noted that salaries had been constant while prices of foodstuffs were on increase daily.

## Rotary carries out free medical mission in Warri

A free medical mission tagged "Zero Malaria Initiative" has been carried out by Rotary Club in Patani Local Government Area of Delta State.

The team, led by the president-elect of Rotary Club Maple Grove, District 5950, Minnesota, USA, as the main organiser, Mrs. Jennifer Nebi Borel, in an interview after the flag-off of the five-day event and the unveiling and distribution of items, explained that the project was part of the humanitarian services rendered by the organisation globally.

It was carried out incollaboration with Rotary Club, Agege, Lagos and Rotary Club Ughelli, Delta State.

She talked about the deadliness of the malaria parasite and how it affects the liver, brain and can lead to convulsion and mental disorder, if not properly treated. She said that there would be free medication for 12 months in the 15 wards, tests, distribution of eye drops and glasses.

She said that a Rotary Cub will soon be established in Patani, in line with the indicated interest of the king of Kabowei kingdom.

King Peremobowei Erebulu II, expressed delight for the Zero Malaria initiative of in his kingdom and assured them of his willingness and that of his seven chiefs to join the club for the sake of humanity.

## Community jubilant over power supply, three years after

Oton Community in Sapele is jubilating as electricity was restored to them after three years of outage.

Residents of the community came out spontaneously to celebrate when they suddenly saw the restoration of light.

Many took to dancing along the major street at Oton Village and others chose to pour fashion powder on their head and neck, a traditional way of expressing joy.

Mrs Juliet Okpako, a fish trader, was full of joy when interviewed.

She said her business had been relying on generator to power her fridges which make her to sell her wares at a higher price compared to what is being sold at Sapele metropolis.

She added that with the restoration of electricity, she can now afford to sell at the the same price with fish traders in Sapele metropolis.

Mr. Obehi Okodede, a resident, said life had been hell at the community for the past three years because perishable food items were sold at very high prices.

Many residents interviewed praised the state government for restoring the electricity.



Gov Ifeanyi Okowa



# Showdown looms over abandoned N85b East-West road project

•Indorama, PHRC, Onne port, others to be cut off

By **CHRIS EZEONOH**, Port Harcourt

There are indications that stakeholders who barricaded the ever busy 18-kilometer Eleme axis of the popular East-West road in Rivers State in July last year are planning a fresh showdown over the failure of Federal Government to fulfill the pledge to construct the expressway which is in a terrible state of disrepair.

The road which leads to the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone, and the Nigeria Ports Authority, all in Onne equally services heavy duty trucks lifting petroleum products from the Port Harcourt refinery, Alesa, Eleme and those lifting fertilizer from Notore and Indorama-Eleme Petrochemical and Fertilizer Company, among others. Experts say an estimated 10, 000 vehicles, mostly heavy duty, ply the road every hour, a situation they say accounts for the regular collapse of the road.

A youth leader who was one of the arrow heads of the protest last year hinted that plans were afoot for the stakeholders to return to the action suspended last year following assurances by the then Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Chief Godswill Akpabio that government had awarded the contract for the reconstruction of the road to Reynolds Construction Company, (RCC).

"I can assure you that we are mobilizing internally and talking to ourselves because this time it is going to be massive. We have seen that this government does not take the life of our people as anything. You can see the road yourself how it has degenerated since the rains started pounding on it. We have no option left than to go back to the road and occupy it till we see concrete action being taken to put the road in a good shape", he said.

The youth leader who would not want to be mentioned further said they were waiting for the chairman of Eleme Local Government Council, Hon. Obarilomate Olor who championed the action last year to conclude his consultations for a hitch-free action.

*The Trumpet* recalls that following the deplorable condition of the 18 kilometer section of the road spanning from Trailer Park to Eleme Junction, linking Port Harcourt -Aba express road and the consequent series of fatal accidents and frustrating traffic jam on the ever busy road without redress, stakeholders made up of Ogoni and Eleme youths, civil society groups and representatives of some of the companies operating within the Eleme industrial hub occupied the Akpajo Junction of the road for one week, using heavy duty trucks that the tires were deflated to create a barricade both at the Akpajo and refinery junctions.

The action which took place July last year paralyzed social and economic activities and brought untold hardship to people. Importers and clearing

agents using the Onne water channel to bring and clear their goods and other multinational companies operating at Onne were worst hit by the action as they counted their losses.

However, *The Trumpet* learnt that the Federal Government responded by sending the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, representing the minister, Godswill Akpabio who came and dialogued with the protesters, with an assurance that government was sourcing the sum of N85 billion to fund the project after securing N2.5 billion for the contractors, Reynolds Construction Company, (RCC) as mobilization fee to begin work immediately on the road.

It was gathered that RCC actually mobilized to site and started clearing and soil testing, but after a while disappeared unceremoniously. A community source in Eleme however told our correspondent that officials from the Federal Ministry of Works came to the community and informed them that the project had been taken over

by the ministry and listed it to be funded from the Federal Infrastructure Development Fund Program.

*The Trumpet* learnt that what is fuelling anxiety among the stakeholders is that the rains are coming heavily and washing away the remedial restoration work RCC had done before pulling out of site, yet the ministry of works is not forthcoming on their own side with the intervention from Federal Infrastructure Development Fund.

Checks at the Federal Ministry of Works, federal secretariat, Port Harcourt confirmed the take-over of the road project from the Niger Delta Ministry, but a source in the office said the necessary paper work were yet to be concluded.

When our correspondent visited the road, vehicles were moving on snail speed and at the same time making dangerous detours as they meander around large potholes and gullies, while commuters usually have their hearts in their mouth until they escape the 18 kilometer stretch as they journey on the road.

"The anguish on the road is terrifying", says a staff of one of the companies in Onne who plies the road daily while going to work. "I have never been diagnosed of having high blood pressure, but since I was transferred to our branch at Onne, I have been on BP drug occasioned by the anxiety of passing through this road.

"You can imagine the prospect of coming face to face with a container laden truck meandering and dodging the potholes littered on the road on a single lane since the other lane has been completely abandoned. It is terrifying to say the least", he crooned.

Dr. Okey Okoro, Chairman Onne Seaport chapter of the National Association of Freight Forwarders lamented the challenges members of the association are facing as a result of the dilapidated road.

He told *The Trumpet*: "The dangers we face are uncountable. The colossal loss cannot be quantified. We have cases and cases again where entire container get wasted.

"Land freight insurance com-

panies don't touch containers on that road. If you insist on doing land insurance, the premium is very prohibitive. The level of insecurity has increased. Hardly does any month pass without the news of our member being kidnapped or robbed on that road because vehicles move very slowly", Okoro explained.

According to him, the condition of the road has scaled down the level of business coming to Onne port as people now seek alternative to Lagos or Port Harcourt ports. Added to this he said is the rising cost of haulage bills.

"Before now, it was N150,000 we used to pay for a truck to Onitsha, but it is now N400,000. Port Harcourt was 75,000, it is now, N250,000. The wear and tear of the vehicles we use on the road have also worsened", he pointed out.

He wondered why the government would not rise to the occasion and fix the road given its economic importance to the nation.

## Unknown gunman killed in failed kidnap attempt

By **CHARLES ONYEKWERE**, South-East Correspondent

An unknown gunman on Sunday met his Waterloo in Anambra State as the effort of his gang to kidnap someone was resisted by gallant security operatives.

Gunmen who eyewitnesses said were four in number stormed Oko community in Ekwulobia, Aguata local government area of the state where they planned to execute the Kidnap.

They came in a Jeep but the timely intervention of the officers led to the killing of one of them while the others escaped.

"They came through Nanka road and heading towards Ekwulobia before they were repelled by security agents," an eyewitness told our correspondent.

"Their operational vehicle was also recovered by the military men."

The lifeless body of the dead gunman was seen in a video with the body having many objects suspected to be charms.

Confirming the development, the Anambra State Police Command Public Relations Officer, DSP Ikenga Tochukwu told journalists that the operation followed the information received by the command in the afternoon.

"Following information gathered of an abduction that took place today 5 June 2022 about 1:30pm along Oko and Ekwulobia.

"The Police embarked on a rescue operation which resulted in the neutralising some of the armed hoodlums and recovery of some of their operational vehicles.

"The operation is ongoing now. I will get back to you with full details as soon as I can please," Ikenga said.

Anambra State in the recent time have come under heavy attack by the dreaded unknown gunmen and this has led to many bloodletting.



Chaos, danger as a result of the poor condition of the East-West Road.

Photo by CHRISTIAN EZE

## 'Umahi still in presidential race, did not step down for Lawan'

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**, Abuja

Ebonyi State Governor David Umahi is contesting the presidential primary election of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as he has not bowed out of the race.

Contrary to a social media report that the governor has withdrawn by stepping down for the Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, the Ebonyi State executive is very much in the race.

Francis Nwaze, Special Assistant to the Governor (Media and Publicity) said there is the need for this clarification as the 13 aspirants goes into the primary election today.

Nwaze in a statement made available to newsmen said the attention of the Governor has been drawn to a news story purportedly broadcast on the stable of one of the revered Television Stations in Nigeria, the Arise Television in which it was announced that Engineer David Nweze Umahi has stepped down his aspiration for

his fellow presidential aspirant and Senate President, Ahmed Lawal ahead of the presidential primary.

The statement read "without much ado, I make the following clarifications to guide the teeming supporters of Engineer Umahi, members and stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress, APC, and Nigerians at large.

"The news item is totally false in context and content. This raises a question mark about the credibility of the source of such fallacy, what never took place which is capable of putting Engineer Umahi's aspiration in jeopardy.

"For the sake of discerning minds, what happened was that Senate President, Ahmed Lawal in a last-ditch effort to ramp up partnership ahead of the APC Presidential Primary, visited Governor Umahi in his Abuja residence on Saturday where they both promised to support whoever amongst the two and other Aspirants that emerge the Flagbearer of the Party in the Primary. The Senate President even

took out time to eulogize Engineer Umahi for making the Party proud through his purposeful governance in Ebonyi State.

"There was no time during the visit that the issue of stepping down by either Engineer Umahi or the Senate President was discussed or even suggested.

"It, therefore, becomes a serious concern how the Arise Television got themselves enmeshed in this kind of professional miscarriage of reality without verifying the authenticity or otherwise of their news source.

"The teeming supporters of Engineer Umahi across Nigeria and beyond are encouraged to disregard the ill-fated news item which is by all standards fake, and go about their solidarity on the assurance that His Excellency the Governor is still very much in the race to develop Nigeria, God willing, he will emerge in the Presidential Primary of our great Party, the All Progressives Congress."



## Implications of vote buying as EFCC cautions against menace

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Effects of vote buying on Nigeria's democratic journey have been alarming such that the outcome of elections cannot be adjudged outright to be free, fair and credible.

Voters inducement has had a very negative impact on the outcome of elections across the country; often than not, the highest bidder with cash to throw around emerges winner of elections not the most popular, most preferable, most competent, or most intelligent candidate with the technical know-how to fix the nagging problems bedeviling the country.

The urban areas to the remotest rural areas, most electorates look forward to political seasons, which are largely seen as a time that politicians dish out free money to the people. This has not just made politics expensive, it has also opened doors of public services to the very corrupt people in the society without clues to grow the country.

When in office, the political elites take

pride in impoverishing the electorates and show up every four years after to buy their votes and consciences with peanuts ranging from N500 to N10,000, making it appear as a form of favour being done to the people.

As the 2023 elections approach, critical stakeholders are wondering if the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would in collaboration with anti-graft agencies arrest the menace of votes buying and conduct a credible polls.

So far, the news of voters inducement are already overwhelming the polity with the conduct of the ongoing party primaries, where it is being alleged that some aspirants are going as far as using hard currencies to induce delegates.

It was based on such rumours that operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) stormed the presidential primary venue of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) days ago.

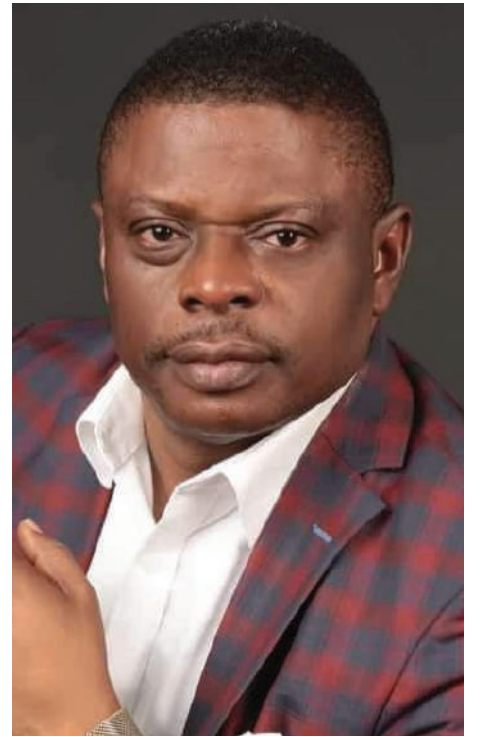
The anti-graft agency in a bid to

sensitize Nigerians on the implications of votes buying, has called on the electorates to refrain from every act of vote buying and vote selling in the nation's electoral processes.

EFCC made the call in Abuja on Friday, June 3, 2022, by the Secretary of the Commission, Dr George Ekpungu, while receiving a delegation of the Civil Society Partners on Electoral Reform (CISPER) who paid a courtesy visit to the EFCC.

