

Akwa Ibom Governor eulogizes Late Wife At Funeral

Former Aviation Minister Chidoka Resigns From PDP, Gives Reason



Ex-chairperson of PDP in US takes over from Simon Ekpa

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FROM THE ARCHIVE

NIGERIA IS DEFINITELY GOING THROUGH A LEARNING PROCESS WITH DIFFICULT ECONOMIC POLICIES THOUGH THE BENEFIT IS AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL.

“The Truth Is That Most Women Stay In Distance Relationship Because Of Money” Seyi Hunter

Speculators & Acclaimed Sewers?



Tinubu, Obi hail Okonjo-Iweala's WTO re-election

Speculators & Acclaimed Sewers?

The world is ruled by leaders and sewers of note whose predictions are usually an influence to those that have faith in their words and it might look like they claim to relate directly with our creature which they usually assume the position of interfacing with their followers all in a make believe.

It is so shameful that instead of saying it the way it should be on issues that relate to national interest, they claim to see them in perfection and speaking to the truth even when they remain doubtful to be far from the truth to face the facts from the realities.

In so many instances instead of concentrating in relating with issues of faith and righteousness for every human of all faith to practice the laws of the ten commandments in our daily lives, they diversify into public and politics and lay claim by interfacing with claims like interfacing with our creature and could determine what the future own for others in false hood with the make believe which I strongly disagree with same people that has never ment well for this greatest black nation in Africa.history.

I strongly believe that it was never religion till date except for those that are created to cause confusion when the 1999 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria as amended remains the reference point that has guaranteed amongst every other rights not limited to association, religion which Islamic and Christianity including other faith are legitimately accepted.

Most recently a Muslim leader in a public function despite his official designation openly stood at the podium in the present Executive governor of Niger state sang a Christian song giving

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WITH

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praises and adoration to Almighty God which others will regard as either blasphemy against the Islamic faith.

This is on heard off but it is the reality openly sang to the glory of the Lord which has nothing other than what should be the case to foster unity through religion. I can imagine what would have happened if this was an intentiin to mobilise for vote in the Christian community and without a doubt the crowd will tumb up for you this youthful governor of Niger state with Words like HE. Muhammed Umar BAGO TAZACHE !!!!!!!!! and the strategies would have worked in his favour.

This are some of the turn around that the Nigeria communities need to change our narratives against the evil predictions of the suite sawers that has never meant well for the Nigeria state with claims of predicting the future

like the weather forecasters that are nearly perfect against the acclaimed false prophets and Islamic cleric that have lied and will continue to speak for the monetary gains instead of being neutral.The year is coming to an end and instead of repentance by gathering multitudes to pass messages like in the past with predictions with President Muhammed Buhari GCFR failed and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR will failed and dead on arrival with death treat as if they own life but they both remained stronger by the day hence God own life not human.

The usual assations that our beloved country Nigeria is never moving forward but achieving progress in a snail manner with suggestions to the negative slogan of JAKPA sindrone meaning advocacy to migrate to other countries has been seen to be making progress. We have the

right to opinion but in my cost and risks it can be viewed out of ignorance when at same cost local investment could be transacted creating jobs opportunities and contribute to the Nigeria economy positively.

Elections are over and the decisions arrived at the court of finality remain closed and the available options is to speak positively educating the teeming youths to believing in this great country again to achieving progress in the nearest future.

Those that have refused to change believing that their option is still to JAKPA should exit in mass to allow us space for the country to breath at the earliest possible time by relocating to further enslave them selves in a land that will automatically make you a socond hand citizens no matter the immediate gains in the nearest future and it might be too late to appreciate the fact that home remain home at the late hours that they no longer become productive. Every thing has it's time and season with politics, speculators around the corners strategizing to formulate fauls stories as usual termed predictions for the incoming year of 2025 without verifying the realities in the electronic , print and social media giving them prominence and usually criticized for disseminating their stories that has never been denied even with visible pictures, voices and annual predictions that failed shamefully.

It is time for this acclaimed men and women of different faces of religion to bear their cross and acclaimed vision to accept the renewed hope agenda of the APC led by their political leader in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to breath until the agenda of the Independence electoral commission kicks off and reserve their strength to vote them out of office come in 2027 when the re- election if they so have the integrity to speak to the truth like some of us that strongly believe in this country call NIGERIA.

Ironically this same critics has benefited from the Nigeria nation but always very economical with the truth instead perpetrate distractions to the teeming youths that the Nigeria state has no future.

The recently launched National economic empowerment is on going that Mr President has designed to impact positively on the youths massively, people with special needs including women and elderly with sharing formula of disbursement in the areas of interventions with grants and schemes directly that are already affecting the right Nigerians positively.



Tinubu, Obi hail Okonjo-Iweala's WTO re-election

President Bola Tinubu has hailed the re-election of Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation.

Okonjo-Iweala's re-appointment was confirmed in a statement posted on WTO's official X (formerly Twitter) account on Friday.

The former Nigeria's Minister of Finance made history in 2021 as the first African and first woman to lead the 164-nation-member WTO.

Her first term as the seventh Director-General of the WTO will expire on August 31, 2025, while the second term begins September 1.

Tinubu in a statement by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga assured Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria's steadfast support, urging her to consolidate on the "bold reforms, dedication to equitable global trade practices, and tireless efforts to promote international cooperation".

Tinubu noted that Okonjo-Iweala's unanimous appointment for a second four-year term was a demonstration of the trust and confidence the international community placed in her leadership to advance multilateral trade for

sustainable global development.

Tinubu expressed confidence that her continued leadership would strengthen the international economic organisation's role as a critical pillar of inclusive global economic growth and good governance in the next four years.

"As a committed member of the WTO, ECOWAS, and the African Continental Free Trade Area, Nigeria will continue to support the WTO's mission to foster a fair, inclusive, and equitable multilateral trading system", Tinubu said.

Also, the former Presidential candidate of Labour Party in 2023, Peter Obi has described Okonjo-Iweala as "one of Nigeria's most valuable human capital exports to the world, a symbol of hard work and excellence, and a beacon of hope and inspiration for the younger generation".

Obi in his congratulatory message to Okonjo-Iweala said, "Her rise to greatness through productive contribution to societal development stands as a lesson to us in Nigeria; first, as leaders, who must understand that leadership is a responsibility to care for the people; and then as a people, who



must understand that our leadership recruitment process must be based on character, competence, capability and integrity".

Reacting, Okonjo-Iweala expressed gratitude to the 166-member nations of the WTO following her re-election for a second term as the DG.

"I am deeply honoured by the trust and support of the WTO General Council and its 166 Members. It is a privilege to continue serving as Director-General for a second four-year term," she said.

Reflecting on her first term, the former

Nigerian finance minister highlighted the WTO's significant role in addressing global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and geopolitical tensions.

She remarked, "In recent years, the WTO has played a vital role in helping members navigate pressing global challenges, including the pandemic, conflict, and heightened geopolitical tensions. I commend members for their hard work and determination in achieving progress despite unprecedented levels of uncertainty and rapid economic shifts."

Looking ahead, Okonjo-Iweala reaffirmed her commitment to championing trade as a catalyst for economic growth and resilience while