Ekpungu noted that every leadership's recruitment process in the country is very vital, and called on Nigerians to avoid selling their votes and their future to the highest bidder in the course of elections.

He commended CISPER for coming forward to partner with the EFCC in curbing the menace of vote buying and selling and called on other well-meaning Nigerians to come and partner with the Commission to aid the fight of all sorts of economic and financial crimes in the country.



Dr George Ekpungu

## EFCC detains Zulum's aide over post allegedly linking lawmaker to Accountant-General in N174b fraud saga

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Borno Zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has reportedly invited and detained Abdullahi Yusuf, senior special assistant to Governor Babagana Zulum, for questioning over a Facebook post.

Abdullahi had, on May 29, published a post saying it was rumoured that a prominent federal lawmaker from Borno may be linked to the N174 billion fraud case involving the suspended Accountant-General of the federation, Ahmed Idris.

Although the aide did not name the lawmaker, supporters of Muktari Betera, a member representing Biu federal constituency, went under the post to allege that he was referring to the lawmaker.

On May 30, Abdullahi, in a bid to provide more clarification on his post, again took to Facebook to explain what he meant.

"I did not mention any name. Unfortunately, some supporters of one particular lawmaker started raining all sorts of insults and threat directed at me. I only posted it because it was a trending issue.

"I never in anyway mentioned any name. I just reposted it the way I read it. If anyone feels offended, let the person rest assured that it was not intended for any malice. I just saw a trending issue online and shared



Abdullahi Yusuf

it," he said.

Abdullahi was then said to have received an invitation from the EFCC zonal office in Maiduguri.

He was reported to have arrived the EFCC

office the next day and asked to provide the source of the information he shared on Facebook.

The aide, however, reportedly said he picked the post randomly from Facebook and flagged it as a rumour being made by others which was misinterpreted.

Abdullahi was said to have been detained afterwards despite efforts by family members to get him released, as the zonal head insisted that he was following a directive from the EFCC headquarters.

However, when contacted, Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC spokesman, told newsmen that he was yet to get information on the matter.

"I will find out. I don't have the report," he said.

Recall that the suspended Accountant-General has been released from detention by the anti-graft agency.

Uwujaren, while confirming his release said, "The suspended Accountant-General is out on bail. He was released last night (Wednesday)."

Idris was arrested by operatives of the EFCC on May 16, 2022, in connection with a series of frauds that was initially thought to be N84 billion.

Three days after his arrest, Idris was suspended by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, to enable him face his probe

## EFCC tasks corps members on public awareness against graft

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has called on members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to intensify campaigns aimed at carrying the anti-graft message to the grassroots, especially among primary and secondary school pupils.

The charge was made at the weekend when officers of the Commission visited the EFCC/NYSC Community Development Service (CDS) Group, Area 1 Branch, Abuja, to sensitize them on effective ways of reaching their audience when carrying out their sensitization duties.

The Commission, represented by Martha Ojochokutami Eche of the Public Affairs Directorate, stressed that the anti-corruption fight belongs to all Nigerians and must be fought with all vigour, even by children who are being groomed as leaders of tomorrow.

She charged the corps members to penetrate the grassroots by reaching out to the younger generation, adding that it is more profitable to sensitize young people on the dangers of corruption on the society so they can avoid the menace as they grow.

## Why INEC stopped storage of electoral materials in CBN

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has halted the storage of sensitive election materials in Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), citing the current political affiliation and ambition of the apex financial institution's governor, Godwin Emefiele, as the reason.

INEC Chairman, Mahmood Yakubu, disclosed this at the weekend, saying that the sensitive materials in respect of the forthcoming Ekiti and Osun States elections would be delivered directly by the commission to its respective offices.

Yakubu made this disclosure while

responding to questions at a Forum organized by "The Electorate" on Saturday at the Shehu Musa Yar Adua Center, Abuja.

The INEC Chairman was asked about the warehousing of election materials with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in view of the issues surrounding the Governors declared political interest.

Yakubu acknowledged the concerns raised by citizens relating to the issue considering the sensitive nature of election materials and the need for trust and confidence in the electoral process.

He stated that in respect of the Ekiti Governorship election holding on the 18th June, 2022, "the Commission will deliver all the sensitive materials meant

for the election directly to our office in Ado-Ekiti and distributed to the 16 Local Government Areas of the State."

He stated further that the Commission is looking at the same situation with regard to the Osun Governorship election holding on the 16th day of July 2022.

However, he added that the direct delivery of the sensitive materials to Ekiti and Osun are interim measure pending further discussions with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ahead of the 2023 General Election.

The Chairman, however, commended the handling of materials by CBN since the collaboration started, there has not been a single incident of failure in that regard



Godwin Emefiele



## 'Superbiker' Adeyanju set to auction bike for N10m, Nigerian museum wants acquisition

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE, METRO EDITOR/LAGOS BUREAU CHIEF

A part from Kunle Adeyanju, who rose to prominence following his London-to-Lagos journey, his bike, Eagle, has also received attention. The bike, which is set to be auctioned, has become extremely popular, with many people wanting to try their luck standing next to it.

Kunle Adeyanju previ-

ously stated that he will auction his bike for N10 million and donate a portion of the proceeds to charity.

Although the proposed auction date has not yet been set, CRIMMD Museum has stated that it wishes to keep the bike.

According to Kunle, he plans to sell the famed bike for the sum of N10m, part of which he will donate to charitable courses.



## Police arrest armed robbers on Apongbon bridge, Lagos, recover stolen items

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE



Officers of Ijora Badia Division of the Lagos State Police Command, have arrested one Mustapha Mohammed 'm' aged 37 and Abdullahi Buba 'm' aged 20, while escaping with their loot after robbing some Lagosians.

The suspects were arrested following credible information received by

the police about an ongoing robbery on Apongbon Bridge, Ebute-Ero. A third suspect, bearing arms shot his way into escaping.

Items recovered from the suspects include one Bajaj motorcycle, one new LG plasma TV, 66 various items ordered online from Jumia, one HP Laptop, one bag of Honeywell flour and one

iron cutter.

The suspects, who confessed to have robbed at the same spot several times, are currently assisting the police in an ongoing investigation to arrest other fleeing members of the gang. Suspects will be arraigned in court at the conclusion of investigations.

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP

Abiodun Alabi, once again assured Lagosians that the Command would continue to do everything operationally possible to ensure that crime and criminality has no place in Lagos State.

SP Benjamin Hundeyin, Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, related this to the press on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

## Woman allegedly dies in restroom evading EFCC arrest

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

A business woman, Olufunmbi Jaiyeola, has allegedly died in her toilet while running away from operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), who invaded her residence in Magodo area of Lagos.

The EFCC had stormed her house at number 15, Dele Onabule Street, Magodo Brooks on June 2, to effect her arrest over an undisclosed reasons.

According to a police source, the woman refused to open the door for the

officials, who laid siege for hours, but a family member later surfaced and gained access into the house. The operatives also followed and gained access into the house as well.

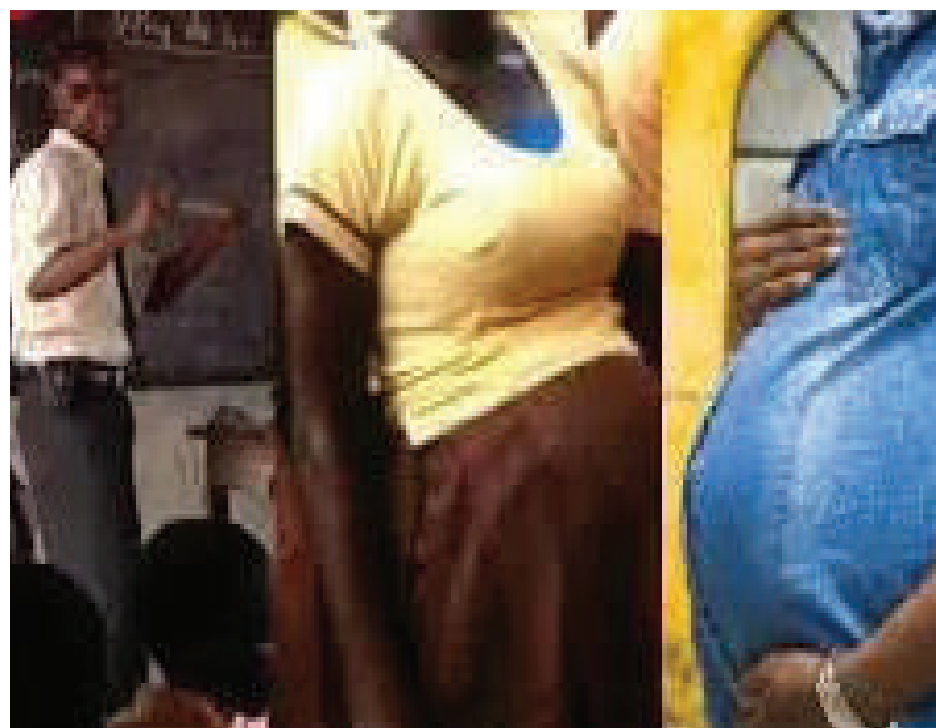
According the police officer, "While EFCC, in company of the suspect's relatives were searching for her, they discovered that she was hiding in the toilet and they forced the door open, only to meet the woman fuming from her mouth and gasping for breath."

The EFCC and her relatives rushed her to

Lagoon Hospital, Adeniji Jones, Ikeja, where she was certified dead on arrival.

Her body has been deposited in the hospital's morgue, while the EFCC officials reported the matter at the police station and made statement.

When our Correspondent put a call to EFCC Spokesman, Mr Wilson Uwujare, for his reaction, he promised to call back, but never did. "Really, I am not aware of the story, so I have not been briefed. I will call you back when I get information about what transpired," he said.



## Trainee-teacher allegedly impregnates 24 students, four female teachers, headmistress

A student teacher who is doing his mandatory teaching practice has created an unwanted misconduct record in Ghana.

Reports indicated that, a student teacher on teaching practice in one of the basic schools in the Asokore Mampong municipality, in the Ashanti Region, has allegedly done the unthinkable. He has allegedly impregnated 24 students under his tutorship.

The student teacher was also reported to have put four regular female teachers in the family way, as well as the school

headmistress.

The student teacher is a level 400 student of a popular College of Education in the Western Region.

The report of the sexual escapades of the student teacher hit the climax when community members

got wind of his amorous relationship with the headmistress, Voltawebpage.com report says.

The Asokore Mampong Municipal Police Command were said to have arrested the said trainee after a report was made to them.



## Late night inferno kills 20 persons, mother, child

No fewer than 20 persons, including a mother and her child have been confirmed dead after a late night fire incident burnt them at Sheka, Kano State.

Reports say that the victims were burnt beyond recognition, as the fire struck them in the middle of the night at Gandun Albasa-Bala Barodo, in Kano Municipal Local Government.

The Kano State Fire Service Public Relations Officer, Saminu Yusuf Abdullahi, who confirmed the incident, said the office received a distress call from one Ibrahim Ashiru that a

five-room bungalow was completely razed.

Saminu said that the victims were rescued unconscious and handed over to Inspector Shehu Lawan of Kwali Police Station, adding that doctors on duty at Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital confirmed them dead.

He decried rising cases of fire disasters, as over 20 people were burnt beyond recognition in a late night fire on Thursday at Sheka Karshen Kwalta.

He added that 20 sheep and eight grain silos were also burnt to ashes in Kunchi Local Government Area of the State.





## Police nab alleged notorious car thief, recover stolen Hilux, others

By PAUL MICHAEL

**K**ano State Police Command has arrested one Ibrahim Usman, an alleged notorious car thief in possession of a white Toyota Hilux vehicle.

According to a statement on Saturday by the Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, the 34 year old suspect was intercepted by a team of Operation Puff Adder led by SP Rabi'u Ahmed during a routine patrol along BUK Road, Kano on 31st May 2022.

"On preliminary investigation, the suspect confessed to having stolen the said Toyota

Hilux Motor Vehicle at Madobi Road, Kumbotso LGA Kano State. The suspect belongs to a notorious syndicate that specialized in Car Theft by removing Motor Vehicles from where parked.

"He was previously arrested for the same offense and charged to court. Further investigation led to the arrest of one Hamisu Ibrahim, 'm', 55 years old of, Sharada Quarters Kano. The suspect specialized in manufacturing and selling Motor Vehicles and Tricycles master keys to criminals. Twenty Nine (29) keys were found in his possession," Kiyawa said.

In similar development, the police said

significant arrests have been made in a another case of car theft, leading to the recovering of nine (9) vehicles.

According to the spokesman, the vehicle plate numbers are PLATEAU BSA-272AA, PLATEAU JJN-782PQ, PLATEAU BUU-964AA, KANO AE560-BNK, KANO AA955-BNK, KANO AE485-KKU, KATSINA AE871-DRA, LAGOS DC360-FST and LAGOS AAA-328DW.

"Anyone whose Motor Vehicle was stolen and discovers his Motor Vehicle plate number above should report at the Public Relations Department, Bompai Police Command Headquarters Kano or contact 08105359575.

"The Commissioner of Police, Kano State Command, CP Sama'ila Shu'aibu Dikko, fsi ordered for discreet investigation after which the suspect(s) will be charged to court for prosecution. He reiterates that criminals will have no hiding place in Kano State. They are advised to either repent or leave the State completely.

"Otherwise, they will be arrested and face the full wrath of the Law. He thanked the good people of Kano State for their prayers, encouragement, continuous support, and cooperation. He urged residents to pray for the State, the Nation and report incidences to the nearest Police

Station, and not to take laws into their hands," Kiyawa added.

He assured that rigorous patrol and raids of criminal hideouts and black spots will continue throughout the State, adding that the Command will sustain the ongoing 'Operation Puff

Adder'.

He encouraged residents to contact the Command in case of emergencies via; 08032419754, 08123821575, 08076091271 or log into the "NPF Rescue Me" Application available on the Play Store.



## Sapele residents lament frequent killings

Killings in Sapele town has turned to a daily routine as two persons were gunned down at the weekend again at Ugbeyiyi and Mission road. Consequently, Sapele Divisional Police Officer, Harrison Nwabuisi called off the town hall meeting that was slated for June 4, 2022 at Okpe Community Hall.

Within two weeks, the number of assassinations by unknown gunmen has risen to about eight and yet no one could really say the reason for the killings.

One Samson, who was shot, was rushed to an undisclosed hospital, but died the next day.

Another one that took place at Mission road involved a member of the local vigilance group called Israel.

The victim did not die on the spot. He was rescued and taken for treatment in an undisclosed hospital.

The shootings are usually carried out between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

Sapele residents are calling on the Police force and all relevant security agencies in the town to step up their game and put an end to this menace that is almost getting out of hand.

Residents close their business earlier than normal because of the security situation.

A resident, Mr Christopher Anthony, ascribed the killings to youth restiveness and unemployment. He, therefore, called for major all stakeholders in Sapele to be concerned and do something.

Speaking to newsmen at his residence, he said that "urban population has grown, but urban jobs are not available to meet the increase in the population and I believe that fighting unemployment

is the key to ending insecurity in the town.

"Several factors account for Insecurity, but when you have growing unemployment in the society, where people are neither able to fend for themselves and neither do they have a source of livelihood, there is always the tendency that they will go into crime and that is why the crime rate has become very high.

"Everybody's must try to work hard to pull people out of unemployment and poverty. We must ensure that we begin to design the policies and programme that would continually engage our youths."

He said there was need for sensitization and awareness creation among youths.

"I am appealing to all youths in Sapele to give peace a chance, and drop arms," he added.

## Buhari's senior aide, Darazo rallies support for Tinubu

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

Mallam Ya'u Darazo, Senior Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari on Special Duties, has urged Nigerians, especially members of the All Progressives Congress, to ignore what he said was the malicious attempt by the opponents of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu to misrepresent what he told party leaders and delegates in Abeokuta, Ogun State on Thursday.

Darazo, in a statement he signed in his personal capacity as supporter of the presidential ambition of Tinubu, noted that the distortion of what the frontline presidential aspirant said was a dubious attempt to cause discord between him and President Buhari.

The Senior Presidential aide started his statement with public disclosure by stating he was speaking for himself as a member of the team working for Tinubu's campaign.

"Let me start with a disclaimer. I am issuing this statement in my personal capacity. This is very important before mischief makers start attributing it to some other persons.

For the avoidance of doubts, I am a supporter of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. I, therefore, belong to the Team assiduously working for Asiwaju's 2023 Presidential Project. On his mandate I stand!!"

While addressing party delegates and supporters in Abeokuta, Tinubu recalled his contribution to the formation of APC and how his support made it possible for President

Buhari to be elected President in 2015 having lost in 3 previous attempts in 2003, 2007 and 2011. Tinubu's address which was made in Yoruba was taking out of context by opponents and mischief makers to damage his standing with the President.

Darazo noted in his statement that President Buhari can see through the mischief having being a victim of misrepresentation himself in the past and no ill-motivated plot can destroy the relationship between Buhari and Tinubu.

"In the last 48 hours or so the media space has been polluted by the odious breath of mischief makers-nay ingrates? Who misrepresented Asiwaju's speech with the sole aim of planting discord between him and President Muhammadu Buhari. In their mischievous mind, that would earn them added advantage in the primaries for the Ticket of the APC.

"I have a message for them. They have failed woefully. They should not take Nigerians for granted; Nigerians are wise enough. Let the mischief makers note that, good and purposeful leadership is not on the same page with mischief. It's good that Nigerians know them early enough. It's very clear that their purpose of seeking leadership is not service driven.

"I was with Asiwaju in Abeokuta among other good people of Ogun State when he delivered the speech in question. It was in Yoruba Language. It was later translated to me—which I found quite acceptable and politically

relevant to audience and even beyond. Truth is Sacred. If the mischief makers think that by misrepresenting Asiwaju's Statement they will get the sympathy of the President; they have failed again—and failed woefully.

President Buhari is not a stranger to the bashing of media mischief. He is a veteran. He passed through it. He suffered from it like no other leader in this country. When he sees media mischief, he would know it; certainly, like this one against Asiwaju."

Citing examples of how President Buhari had been unfairly misrepresented in the past just to damage him politically, Darazo revealed that Buhari was presented to Nigerians as a religious bigot when he addressed a Muslim event in Sokoto in 2002.

"Let me for now give only three examples;

Firstly, few years ago, President Buhari delivered an address in Hausa language to a Muslim event in Sokoto. He urged Muslims to actively participate in politics particularly at the local levels and not only that, they should present some of their best in order to improve the quality governance at the local government and states assembly levels.

The mischief makers went to town propagating that General Buhari as he was then addressed, had urged Muslims to vote Muslims only. Their mission like this one on Asiwaju was to stop General Buhari's success by putting his opponent on an added advantage.

## FRSC celebrates World Bicycle Day

World Bicycle Day was celebrated at the weekend. June 3 is a day set aside by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the use of bicycle as a means of transportation.

To mark the day, the Warri Unit command of Federal Road Safety Corps, created the awareness on the need for bicycle riding.

The Warri Unit Commander of Federal Road Safety Corps, Assistant Corps Commander Danjuma Kpasha, who led members of the Corps and other riders along Delta Steel camp, said Cycling daily

helps with keeping physical health in check and increases stamina.

Assistant Corps Commander Danjuma added that being active ensures better immunity Nigerians should embrace Cycling in-order to promote well-being as well as to reduce crashes on Nigerians roads.

He noted that apart from being cheaper than Vehicle to acquire, Bicycle is cheap to maintain and healthy for physical well-being of man and his environment.

He enjoined motorists to continue to comply with all

traffic rules and regulations to reduce carnage on the roads urging cyclist's to ensure that they take to all the safety precautions when riding on major road.

Others riders including special Marshall unit 13 Secretary, Isaac Victor said Cycling has proven to provide relief to those who suffer from anxiety and has also made them happier by lowering their stress levels.

They noted that Cycling is one of the safest means of transportation, hence it should be encouraged for its many advantages.



# How can effective leaders emerge in 2023?

Many years after our national Independence, those we started with like the Asian Tigers have overtaken us because of effective leadership. We are still searching for effective leaders at all levels of governance. Our founding fathers and the United Nations desire effective leaders for Nigeria and Nigerians to be like the Asian Tigers. The hope at independence was that Nigeria would be led by effective leaders. Sadly, Nigeria's leaders have failed woefully. It has been a parade of rudderless leaders and rudderless parties.

Many more are of the opinion that if we are to have effective leaders, such leaders must have antecedence of performance that is not based on sentiments. They should be leaders that will not be ethnic based/biased and must be leaders that are nationalistic rather than clannish, leaders who are holistic, nationalistic, patriotic and mentor to all Nigerians and not few Nigerians. Now we are on the march again for such effective leaders to emerge at Local, State and Federal levels at 2023.

The prayer on everybody's lip is for the reality of how such effective leaders can emerge in 2023. For these to happen, the electorate and the delegates that appear not to know what Nigeria wants must be enlightened or educated about what constitutes effective leadership in Nigeria. We can only have effective leaders if we go back to the basics of democratic tenets. Such leaders must be chosen by the people because the people know what they want. They must not be leaders chosen by religion or region for the people. They must not

be leaders imposed by leaders of other groups, cabals or mafia of emotional or sentimental groups. They must be leaders that emerge in free and fair elections. They must be transparent leaders that the people will be happy to have as their leaders. They must be leaders that the people can send and not leaders that send or toss people up and down in a divide and rule game using religion – the opium of the people.

Effective leaders must be leaders that work for the people. They are leaders that work and labour for the unity, progress, and development of the land. Effective leaders do not have primitive tendencies for accumulation

of enormous wealth that are useless to them and their children. These are leaders that are not ethnically biased. They are leaders that are nationalistic rather than clannish.

Effective leaders are leaders that are for all religions, tribes, and creeds. Effective leaders always have policies that do promote unity, equity, and justice. Effective leaders are leaders that can take us to our destination. Effective leaders are not narrow-identity leaders that dance to the tom-tom beats of the bigotries of sects, cabals, or mafia of 'nattering nabobs of negativism' that are hell-bent on dividing a united Nation or the Nation that is already divided by centrifugal or centripetal forces. Effective leaders can never emerge by breaches of democratic process in rigging, ballot snatching and other electoral malpractices. Genuine and effective leaders can only be gotten via observation of internal democratic principles that produce leaders of the people for the people and by the people.

As 2023 draws near, we must tell ourselves the home truth that Nigeria cannot and may never get our desired genuine and effective leaders by recycling ancestor-leaders that had wasted their time and slots and are now hell-bent on usurping the times of their children and children's children.

We at The Trumpet are of the opinion that effective leaders are not and cannot be greedy. Effective leadership is not rocket science-neither is it a trial-and-error experimental governance. Effective leadership at all levels is doable if only the followers and leaders develop the strong will to make this possible.

Now is the time!



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## Jokers in Power!

The rulers of Nigeria are jokers. Not comedians. Comedians can and often do positive things. Jokers don't; they can't. Ali Baba, Gordons, I go dye, Basket Mouth and Okey Bakassi could make you laugh, shed tears, and forget your sorrows. Of course, you would feel good after the dose of comedy. Besides, an erstwhile comedian in Ukraine has taught the world how to govern, how to be tenacious, to be inspiring, both at peace time and when a country is at war. He has become a hero overnight. He will never be forgotten in the story of resistance. He did not flee the country to deliver speeches from exile. He stood like a soldier.

I am very sure that if Boko Haram miscreants were to attack Abuja, all the jokers masquerading as rulers would scamper out of Nigeria, away to Europe and America, perhaps disguised as persons of the opposite sex! Already, several of them cannot visit their hometowns and villages. The other day, those scoundrels attacked the home state of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and kidnapped a traditional ruler!

Abuja is a composition of jokers in the corridors of power. They may look serious. But they are indeed jokers. They are joking with the destiny and lives of millions of hapless citizens. I wonder if Aliko Dangote or Tony Elumelu or

Femi Otedola would agree to hire those jokers as managers in their businesses! Certainly, a serious business concern like MTN will not hire these jokers to conduct business on their behalf. A joker is 'someone who likes telling funny stories or doing stupid things to make people laugh!' How many of us watched the Frank Spencer serial? Frank was the joker in the comedy 'Some Mothers Do have Them! Did I get the title right? Some countries do have them, can be used to develop a Sitcom of how Nigeria has wobbled in the last eight years! A joker could also refer to a 'person who has done something that annoys you! As we all know, jokers are not to be taken seriously. Achebe refers to them as 'efulefu!

Today I am going to play the joker by describing the jokes and jokers who bought Expression of Interest Forms in PDP and APC. The first joke was the cost of the form, fixed by a government that rode into power on the anti-corruption horseback! A whopping one hundred million naira! Someone did a quick math and concluded that the salary of the President for eight years will not sum up to one hundred million. We all thought it was a joke, we thought that only a few persons would cough out that amount of money to buy a worthless sheet of value, whose value was ascribed than earned. Alas, the joke was on

us! A long queue soon grew from the ashes of greed and infantile optimism. Some who could not manage a Ministry opened loud mouths to proclaim aspiration to the Presidency. Labour and Productivity and Education ministers wanted to be President though under their watch all federal universities had been shut down for three months! In their wild thinking if a man as competent, sagacious, purpose-driven, healthy as the incumbent could ruin the country, who would doubt their own skills and energy since they did not spend weeks or months in London hospitals! So, our beloved President, Technical Conqueror of Boko Haram was their model.

Serving Ministers and a few legislators all filed out to ogle the national pie. Soon, it became clear that what the aspirants had fallen into was a bazaar to build a war chest for the forthcoming elections. The Executive branch of government attempted to scuttle the provision in the Electoral Act that could have made aspirants remain in office while jostling for power they know will not get to them! It failed. The greatest joker of them all was the CBN Governor! This man has been the only CBN governor to get a second term in the last thirty or so years. Not satisfied, while sitting atop the affairs of CBN he thought he could meddle into politics. Having exposed himself

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a card-carrying APC member he is the biggest joker of them all!

But the Joker was on them. After collecting osusu of one hundred million naira each, Baba Aso Rock told them to resign. See the rash of withdrawals! Including the controversial Attorney-General and Minister of Justice who had bought luxury cars for delegates and other political persons in his home state. He had set his eyes on Government House in Birnin Kebbi. Alas, he has had to shelve his dream.

While the APC hierarchy was dancing naked in the public square, PDP was swimming in a pool of self-delusion. It was announced that the man who flew PDP flag in 2015 had teleported to APC, and that Miyetti Allah had bought forms for him! He denied it. News came that he is still in PDP. Right now, Oga Joe escapes classification. PDP had preached zoning the Presidency to the south as a policy. Now, there is pussyfooting. The policy has somersaulted like a man struck with the notorious love juju 'magun' and opened the presidency for anybody! The

price tag of Expression of Interest form was not as high as that of APC. You know, being outside government, they are not privy to the contents of the national honeypot. Yet, these are jokers? How did we land in this hot stew with fires as hot as hot can be?

How can anybody take these fellows, including their oga, seriously? The young people are watching askance at the men and women dancing in the public square. These are people who cannot manage a firm of three persons, now entrusted with the destiny of millions!

Sadly, these jokers are not making us laugh. They are making buckets of tears for millions of families. Let us tell them that the circus show should end. A new spirit should come down. To be sure, the jokers will not part with power without a fight. So, those who want the jokers out of power must rise to the occasion and use the ballot box to chase the baldheads of town!

*•Professor Eghagha is a member of The Trumpet's Editorial Board*

## Research unveils healing without medicines

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It is very necessary to understand the primary causes of sickness before addressing the above subject matter. What are the causes of sickness? Persons from different countries or background have different ways to explain what causes sickness. Take for example, a baby gets diarrhea; and you asked - why? (a). People in small villages may say it is because the parents did something wrong, or perhaps because they made a god or spirit angry. (b). A doctor may say it is because the child has an infection. (c). A public health officer may say it is because the villagers do not have a good water system or use latrines. (d). A social reformer may say the unhealthy conditions that lead to frequent childhood diarrhea are caused by an unfair distribution of land and wealth; while a teacher

may place the blame on lack of education. Therefore people see the cause of sickness in terms of their own experience and point of view. Who then is right about the cause? Possibly we can say everyone is right; or partly right. This is because sickness usually results from a combination of causes. Each of the causes suggested above may be a part of the reason why a baby gets diarrhea. To prevent and treat sickness successfully, it helps to have as full an understanding as possible about the common sickness in your area and the combination of things that causes them. However, despite there many types of sicknesses; for most sicknesses no medicines are needed for treatment. Naturally our bodies have their own defenses, or ways to resist and fight disease. In most cases, these natural defenses

are far more important to our health than are medicines. People will get well from most sicknesses -- including the common cold and 'flu' -- by themselves, without need for medicines. Therefore, to help the body fight off or overcome a sickness, often all that is needed is to keep clean your body, wear neat clothes and clean environment; get plenty of rest especially when you are exhausted and to eat well. Even in a case of more serious illness, when a medicine may be needed, it is the body that must overcome the disease; the medicine only helps. Cleanliness, rest, and nutritious food are still very important. Much of the art of health care does not -- and should not depend on use of medications. Even if you live in an area where there is no modern medicines, there is a great deal you can do to prevent and treat most common sicknesses--- if you learn how it is done. Many sicknesses can be prevented or treated without medicines if people simple learned how to use water correctly --- this alone might do more to prevent and cure illnesses than all the medicine they now use... and misuse. HEALING WITH WATER. The reality of life is that most of us could live without medicines. But no one can live without water. In fact, over half (57%) of the human body is water. If everyone living in farms and villages made the best use of water, the amount of sickness

and death -- especially of children could probably be cut in half. For example, correct use of water is basic both in the prevention and treatment of diarrhea. In many areas diarrhea is most common cause of sickness and death in small children especially in Africa rural communities. Contaminated (unclean) water is often part of the cause. An important part of the prevention of diarrhea is to boil water used for drinking or for preparing foods. This is especially important for babies. Babies' bottles and eating utensils should also be boiled. Washing one's hands with soap and water after a bowel movement (shitting) and before eating or handling foods is just as important. Treatment-- The common cause of death in children with diarrhea is severe dehydration, or loss of too much water from the body. By giving a child with diarrhea plenty of water ( best with sugar or honey and salt), dehydration can often be prevented or corrected. Giving lots of liquids to a child with diarrhea is more important than any medicine. In fact, if enough liquid is given, no medicine is usually needed in the treatment of diarrhea. Times when the Right Use of Water May Do More Good than Medicine to PREVENT: (1.) Diarrhea, worms, gut infections--- boil drinking water, wash hands, etc. (2.) Skin infections--- bathe often. (3.) Wounds becoming infected;

tetanus--- wash wounds well with soap and boiled water.

4. Guinea worms in the legs or body--- do not let people step into the water when drawing water from a water hole, filter water or boil it before drinking. WATER TO TREAT: (1.) Diarrhea, dehydration, illnesses with fever--- drink plenty of liquids. (2.) High fever--- soak body with cool water. (3.) Minor urinary infections ( common in women)--- drink plenty of water. (4.) Cough, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, whooping cough--- drink a lot of water and breathe hot water vapors ( to loosen mucus). (5.) Sores, impetigo, ringworm of the skin or scalp, pimples--- scrub with soap and water. (6.) Infected wounds,boils--- hot soaks or compresses. (7.) Stiff, sore muscles and joints, itching, burning--- hot compresses. (8.) Minor burns--- hold in cold water. (9.) Sore throat or tonsillitis---gargle hot salt water. (10.) Acid, dirt, or irritating substance in eye--- flood eye with cool water at once, and continue flooding with water for at least 15 minutes. (11.) Stuffed up nose--- sniff salt water. (12.) Constipation, hard stools,--- drink lots of water. Finally, in each of the above cases ( except pneumonia) when water is used correctly, often medicines are not needed.

*•Olayiwola Adeniji is Coordinator, External Communications, Chevron Nigeria Limited.*



## Group confident of Osinbajo's victory, says 13 govs backing Vice President

By TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

Chances of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to win the presidential primary election of the All Progressives Congress has been described as bright and assured.

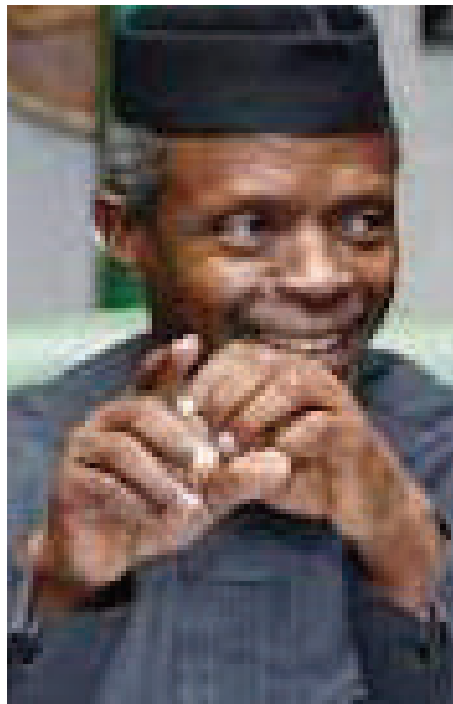
Giving this assurance, the Osinbajo Youth Organisation claimed the backing of Prof. Osinbajo by 13 governors of the party who are plotting his emergence.

The organisation at a press conference in Abuja on Sunday called on delegates to the APC special convention to vote massively for the Vice President.

The Director General of the group, Ambassador Salahuden Shuaib, though did not name the governors for what he called political reason but said Osinbajo already have the commitments of the governor's and delegates from their states.

Shuaib who declined comment on whether or not Osinbajo is the anointed candidate of President Buhari said there will be no imposition of candidate on Nigerians as APC is a principled party that does not believe in impunity.

"We have the delegates, they know the best man for the job which is



Osinbajo

Osinbajo and they are ready to throw their weight behind his candidature.

"I is a great honour to appear before you and before Nigerians to make this press appeal to APC delegates and stakeholders to support Prof.

Yemi Osinbajo in the presidential primaries.

"In consonance with the calls made by millions of Nigerians, Osinbajo Youth Organization of Nigeria was birthed as a child of necessity to serve as a leading voice in championing a cause for a better Nigeria through the ideals and political tradition of Osinbajo.

"At the beginning of the first quarter of 2022, many veterans and non veteran politicians alike began throwing their hats into the ring for 2023 presidential race, but for Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, it is a time for wrapping up as vice president in preparation for May 29th 2023 handover even in spite of calls from different quarters for him to declare and join the 2023 presidential race."

He said for the good of Nigeria It Is Important that Nigerians throw their weight in support of Osinbajo, because with him, "our justice would be reformed, our security architecture would be refined, our business environment would witness a new face through social investment programs.

"Our educational system would witness a major reform, our states and local government would be

strengthened for effective service delivery and our health sector would be accorded topmost priority.

"Fellow patriots, for our nation to thrive, we must allow people with requisite knowledge and experience to drive the affairs of this nation. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo has passed the leadership test, and with personified exceptionality, he is among the best crop of leaders that Nigeria of today needs.

"Osinbajo is a fine gentleman and, a refined politician. He is a brilliant gentleman and, highly disciplined. He is a typical example of what the avant-garde Nigerian politicians should be.

"As youths, our struggles is for a better Nigeria – with redefine system and, a new ethos founded around the values of integrity, justice, fairness, equity, accountability, patriotism and love for fellow countrymen.

"It is against this background that we're appealing to all major players involve this forth-coming important exercise (APC primaries) to rally round Prof. Yemi Osinbajo and support him to lead the progressives' family as its flag bearer in the coming 2023 general election."

## Nasarawa politicians demand N150m from Faleke, Tinubu support group

By TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

Some members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nasarawa have allegedly demanded a sum of N150 million in compensation from a support group of Bola Tinubu for failing to honour agreement on APC delegates list from the state.

The group had accused the support group of betraying trust and agreement by trading the delegates list supplied with other persons ahead of the presidential primary of the party.

A serving House of Representatives member and one of the coordinators of

Tinubu's campaign organisation, Hon. James Abiodun Faleke was petitioned accusing the Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu Presidential Campaign Office under his watch of double - dealing.

The petition to Faleke was signed by Muhammed Mubarak, Hajia Larai Kolo and Hon Suleiman( for and on behalf of five others.

The petition titled "A Demand For Compensation for Harvest of Delegates" read "Recall that on the first of June, 2022, you, through one of your staff, by name Mr Bisi Oyo Osun, approached us to supply delegates lists from Nasarawa and Plateau States

"We did as required and the 2nd of June,

being the following day, we personally handed over the lists to you in your office, in the presence of Mr Bisi Oyo Osun

"Right there, you directed your officer, one Malam Zakari to vet the list and invite us for further discussions

"The official in question, now, fixed an appointment with us for the following day at 10am for the result of his verification

"But, he never turned up in the office to honour the appointment

"When we reached him on his phone for updates on the assignment, that you gave him, he told us that the list from Nasarawa State had been changed

"We smelled a rat, and quickly got across to the National Secretariat of the

All Progressives Congress, APC to verify the information, and this was promptly debunked by the National Organising Secretary.

"We immediately reached Zakari to inform him that his information about a change of delegates list was false, having confirmed from the National Secretariat of the Party

"Our suspicion heightened, when Zakari refused to engage with us in further discussions, until late in the evening of that day, that we discovered to our shocking dismay that Zakari and your good self had entered into negotiation with the same delegates on the list that we gave you, without our knowledge

"When we asked Zakari to explain to us, how the same delegates were brought to the Campaign Office without our knowledge, he simply claimed that some people brought them

"We then demanded to know why we were not contacted as promised, since we had an understanding that the Campaign Organisation will provide them with accommodation and other logistics, after finalising all negotiations between us and them, only for him to claim that he didn't know how they came, but that he only saw the delegates in their campaign office

"From our findings, through one of the delegates who spoke with us, Mr Zakari in connivance with some people, secretly got in touch with them using our list and sidelined us

"This is a clear case of betrayal and double crossing

"We hereby demand a compensation of One hundred and fifty million Naira (150m), for our efforts in harvesting the delegates who have now been cornered by your campaign organisation.

"Please note that, we shall address the media on this issue if our demands are not met quickly."

## Mentor must never be adored like God

By PROF SOLA ADEYEYE

I am totally befuddled by the ill logic that because BAT gave PYO an appointment, PYO must for life subsume his inalienable aspirational rights to those of Tinubu. By that logic, Obama would never have become President. He was a junior senator from Illinois when ranking Senator Dick Durbin saw his talent and advised him to take the flood at its tide.

Tinubu did not pick Osinbajo from the unemployment line. Rather, he picked a distinguished Professor of Law from one of our premier universities. Whatever Osinbajo gained from working for Tinubu is not more than what Tinubu gained from having a genius as his State's Attorney General. Most spectacularly, Lagos State prevailed six times at the Supreme Court against the Federal Government of

Nigeria because of the brilliance and professional dexterity of diminutive Osinbajo.

If Osinbajo should be beholden to Tinubu for life, Tinubu should be paying daily pilgrimage to the graveside of Ganiyu Dawodu!

Can a student surpass his teacher? Can a protege rise beyond his mentor? The answer to both questions is a loud yes. There might never have been a Tony Blair if there had not been a Neil Kinnock. The magnificent Ronald Reagan took the baton of Conservative politicking from from Barry Goldwater.

A mentor must never be adored like a god. Socrates mentored Plato. Plato had disagreements with his mentor. Plato mentored Aristotle; these two had their differences. Arguably, each protégé exceeded his celebrated mentor!

Why must mentoring leave no

room for the exercise of conscience to the extent that one is now orchestratedly smeared as traitor? In matters of conscience, each and all of us are answerable only to God. That is why, I am never afraid of being in a minority.

**\*\*Prof. Adeyeye is a former Senator.**



Tinubu



## World Environment Day: Chevron's commitment to sustainable future

By OLAYIWOLA ADENIJI

Every year on June 5, the world commemorates World Environment Day ("WED") to celebrate and promote environmental awareness and sustainability across the globe. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme ("UNEP"), and held annually since 1974, each edition focuses on raising awareness and mobilizing the world to take positive action to protect nature and our planet.

The theme for this year is "Only One Earth" with focus on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature." It beams a spotlight on climate action, nature action and pollution action while encouraging everyone, everywhere to live sustainably. Chevron Nigeria Limited ("CNL"), operator of the joint venture between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation ("NNPC") and CNL ("NNPC/CNL JV"), identifies with this global action to save the planet as it aligns with our commitment to protecting the environment while providing affordable, reliable, and ever-cleaner energy.

CNL, not only conducts its business in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner, but also in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectation and best industry practices, and has made Environmental Stewardship part of its social investment programmes.

Rick Kennedy, CNL Chairman and Managing Director, explains that CNL's approach to sustainability is highlighted by its commitment to protecting the environment, empowering its people,



Rick Kennedy, Chairman and Managing Director, Chevron Nigeria Limited.

and always getting results the right way. "Chevron is proud to be part of the solution to global environmental issues wherever we operate. Our environmental and energy transition efforts focus on lowering the carbon intensity of our operations, building lower carbon businesses, supporting well-designed climate policy, responsible water management, and biodiversity, while using our Operational Excellence Management System ("OEMS") to manage risks."

According to him, the company's OEMS delivers industry-leading performance in

process safety, personal safety and health, environment, reliability, and efficiency. "Our Environmental philosophy and processes lay the foundation for sound environmental management. The company protects the environment through the entire lifecycle from responsible design, development, operations, and asset retirement," he stated.

CNL recognizes the importance of minimizing its environmental footprints and promoting ecosystem restoration. The company continually aims to achieve world class environmental excellence through implementation of its Environment Risk Assessment and Management ("ERAM") procedure to identify, assess, mitigate, and manage environmental risks, environmentally related community health risks, and environmentally related social risks. CNL is committed to ecosystem sustainability, including ecosystem restoration interventions where required.

The restoration programmes provide positive environmental impacts and opportunities for raising the awareness of the community members to the impacts of degradation and benefits of restoration.

CNL is advancing its lower carbon strategy focusing on lowering the carbon intensity in its operations and taking proactive approaches to managing its methane detection and reduction capabilities. CNL utilizes high tech Optical Gas Imaging ("OGI") cameras for detecting minute fugitive emissions. CNL has reduced routine gas flaring by over 95% in its operations in the past 10 years.

Chevron recognizes the importance of protecting and conserving a region's

biodiversity, and we have a long history of working in collaboration with communities, industry groups, regulators, and conservation groups to identify and protect biodiversity in parts of the world where we operate. CNL, in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation ("NCF") established in 1992, the Lekki Conservation Centre ("LCC"). This 78-hectare facility, a center of excellence in environmental research and education, is reserved as a sanctuary for the rich flora and fauna of the Lekki Peninsula.

In 2005, CNL began supporting a yearly postgraduate research scholarship for PhD students in environment and conservation, instituted by the NCF. Additionally, the company hosts the annual S.L. Edu Memorial Lecture to promote environmental management awareness and partners with the Lagos State Government and NCF to sponsor an annual environmental awareness programme, tagged, Walk for Nature, an event held to create awareness and promote nature conservation and sustainable environmental management.

Esimaje Brikin, CNL's General Manager, Policy, Government and Public Affairs notes that for over 60 years, CNL has remained an active agent of sustainable development and strong advocate of partnerships in support of the environment. "We will continue to partner with stakeholders in raising public awareness to create the transformative environmental change we need to advance to a more sustainable future of our Only One Earth," he said.

● *Olayiwola Adeniji is Coordinator, External Communications, Chevron Nigeria Limited.*

## Environmentalists canvass exponential climate action

By EDU ABADE, BUSINESS EDITOR

As decision makers and business leaders at the Stockholm+50, the Exponential Roadmap Initiative has highlighted the game-changers in energy efficiency, green energy, travel and transport, plant-based food, regenerative agriculture, protecting and restoring nature, as well as maximising positive impacts from digitisation.

Founder of the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, Johan Falk, in an e-mailed statement to The Trumpet, said: "We need to halve global emissions by 2030 and become nature positive at the same time to tackle climate emergency. We have the answers in our hands—we just need sharper action. The solutions to halve emissions by 2030 exist in all sectors and many are scaling exponentially. This is the moment to scale even faster and make a pull-in. The companies that realize that today are the winners of tomorrow."

As governments met at the United Nations (UN) Stockholm+50 conference, a consortium of the leading transformers and disruptors, all aligned with the 1.5°C ambition, have joined forces to accelerate action towards zero emissions and circular value chains.

High-Level Champion of United Kingdom at the United Nations (UN), Nigel Topping, said: "The good news is that climate action and demand for green energy is rising exponentially. But

it is not sufficient, I hope S+50 will spur action towards a breakthrough tipping point to exit the fossil energy crisis and towards a net zero emissions world", says

On her part, Chief Executive Officer of the We Mean Business Coalition, María Mendiluce, said: "We are seeing huge momentum from businesses taking action to cut their emissions and calling on governments to support them to go further and faster. We have the solutions across energy and nature to halve global emissions by 2030. I hope S+50 can inspire businesses of all sizes and sectors—in collaboration with governments—to accelerate the scale up of these solutions at pace and leave no community behind."

Within the Stockholm+50 Climate Hub, the Exponential Race to Zero events, hosted by We Don't Have Time, Exponential Roadmap Initiative, United Nations' Race to Zero and We Mean Business Coalition, will showcase examples of leading innovative, disruptive and transformative companies taking climate action in line with science.

The Exponential Race to Zero was spread across four days, focusing on Green Energy, Transport, Food and Land, as well as Digitisation-at the Exponential Climate Action Summit VI-Maximising impact with digitisation hosted by We Don't Have Time, Ericsson and the Exponential Roadmap Initiative.

Founder of We Don't Have Time, Ingmar Renzhog, said: "We Don't Have

Time gathers leaders from around the world to share climate solutions and thereby speed our necessary transition from a fossil-to a renewable economy. We hope our daily Stockholm+50 broadcasts reaching millions will inspire leaders within all sectors to act faster while we still have time."

He explained that the series of events will focus on the game-changers in energy efficiency, green energy, travel & transport, plant-based food, regenerative agriculture, protection & restoring of nature and maximising positive impacts from digitization, adding that through these events, concrete actions will be identified to remove the blockers to enable scaling up faster and further to COP27 and step-up on exponential journey.

"We are witnessing the start of the Green Energy revolution. It is time to go all-in on green energy and energy efficiency to simultaneously exit the fossil energy crisis, meet national and international climate goals, as well as benefit the natural world.

"Smart energy efficiency solutions can cut emissions in 10 million factories from today. Electrification through wind, solar, storage, hydrogen, e-fuels, supported by digitisation can take us to a world that runs entirely on renewable energy, much faster than we think. In transport, solutions exist now and around the corner to cut transport emissions by 50-90 per cent before 2030, supporting

net-zero goals," he added.

Renzhog stressed that there was the need to move to the next generation Food & Land value chains by 2030, insisting that the current food system was insecure and has severe impact on climate and biodiversity and that it was time to accelerate the shift towards regenerative agriculture and healthier, plant-rich food, as well as protect and restore nature, to become Nature Positive by 2030.

"The digital industry has a leadership role in racing towards net zero value chains, but also accelerating the movement to halve emission in all supply chains. Maximising impact with digitisation remain instrumental to halve emissions in all industries, to achieve the circular economy and to enable people and cities to make sustainable choices.

"Halving emissions by 2030 in the Race to Zero is required to stay close to 1.5°C. It is possible to cut 90% of emissions in many value chains but we need stronger policies and financial incentives to scale faster. It is urgent to immediately remove blockers, cut fossil subsidies, remove red tape on new infrastructure and embrace radical innovation.

"All companies and organisations should join the UN Race to Zero, take immediate action towards halving emissions by 2030 and spread this task throughout their value chains". We can only reach net-zero together," Falk stated.



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## Does Nigeria need debt restructuring to borrow more?

*In the early 1960s, Nigeria used to lend money to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the country has now become one of the highest indebted nations in the world in relation to its revenue earnings, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other financial parameters. At a time when most Nigerians are complaining that the country's debt profile has become a huge burden to the economy, the IMF has suggested ways to enable Nigeria to keep borrowing. In this analysis, **JOHNMARK UKOKO** wonders whether the country actually needs debt restructuring and fresh loans to survive.*

During the era of former Military Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, he was said to have made what became a popular saying to the effect that "Nigeria's problem is not money, but how to spend it."

That was during the crude oil boom when the country earned plenty of dollars from oil sales. At that time, the naira was more valuable than the United States of America (USA) dollar, as it exchanged for 75k to \$1 and in the 1970s up to the early 1980s the nation's currency exchanged at par for N1 to \$1.

Following the mismanagement of the country's resources, economy, corruption and unbridled foreign loans have all combined to devalue the naira to an all time low.

For instance, in the last few months, the naira has exchanged for between N550 and N600 to the dollar at the official rate and much higher at the black market.

The Nigerian situation has been worsened by the fact that despite being one of the world's top 15 most endowed countries in terms of crude oil and gas resources, its inability to refine its crude oil since the late 1980s till date has contributed to the constant erosion of the value of the naira.

Nigeria has also been riddled with massive crude oil theft by top government and military officials, militants and foreigners in collaboration with their Nigerian accomplices, which have reduced the country's crude oil exports, thereby affecting the country's foreign reserves, put at \$38 billion as of the first quarter of 2022.

The country has massive natural gas reserves, most of which is being wasted through flaring in the Niger Delta, while the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG) continues to rise on a daily basis, as the country has to depend on imported gas for cooking and other commercial purposes.

President Muhammadu Buhari's administration has been adjudged to have the penchant for highest borrowing most in the history of the country.

As the country prepares for the 2023 general elections, some economists have argued that President Buhari's successor will use most of the country's earnings to service loans if the country's revenue generation failed to improve drastically.

They insisted that Nigeria has over borrowed, a situation they said, portrays great danger for the country's economy.

While most Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora have raised concerns over the country's huge

debt burden and have called on the president to exercise restraint in further borrowings, the IMF has suggested debt restructuring for Nigeria to qualify for additional fresh loans.

Director for Africa at IMF, Abebe Salasie, who stated this recently during a virtual press conference, said the bank was ready to assist Nigeria and other countries to diversify their economies to enable them to qualify for new credit facilities.

"IMF will help to facilitate economic diversification in the African region. We, therefore, advise the countries to be a little bit less dependent on their natural resources exports and more on the kind of labour-intensive economic sectors like manufacturing and other services that we can utilise," he stated.

He disclosed that the bank recently created a Resilience and Sustainability Trust that will help the IMF to ensure that the country's resources are used to provide required policy support for longer-term funding for many African countries.

Speaking further, he said: "As a bank, we feel the needs to go further for example, by removing obstacles for quicker debt restructuring under the Common Framework. That should allow for swift and efficient debt restructuring. The second policy challenge area is balancing the need to address inflation without undermining the ongoing recovery."

It is also common knowledge that in the last two years, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has struggled to manage the country's foreign exchange, with the real sector and other sectors that require forex being unable to access it through the Import and Export (I&E) window.

The commercial banks that the CBN mandated to provide forex facilities have been largely unable to do so, as scarcity of dollars have forced real sector to rely on the parallel market for its forex needs.

Moreover, the various measures the CBN initiated to tackle forex challenges and the consistent crash of the value of the naira had not yield the desired results.

Salasie noted that most countries in Africa were in Nigeria's league as they have been unable to balance their acts between curbing inflation and supporting growth.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the inflation rate for March 2022 stood at 16.3 per cent, even as efforts by the CBN to tackle the country's inflation have not succeeded as the trend continued for over 12



Abebe Salasie

months consistently.

While most European countries are lamenting that their inflation had risen to about eight per cent, which is still a single digit increase, Nigeria's inflation has risen above 14 per cent for over 12 months, with no hope of reducing.

Salasie pointed out that the central banks of most countries face a difficult balancing act between curbing inflation and supporting growth.

It would be recalled that late last year, the IMF predicted that Nigeria's economy would grow

by about 2.5 per cent and has not changed its position, as it announced recently that the country's economy was growing at over three per cent.

A major challenge for CBN governor, Godwin Emefiele and his colleagues at the apex bank has been the issue of exchange rate, which remains one area in the many areas Emefiele and management of CBN had failed in the last two years.

Curiously too, the IMF admitted that Nigeria and many countries in Africa are struggling to tackle their exchange rate as Salasie tasked them on the need to address exchange rate pressures stemming from higher global interest rates and heightened global uncertainty.

Speaking to The Trumpet recently, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre for Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), Dr. Muda Yusuf, decried the IMF for prompting Nigeria and other Africa countries that are already in huge debt burden to seek further credit facilities.

He said the loans from the IMF and World Bank have not helped African countries and charged Nigerians to reject further borrowing as the country currently use most of its revenue to service debts.

Yusuf charged managers of the Nigerian economy to work harder by tackling the country's financial challenges without having to borrow from the global financial institutions.

Respondents cautioned President Buhari and Nigeria's economic team against falling prey to IMF's bait insisting that most

African countries that accessed IMF or the World Bank loans in the past have not recovered from them.

Citing Zambia, Zimbabwe and Togo that have not recovered from the credit facilities they accessed from IMF or the World Bank, they said the more loans they take from IMF and the World Bank, the poorer they become insisting that with the stringent conditions attached to such loans, the worse off the real sectors of such countries become.

They expressed concern that Nigeria was endowed enough to overcome its financial challenges if its leaders and managers of the economy to look inwards and appealed to the Federal Government not to go for fresh borrowings from the IMF and the World Bank.

They say despite the various foreign loans the President Buhari administration has sourced from the global financial institutions, not much progress has been made in the country.

Nigerians also expressed reservations over IMF's subtle invitation to African countries to seek fresh credit facilities, maintaining that it was a ploy to further enslave the continent and destroy the struggling African economies.

The days ahead will determine if African countries will fall for IMF's ploy by approaching the global financial institutions to request fresh loans, but the sad reality remains that African countries have not been able to use the huge borrowings to turn around the fortunes of their countries.

## NCC seeks consumers support to improve telecoms service delivery

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has solicited the support of telecoms consumers in complementing the commission's efforts to ensure improved telecommunications services delivery in their communities.

Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (EVC/CEO), Prof. Umar Danbatta, made the appeal at the second edition of the Village Square Dialogue (VSD), one of the commission's consumer outreach programmes.

The dialogue took place in Danbatta Local Government Area of Kano State with the theme: Protection of Telecom Infrastructure For Improved Quality Service: The Role Of Residents.

Addressing consumers of telecoms services and traditional rulers at the forum, Danbatta who was represented by NCC's

Director, Technical Standards and Network Integrity, Bako Wakil, said to ensure improved telecoms services delivery, communities should protect telecoms infrastructure in their vicinities by allowing the installation of equipment and maintenance of repairs on sites by technical employees of service providers.

Danbatta also enjoined members of respective communities to guard against destruction of telecoms infrastructure, through prompt notification of service providers of ongoing road construction by companies or government agencies to avoid service disruption that might arise from damaged infrastructure.

He added that protecting telecoms infrastructure was important in any community, as the ability to connect and communicate was fundamental to human existence considering its centrality in improving businesses,

government services, education, communities and families to share information through seamless connections.

He also pointed out that technological advances have assisted people to gain access to learning opportunities outside traditional schooling.



Prof. Umar Danbatta



# WHO blames tobacco industry for global health, environmental hazards

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

**W**orld Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the tobacco industry is responsible for the destruction of human health and environments globally and should be held accountable for the environmental violations caused by its activities around the world, especially in low-income countries.

In a statement issued by the WHO, the organisation revealed new information on the extent to which tobacco damages the environment and human health and advocated steps to make the industry more accountable for the damage it was causing.

It added that the tobacco industry costs the world over eight millions human lives, 600 million trees, 200,000 hectares of land and 22 billion tons of water yearly.

The WHO also accused the industry of depriving human beings and plants of potable water, food and farmlands, especially in developing and low-income countries.

"Most of the tobacco plants grown in low-and-middle-income countries where water and farmlands are often desperately needed are to produce food for those regions. Instead, they are being used to grow deadly tobacco plants, while more land and forests are being cleared," the statement reads.

WHO further highlighted that the industry's carbon footprint from production, processing and transporting tobacco was equivalent to one-fifth of Co2 produced by the commercial airlines industry yearly which further contributes to global warming and climate change challenges.

Director of Health Promotion at the WHO, Dr. Rucdiger Krech, noted that about 4.5 trillion cigarette filters pollute oceans, rivers, city sidewalks, parks, soil and beaches yearly, adding: "Tobacco products are the most littered items on the planet, containing over 7,000 toxic chemicals, which leech into our environment when discarded."

While stressing that filters



Dr. Rucdiger Krech

have no proven health benefits, WHO urged policy makers to treat cigarette filters as single used plastics and consider banning them to protect public health and the environment.

The WHO, therefore, urged countries and cities to emulate

France, Spain, San Francisco and California that have adopted the polluter pays principle, which makes the tobacco industry responsible for clearing up the pollution it creates to relieve taxpayers of the costs of cleaning up littered tobacco.

It further advised countries

and cities to follow the example and support tobacco farmers to transit to sustainable crops, implement strong tobacco taxes that could also include environmental tax and offer support services to help people quit smoking and the use of other tobacco products.

## ABCON urges CBN to use BDCs in promoting market stability

President of the Association of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON), Alhaji Aminu Gwadabe, has appealed to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to use Bureaux De Change (BDCs) to end multiple rates and promote stability in the foreign exchange (forex) market.

CBN operational manual defines BDCs as small retail and institutions licenced to do the business of selling Personal Travel Allowance (PTA), Business Travel Allowance (BTA) and payment of school fees and medical bills abroad, among others roles at the critical part of the forex market.

Gwadabe said the various policies of CBN on the operations of the sub-sector continue to hinder and limit the BDCs from providing their constitutional role in the forex market and economy.

"The various policies of the CBN on the operations of the sub-sector continues to inhibit and limit the BDCs from providing their constitutional roles in the forex market and the economy," he said.

He, therefore, canvassed better collaboration between the CBN and the BDCs in the implementation of market-friendly policies, adding that such synergy would enable the BDCs to impact more positively on the market and promote exchange rate stability in the economy.

Gwadabe said the hasty generalisation that criminalises the BDCs sub-sector was responsible for market crisis and infractions like selling dollars with higher premium above regulatory limit, promoting loss of confidence in the market, adding that multiplicity of the exchange rates was not in the best interest of the market and the economy.

"It is in view of this disturbing situation and the need to strengthen BDCs value chains obtainable in organised climes that we urge the regulators and policy makers to consider BDCs as the most potent tool in liberalising the foreign exchange market and ending multiple exchange rates in the system," he said.

He restated the association's commitment to boosting liquidity in the forex market, fulfilling its regulatory mandate of bringing forex closer to the end users and supporting the CBN's goal of achieving sustainable exchange rate stability.

"We, therefore, urge the regulators to consider our proposal for the creation of Bureaux De Change Autonomous Foreign Exchange Market (BAFEX) to replicate the Import and Export (I&E) window initiative and address concerns of stakeholders like Nigerians in the Diaspora, foreign investors, international financial institutions and others about the market stability," he added.

## OPEC raises Nigeria oil exporting quota for July

Stories by **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has raised Nigeria's oil production quota from the 1.772 million barrels per day (mbpd) to 1.799mbpd for July, 2022.

OPEC said this at the weekend during the resolution was taken at its 29th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting. The new target of 27,000 barrel per day is higher than the approved quota for June 2022.

According to the statement, OPEC has also adjusted upward

the monthly overall production by 646,000 barrels per day in July 2022 with a target production of 43,000 million barrels per day for OPEC members.

The meeting noted that the most recent reopening from lockdowns in the major global economic hubs and highlighted the importance of stable markets for OPEC and the non-OPEC members.

It also stressed the importance of stable and balanced markets for OPEC and non-OPEC members for crude oil and refined products, adding that the meeting

extended the period to the end of December 2022 as requested by some underperforming countries.

It added that the meeting directed that compensation plans should be submitted in accordance with the statement of the 15th OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting.

A survey showed that Nigeria's production output averaged 1.4 million barrels per day in May 2022, amounting to 70,000 barrels higher than the average daily crude oil production in April, which stood at 1.3 million barrels per day.

## After UBN takeover, Titan Trust Bank transfers 93.41% shares

Following Union Bank of Nigeria Plc's notification in December 2021 of execution of Share Sale and Purchase Agreement (SSPA) between its majority shareholders-Union Global Partners Limited, Atlas Mara Limited and others, Titan Trust Bank Limited (TTB)



Mrs. Beatrice Hamza

has completed the takeover process.

It also confirmed the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals, just as Union Bank had notified the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NGX), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and members of the public of the completion of transaction under the SSPA, which effectively transferred 93.41 per cent share capital to TTB.

Union Bank has also notified the NGX that with the completion of the transaction, TGI Group, parent company of TTB now becomes the majority shareholder in Union Bank.

The bank further said the completion of divestment of the bank's shareholding in its record as of March 4, 2022 pro rata to its existing shareholding interest in the financial institution.

Consequently, Union Bank United Kingdom (UKBK) was not included in the transaction with Titan Trust Bank.

Also, Union bank notified the NGX of the resignation and

retirement of directors from the board of Union Bank including the Chairman, Mrs. Beatrice Hamza Basset; non-Executive Director, Emeka Okonkwo.

Others are non-Executive Director, Mrs. Obafunke Alade-Adeyefa; Independent non-Executive Director; Richard Burret, non-executive directors, Ian Clyne; Kenroy Dowers; Paul Kókoricha and Emeka Ogbechie, among others.

Speaking on behalf of the outgoing directors, Basset, said: "We have recorded a significant milestone with the completion of the transaction after regulatory approval of the announcement in December between the bank's core shareholders and Titan Trust Bank.

"As is normal for transactions of this nature, the board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Emeka Okonkwo, has retired and handed over management of the bank to a new board with Mudasir Amray as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The board congratulates the parties on the landmark transaction."

## NACCIMA, Spain chamber of commerce sign MoU

National President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Ide John C. Udagbala, and his counterpart from Spain's Chamber of Commerce, Jose Luis Bonet Ferrer, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Madrid, Spain.

The event took place on the sidelines of the Nigeria-Spain Business Forum, which brought together businesses from both countries.

The MoU, which was signed on Thursday, June 2, 2022, is aimed at promoting closer collaboration between NACCIMA and Spain Chamber of Commerce to encourage and facilitate actions leading to the promotion and development of commercial exchanges and economic cooperation between interested members of both chambers.

Through the MoU, NACCIMA would provide a platform for Nigerian businesses to showcase and expand their businesses to



Ide John C. Udagbala

Spain through strategic meetings, trade fairs and exhibitions to be organised in both countries.

The MoU will also cover cooperation in the areas of investment in key sectors of the economy.



## 'Nigeria removed from piracy-prone countries' list'

• *Says collaboration with French Naval Ship would build technical strength*

By PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR, ABUJA

Flag Officer Commanding (FOC), Western Naval Command (WNC), Rear Admiral Yakubu Wambai, has said Nigeria was recently delisted from countries prone to piracy attacks.

Wambai said this when he hosted the visiting French Naval Ship BORDA and its crew weekend at the Headquarters Office of the Naval Base in Apapa, Lagos, adding that the technical collaboration between the Nigerian Navy and the French Naval Ship BORDA, for trainings and Sea passage

exercises would enhance the improved security experience in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG).

He said, "The French Naval Ship BORDA is on a port call, which is customary. Though this is a specialised ship, a hydrographic ship, which is here in fulfilment of technical support to NNS LANA.

"While here, they will work and train together, to continue to build our ability in the hydrographic field. This is the continuation of our collaboration with France. They have been our technical partners, building our ships and training us.

"It marks a remarkable turning

point for our collaborative efforts as we continue to seek better times in the Gulf of Guinea.

"Not long ago, Nigeria was delisted from piracy-prone states, and this was possible as a result of our collaborations, not only of Nigerian Navy, but other stakeholders as well. We hope to see more of this kind of visits and hope to go back to the old days when we also pay port calls to foreign nations."

In his remark, Commanding Officer of the French Naval Ship - Lt. Commander Pierre - Henry Lavergne, described his experience so far with the Nigerian Navy Ship LANA

as very welcoming, saying he looked forward to more engaging activities.

"It is a great pleasure for me and my crew to be in Lagos for the hydrographic cooperation with NNS LANA since four days of being here," the Commanding Officer said.

Meanwhile, French Defence Attaché, Col. Dujon Guillaume, stated that the first step in the cooperation since the acquisition of NNS LANA from a French company, OCEA, has shown that they would want more engagement with the Nigerian Navy in the future as well.

He said, "Here for some

consistent collaboration on hydrography with the NNS LANA. This is the first step in this corporation after the acquisition of NNS LANA from OCEA Company.

"We are looking forward to more cooperation in the future. It is a honour, and France is happy to provide this support to Nigeria, for the development of maritime security and the Blue Economy, on regional perspectives."

NNS LANA (A499) is designed and purposely built to enable the Navy conduct hydrographic and oceanographic surveys.

## Journalists important in fighting crime, says CP

By PAUL MICHAEL

Commissioner of Police (CP) in charge of the Lagos State Command, CP Sylvester Alabi has said that any society that undermines the strategic role of journalists in fighting crime would be doing so at its own peril.

Alabi made the remark while interacting with the newly elected officers and members of the Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria (CRAN) at Mike Okiro Press Centre, Ikeja Lagos at the weekend.

The Police Commissioner noted that experience had shown that enforcement of the law by the police and dissemination of relevant crime information would not be possible without journalists.

He restated his commitment to

always collaborate with journalists and crime reporters in a bid to promote a crime free society.

Alabi also assured the visiting Crime Reporters that his administration would always carry them along as strategic partners in law enforcement and crime fighting.

He congratulated the new Executive Committee of CRAN headed by Mr Lekan Onabulo, assuring them of his cooperation.

While commenting on the recent ban on commercial motorcycles in Lagos by the State Government, the CP said as law enforcement agency, his Command has been complying with the directive of the government.

He, therefore, enjoined journalists and crime reporters to fully cooperate with the police in terms of crime reportage.

## Police confirm identity of victim stoned dead, lynched by zealots

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command has said that it is investigating the killing of a young man by Islamic fanatics for alleged blasphemy weekend in the Lugbe area of Abuja.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, Josephine Adeh, confirmed the development to newsmen, pledging that it would soon arrest the perpetrators.

Adeh identified the victim as Ahmad Usman, a 30-year-old man who is said to be a vigilante.

She said, "Normalcy has since been restored to the area concerning the situation while monitoring, and surveillance of the area continues.

"Residents are, however, urged to go about their lawful duties without fear or apprehension of

any kind from any quarters as discrete investigation continues to unravel facts surrounding the ugly incident and to effect the arrest of the perpetrators therein.

"We understand that one Ahmad Usman a 30years old member of the local vigilante around Tippa garage at Federal Housing Estate in Lugbe Area of the Federal Capital Territory got into an argument with a Cleric (Mallam) whose name is yet unknown from the same area.

"The heated argument degenerated into an outbreak of violence that led to the murder and setting ablaze of Ahmad Usman by the enraged mob mobilized by the clergy numbering about two hundred.

"Upon the receipt of this infor-

mation, a quick intervention team comprising of the Surveillance and Ambush team of the Command attached to the Lugbe Divisional Police Headquarters was drafted to the scene where the enflamed victim was rescued suffering severe degrees of burn and taken immediately to the hospital where he was confirmed dead by a Doctor on call."

The Commissioner of Police, Babaji Sunday, who also spoke to newsmen, warned against the indiscriminate resort to jungle justice

"We are outrightly against jungle justice. The law is against it, and adequate sanctions will be meted on subscribers of this crude and dastardly act," he said.

## CSO asks INEC to lead presidential aspirants on protest over insecurity

A Civil Society Organisation (CSO), the West African Action Network on Small Arms - Nigeria (WAANSA - NIGERIA) has called on the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, to mobilise all presidential aspirants of political parties for the 2023 general election on a one week protest against worsening insecurity in the country.

This was contained in a letter signed by WAANSA - NIGERIA President, Temitope Lamidi and Director of Media and Advocacy, Martins Igwe, which was obtained by The Trumpet.

According to the CSO, the protest should be part of activities to mark this year's Global week of Action against Gun Violence scheduled for 1st June - 8th June 2022.

The letter reads, "We will not be doing justice to Nigeria and Nigerians, if we refuse to advise your office that is working day and night to ensure that 2023 general election is a thing of reality. United Nations International Children's emergency fund confirmed that over 1000 students were abducted since 2020. 200 are still in captivity.

"Professor Osibanjo's class mate, son of Northern Elders Forum and Sixty two others are still in captivity,

this may not include Chibok, Dapchi, Kaduna and Kebbi abductions. This remains a sad reality which demands for urgent attention as you mobilize for a peaceful elections.

"We advise strongly on the need to liaise with the Inter-Agency consultative committee on election security to lead all Presidential aspirants to an intensive one week of protest and constructive engagement with our security agencies until Nigerians who are victims of gun violence all over the country are released.

"It will serve as a reassurance that they have the political will to overcome national challenges and a palpable move by INEC leadership to peace."

WAANSA - NIGERIA described the state of insecurity in the country as a sad reality which demands urgent attention, and noted that there must be a guarantee of peace before INEC sends 1.5million proposed Adhoc staff to the 176,846 polling units across the country.

"Presently, the continuous voters registrations exercise is not taking place in some frontline local governments with heightened insecurity while in others It is restricted in local Government and state offices. The victims of gun violence presently in

captivity and internally displaced centers can determine the faith of a presidential candidate hence the urgent need to join this protest in solidarity to 2022 Global week of action against gun violence.

"There must be a guarantee of peace in our local communities before sending your proposed 1.5million Adhoc staff at 176,846 polling units. Presidential aspirants will compliment the sacrifice of our security Agencies and this will directly affect the turnout of elections come 2023.

"If you make yourself available, Nigerians will be happy to see Bola Tinubu, Rochas Okorochoa, Atiku Abubakar, Prof Yemi Osibanjo, Rotimi Amaechi, Peter Obi, Yerima Bakura, etc, unite for this course before their campaigns

"As we mark the beginning of global week of Action Against Gun violence, led by international Action network on small arms and light weapons aimed at eliminating gun violence and misuse of small arms, we appeal to your office to do anything in line with the dictates of law to reassure Nigerians of a peaceful environment where they will exercise their franchise without threat to your staffs and general public," the letter added.



CP Abiodun Alabi





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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	
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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	269,911.09	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	
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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	
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## AYG22 qualifiers: Nigeria volleyball maintains impressive form

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

The male category of the Nigeria volleyball youth team have continued their scintillating outing in the Zone III African Youth Games Beach Volleyball Qualification, defeating Benin Republic 22-20, 22-18 in two sets respectively to secure a 2-0 win.

This is the second match processed by the Nigeria volleyball youth team, who on Saturday, battered Ivory Coast 21-4, 21-7 in two sets to earn a convincing 2-0 win.

The victory against the Ivorians helped kickstart Nigeria's campaign to qualify for the 2022 African Youth Games Beach Volleyball Championship.

According to the Zone III Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB), the Zone III African Youth Games Beach Volleyball Qualification is scheduled from 4th to 6th June, 2022 at Mobee Palace in



Badagry, Lagos.

The draw for the three days tourney held on Saturday morning and steered by Zone III Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB) technical supervisor, Issiaka Issifou from Niger, slated Nigeria's male team to compete with Ivory Coast, Benin Republic and Niger Republic while the female team tangles with Benin Republic.

CAVB added that six teams comprising four male and two

female teams will compete in several crackers on the court for the next two days as spectators should expect eight classic matches.

Results from other matches saw Niger Republic, who lost 21-16, 21-14 in two sets to Benin Republic in the opening match on Saturday, humiliated Ivory Coast 21-9, 21-6 to win 2-0 while Nigeria girls pummeled Benin Republic girls 21-8, 21-8 to record a 2-0 victory in their first encounter on Saturday.

The Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) reiterated that Nigeria with the emphatic wins, hope to make a statement at this year's beach volleyball event.

Remarkably, the President of Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB) Zone III, Ali Yaro and Technical Representative of Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF), Martin Melandi also assisted Issiaka Issifou to permeate the draw.

## NWFL sanction Naija Ratels, Bayelsa Queens' chairmen

Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) have sanctioned the chairmen of Ratels Football club, Abuja and Bayelsa Queens over disciplinary conduct.

NWFL in a letter addressed to the Chairman of Naija Ratels, Barrister Edeh, stated that the club in one of their matches in the NWFL Premier League Super Six tourney at Benin City, refused to wear Tulcan Energy sponsored jersey which contravened the NWFL Statutes on Sponsorship, in Articles 7.8, 7.9, 7.10.

According to the letter signed by Chief Operating Officer of the NWFL, Modupe Shabi, the board said, "We kindly refer you to the Match No. 2 between Nasarawa Amazons FC and Naija Ratels FC, scheduled for the 16th May, 2022 in Benin City, Edo State.

"You will recall that your club failed to wear the Tulcan Energy branded jerseys even though the other participating teams agreed to wear the sponsor's jersey.

"This single action by Naija Ratels FC almost brought the game to disrepute and the credibility of the league into question," the NWFL stated.

However, the female league governing board decided that following the breach of NWFL Statutes on Sponsorship, in Articles 7.8, 7.9, 7.10 by Naija Ratels, invoked Article 23.2.2 which says: "Any club owner/official that brings the game into disrepute or ridicule the NWFL in public through utterances, misconduct, communication or any form of communication will be sanctioned with the sum of (N2,000,000) Two million naira, and three months suspension."

In a related development, the champions of the Super Six tournament, Bayelsa Queen were also charged for unguided utterances capable of tarnishing the image of the NWFL.

In a letter addressed to the chairman of Bayelsa Queens, Mr Robin Aprela, the NWFL stated that Aprela

had accused the chairperson Aisha Falode of being biased while trying to favour a team ahead of others.

The letter reads: "We refer you to the incident before the kick-off of the Super Six, ahead of the match between Bayelsa Queens and Rivers Angels held in Benin City, where you made some disparaging comments about the Nigeria Women Football League and also accused the Chairperson (Madam Aisha Falode) of manipulating to favour certain club.

"The action of the Bayelsa Queens FC Chairman almost brought the game to disrepute and credibility of the league to question, which contravened the following Articles 23.1 which states that 'Players, club officials and every person involved in the league shall at all times act in the best interest of the game and comply with the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, the rules and regulations governing the league and not act (whether through words, conducts or behaviour) in a manner capable of bringing the game into disrepute; failure of which constitutes misconduct and a breach of the league rules.

"Article 23.2.2 reads: Any club owner/official that brings the game into disrepute or ridicules the NWFL in public through utterances, misconduct, communication or any form of communication will be sanctioned with the sum of (N2,000,000) Two million naira, and three months suspension.

"Consequently, your club (Bayelsa Queens) has been fined the sum of (N2,000,000) Two million naira only for bringing the game to disrepute and ridiculing the NWFL in public. We believe this fine will serve as a deterrent and strong warning to Bayelsa Queens FC," the letter stated.

NWFL Chief Operating Officer, Modupe Shabi, however, waived off the 3 months suspension served on both chairmen after they tendered an unreserved apology for their misconduct.

## NBBF crisis: Revamp local leagues, Dare charges IMC

Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare has charged the newly constituted Interim Management Committee (IMC) that will oversee the basketball sports in the country to ensure they focus on developing and reorganising the nation's local leagues.

Dare, who made this statement yesterday in Abuja during the inauguration of the 11-man committee, added that the IMC must ensure they stick to the terms of reference as a guide to revamp the ailing sport.

One could recall that President Muhammadu Buhari banned the nation from competing in all

international basketball competitions following a prolonged factional crisis that rocked the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF).

According to the Minister, IMC with a 2-year mandate are also to attract corporate sponsors who will aid in the speedy revival of the moribund basketball leagues.

"The terms of reference of the committee are to draw up programmes that will revamp basketball from the grassroots," Dare told the committee during the inauguration.

"Attract corporate sponsors and revive the moribund domestic leagues for the development of the game within two years.



"I, therefore, charge you all to carry out this enormous task with the utmost sense of responsibility, bearing in mind you cannot afford to fail in

this national assignment," he added.

According to a NAN report, the minister also advised the team "not to get entangled with federation politics".

Following the successful inaugural ceremony, Henry Nzekwu, chairman of the team, promised to work in the interest and development of the sport.

Other members of the IMC, alongside Nzekwu, are Udon Ubon Humapwa, Frank Jituboh, Zenith Bank Representative and Adamu Ahmed.

Others are Peter Nelson, Rahinatu Garba, Aderemi Adewunmi, Oluchi Nzekwe and Eni Adio.

## Bale unperturbed after Madrid exit



Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale's reign at Santiago Bernabeu has inarguably ended after the Welshman's nine-year contract elapsed in June 2022.

The prolific Bale, who joined Real Madrid in 2013 after a 5-year superlative spell at Tottenham, where he scored 42 goals in 146 Premier League appearances for the North London club, scored a brace in the 2018 Champions League final to help Los Blancos beat Liverpool to the trophy.

Subsequently, the

Welshman spell has dwindled after then and this engineered Los Blancos to send him back to Tottenham on loan last season.

Unfortunately, the club-record signing for Real Madrid whose transfer fee was £85.1m was unable to regain the same form that saw him spurred the North London's seasons.

Presently unperturbed, Bale on international duty with the Wales national team, preparing to play the World Cup playoff match said he is focused on the qualifiers at the moment.

"As I've said before, I'm not concentrating on what the future holds," Bale said, as reported by the Mirror.

"We've got a very important game. I don't need to think or worry about anything else," he added.

Among Bale's accolades, includes six times 'Welsh Player of the Year' awards, with four of them, won on consecutive occasions from 2013. He made a total of 258 appearances, netting 106 goals in all competitions for Real Madrid.





# India 2022: How Flamingos clinched World Cup ticket

## ■ Don't lose focus, Sports Minister charged

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

The Nigeria U17 girls also called the Flamingos have qualified for the U17 FIFA Women's World Cup scheduled for 11-30 October 2022 in India.

Flamingos, who hosted Ethiopia in the second leg and the final playoff qualifier at the MKO Abiola National Stadium yesterday, after securing a 1-0 win at Addis Ababa, played a goalless draw to advance to the U17 FIFA World Cup finals in India.

Ethiopia, prior to the final qualifying double ties with Nigeria, battered South Africa 3-0 at FNB Stadium, South Africa and conceded a 1-0 defeat in Abebe Bikila Stadium, Addis Ababa.

Flamingos performed extraordinarily in the campaign to secure the World Cup ticket ahead of other contending sides to remain the only country unbeaten in the qualifying contests.

The U17 girls had in the clash with the U17 Egyptian girls recorded an overwhelming 6-0 defeat on aggregate to ease



out the North African team. Flamingos in the convincing win, hammered Egypt 2-0 in WE Al-Ahly Stadium, al-Qāhirah, Cairo and banged in 4-0 at the MKO Abiola Stadium in Abuja.

However, with the win, Nigeria joins Tanzania and Morocco that edge out Cameroon and Ghana respectively to represent Africa in the 7th edition of the biennial world football event in India.

Following the victory, the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Sunday Dare, congratulated the Nigeria U17 girls for securing a qualifying ticket to fly the country's flag at the 2022 FIFA U17 World Cup final in India.

"I'm immensely proud of the fight you all put in today. Even though it was a tough game, you all did not fail to step up to the occasion. The grit, the heart, the fight was high up there," Dare said after

the Flamingos clinched the FIFA World Cup ticket.

"I congratulate the entire technical crew and squad for picking up the World Cup against all odds. I believe that all hands will be put on deck to help the team prepare adequately for the finals itself", he added.

The Minister, however, charged the Nigeria U17 girls that thrashed DR Congo 8-0 on aggregates not to lose focus but set their sights on India.

## Chris Hughton appointed Black Stars technical adviser

Former Norwich City manager, Chris Hughton, has been appointed by Ghana Football Association (GFA) as the new technical adviser of the Black Stars of Ghana.

His appointment is coming on the heels when the West African country is preparing for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Hughton, who is born to a Ghanaian father but a citizen of UK and Ireland, had visited Ghana on holiday with his family prior to this announcement.

According to the 63-year-old who played for the Ireland national team with 57 caps, he was unaware of the intricacies that led to his appointment.

"Three days before I arrived the Ghana coach lost his job," Hughton told Sportmail.

"I was visiting family, just relaxing. But I must have been spotted and a lot of people, particularly in the local media, presumed I was there for the job. It kind of grew and grew.

"They were discussing it on the TV and next thing my grandchildren were sending me stuff they'd seen on social media and asking why I hadn't told them. I was relaxed about it. I knew it wasn't true. But then over a period of time that all changed.

Hughton, however, admitted he has been in close contact with GFA due to his background.

He continued: "I do have a relationship with the association simply because of my background and I spoke to them while I was there.

"Would this have happened had I not taken that holiday? Very possibly.

Ghana had a difficult AFCON (they finished bottom of their group) in January and wanted to improve quickly as they had a World Cup eliminator almost immediately. But the holiday certainly didn't do me any harm.

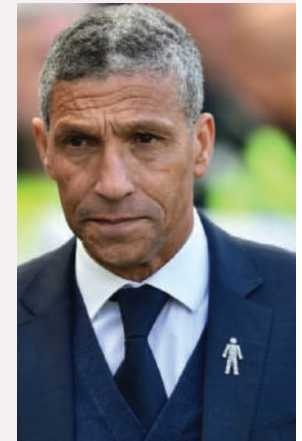
"I will be taking my boots before heading to his trip abroad.

"I was involved against Nigeria but only really watched training. I will be more on the grass this time.

"Tactics and selection are one thing but there are other issues such as media work.

"I can help to take some of the pressure off with those things. I will be involved with the coach on tactics and the team we pick but he will have the final say," Hughton added.

Hughton, who was the 49th manager of English Championship side Nottingham Forest before he was relieved of his duties on 16 September, 2021, will work with the coach of Black Stars, Otto Addo, to manage the team's World Cup campaign in Qatar later this year.



## Iga Swiatek wins French Open title



WTA number one Iga Swiatek defeated promising tennis star Coco Gauff to win the 2022 French Open title for the second time in three years.

Swiatek in a 6-3 6-1 win over the 18-year-old American currently ranked 23, surpassed Serena Williams' record of attaining a 34-match winning streak on

Court Philippe Chatrier yesterday, June 4, 2022.

In a post-match interview, the elated champion said, "I didn't know, and I'm happy about that because I would have got so stressed.

"I'm happy that he's here, honestly. I don't know if he's a huge tennis fan or not. But, yeah, I mean, wow."

Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski was part of the fans who came to cheer her up to victory and Iga was overwhelmed with the visit.

"He's been a top athlete in our country for so many years and it's hard to believe that he actually came to watch me.

"I hope he liked it. I hope he's going to come back. Yeah, I don't know. I'm just overwhelmed," Iga added.

Following this, the 21-year-old Polish revealed that she had wanted to make a mark in the sport, however, Iga acknowledged that surpassing Serena's record means a lot to her.

She continued: "I think honestly, it may seem pretty weird, but having that 35th win and kind of doing something more than Serena did, it's something special.

"Because I always wanted to have some kind of a record. In tennis, it's pretty hard after Serena's career.

"So basically that really hit me, you know. Obviously, winning a

grand slam too, but this one was pretty special because I felt like I've done something that nobody has ever done, and maybe it's gonna be even more. Yeah, this one was special."

Meanwhile, Gauff has vowed to work towards surpassing the 35 matches unbeaten record set by Swiatek yesterday whose win has cemented her place in the WTA number 1 position.

"Now that I have seen the level, this level of number and 35 matches, I know that's what I have to do," Gauff stated.

"Hopefully next time. I'm sure I'm going to play her in another final and hopefully, it's a different result.

The world number 1 having won her first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros in 2020, fell out of the US Open and Wimbledon in the fourth rounds. In 2022, Iga sustained her progress until the Australian Open semi-finals before she clinched her second Grand Slam title in the French Open.

## Red-carded Bimenyimana spoils Namibia's celebrations

Burundi forward Bonfils-Caleb Bimenyimana's late equaliser ensured that Namibia, who hosted the Burundians in their first Group C qualifiers for the 2023 African Cup of Nations in Cote d'Ivoire, got a 1-1 draw.

Namibia through Peter Shalulile, who plays in the DSTV Premier League for Mamelodi Sundowns in South Africa, opened the scoresheet for the host 10 minutes into the first half.

The match continued with much intensity with both teams putting their all to sway the first half result in their favour. The East African visitors invariably tried sustaining the pressure posed by the home side hellbent on doubling the scoreline before the close of the first half.

However, a minute after the second half's kick-off, Bimenyimana was issued the first yellow card of the match followed by Namibia centre-back Charles Hambira 15 minutes later.

Bobby Samaria's side held to the one-goal lead to secure maximum points at home in the FNB Stadium in South

Africa. Namibia chose to use the South Africa stadium for their home matches because their stadiums do not meet the standard approved by the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) for the continental tourney.

Nonetheless, the resilience from the visitors paid off as Jimmy Ndayizeye's side got a late equaliser 3 minutes to additional time from Bimenyimana, who prodded in to ensure Burundi steal a point.

A minute after the goal, the player got a second yellow card that got him sent off.

Namibia were supposed to travel to Kenya for their second Group C fixture on June 8 but it has been cancelled after CAF on May 23, 2022, announced that Kenya have been disqualified from the qualifiers following a suspension of the Football Kenya Federation by FIFA.

Consequently, CAF stated that both teams will play against each other in a home-and-away round-robin format, between June 4, 2022, and March 2023.





## Pope urges 'real' talks in Ukraine war

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

Catholic Pontiff Francis has reiterated his call for real negotiations to resolve the war in Ukraine, which he described as "increasingly dangerous escalation."

"As the fury of destruction and death rages and clashes flare, fueling an escalation that is increasingly dangerous for all, I renew my appeal to the leaders of nations: Please do not lead humanity to destruction," the pontiff said from the window of

the apostolic palace in St Peter's Square.

More than a hundred days since the start of the war, the pope called for real negotiations for a ceasefire and a solution to end it.

On Saturday, the 85-year-old pope confirmed his desire to visit Ukraine, but said he wanted to wait for "the right moment".

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin authorized an all-out assault on his pro-Western neighbor on February 24, tens of thousands of people have been killed, millions have been forced to flee, and communities have been turned into rubbles.



Pope Francis

## Sowore hails AAC's Court of Appeal win

"The court finally gave us the victory that is long overdue. While we never doubted the validity of our cause, the sanctity of our party was at stake as those who seek to destroy it are good and noble will always seek havoc and create distractions when the stakes are the most high. But alas, they have again been put to shame, as we have reclaimed our beloved party and the courts have only confirmed what we have always known to be true and correct."

The above were the words of African Action Congress (AAC) presidential hopeful, Omoyele Sowore, at the weekend.

He added: "My beloved community, friends, comrades, party members, you have been true, you have been faithful, you have been loyal and you have been unrelenting in your support for me and for our beloved party the African Action Congress (AAC). As always, I want to express the full sincerity of my appreciation for your commitment and your unwavering strength which allows me to continue to fight, even when the hour is most dark and the road ahead seems too daunting to continue."

"A great political party is not about individuals, it is about collective power, it is about the joining of dedicated people, with common goals and passions, that come together and join hands, side by side, to fight, build and strengthen a common platform for the progress of all. A party is the vanguard of the people, it is not a place where selfish ambition is given room to bloat."

"We have watched with disgust the process of primaries in other parties. We have seen live and in person, the criminality of the Nigerian state manifest for the whole world to see as the collective wealth of Nigerians was squandered on delegates. This is stolen money! How can you rejoice and shout for joy when a thief extends his hand to give you a tiny sum of what he has stolen from you! But we will not spend this time with the distractions of the ruling elite. But we can't continue like this!!! Nigerians deserve better than the thieves and thugs that continue to try and hoodwink us!!"

## Philippines volcano eruption leaves ash over towns

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

A huge, dark cloud was spewed by a volcano in the eastern Philippines at the weekend, prompting evacuations from ash-covered towns while authorities warned of possible further eruptions.

The blast from Bulusan volcano in the rural Sorsogon province lasted about 17 minutes, sending a grey plume shooting up at least 1km, according to the Philippine

Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PhiVolcs).

No casualties were reported, but authorities raised the alert level to one on the five-level system, indicating "low-level unrest".

"There was a phreatic eruption of the Bulusan volcano, meaning the explosion was caused by the boiling water under the crater," institute head Renato Solidum told local radio DZBB.

A group of 14 hikers and four local guides were midway down the 1,565m mountain,

unaware that an ash cloud was shooting up on the other side of the mountain, civil defence official Leo Ferreras of nearby Barcelona town told AFP by phone.

"All of them got down safe and sound," he added.

The local government of Sorsogon, about 500km south of the capital Manila, said 10 villages in two towns were affected by the ashfall.

Pictures of the aftermath showed houses, roads, and trees in Juban town covered in ash, with vehicles struggling to

navigate the road due to poor visibility.

Authorities deployed a fire truck to clear the area and residents helped sweep the ash off the roads.

"The evacuation is ongoing there, but our priority is senior citizens and those with asthma," Juban disaster official Dennis Despabiladeras said.

The Manila airport authority said no flights have been affected by the eruption so far, though pilots were warned about coming near the area.

Authorities reminded

residents that entry into the four-kilometre radius around the volcano is prohibited and advised those living next to it to be cautious "due to the increased possibilities of sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions".

Residents near the valleys and rivers were also alerted about the danger of mud and stream flows in the event of heavy rainfall.

Bulusan volcano has been active in recent years, with a dozen similar eruptions recorded in 2016 and 2017.

## 'FG, Delta govt have wasted billions of oil, gas revenue'

By **GABRIEL ELOZINO, Asaba**

Governorship candidate of Young Progressive Party (YPP), Comrade Sunny Ofehe has accused the Federal and Delta State governments of wasting billions of naira in oil and gas revenue.

Ofehe said this weekend when he clinched the YPP governorship flag, urging the party faithful and Deltans to reject both the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Congress (APC) at the 2023 general polls.

He vowed to deliver the state from the hands of plunderers in both the PDP and APC.

Ofehe with his mantra of 'Fix Delta Project' said the state was too endowed with mineral resources and potentials, hence the YPP cannot afford to continue to sit idle and allow looters access to the common patrimony, leaving the state undeveloped.

The environmental and human rights activist of global repute spoke shortly after emerging the candidate of the party at the governorship primary held in Asaba.

As the sole aspirant, Ofehe garnered all 76 delegates votes during the option A4 election which was monitored by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Delta State, Mr. Monday Udoh-Tom.

Returning Officer, Tosan Blessing who doubles as the South-South chairman of YPP declared Ofehe as governorship candidate of the party, and subsequently presented him with a certificate and flag of the YPP.

He lamented that the state has lost 24 years due to "maladministration resulting from unpatriotic spirit of those who lay the foundation of our pitiable state amidst plenty."

The YPP candidate said if elected, the state would gain within two years of his administration what was lost in

24 years.

"We will tell the world how much we can do within the next four years. We will recreate Delta State of our dreams not just relying on federal allocation but with the various solid mineral deposits we have in this state.

"Delta is abundant in crude oil resources and natural gas that are already being managed and wasted by the Federal Government. We will ensure a paradigm shift from the manners this God given resources are tapped and utilise. The result of what we will do with these funds that will come in the form of federal allocation will be abundant," he said.

He noted further that he would bring his international exposure and contacts to bear in the governance of the state if elected, noting that advancement recorded in western countries was not rocket science.

"We know we can replicate it because as a state with the highest number of tertiary institutions, we can boast of adequate human capacity.

"This is why I am appealing for your commitment, this is why I want you to take this race as a movement that must come to fruition. We must join hands with the leadership of our dear party to see us through this race," he added.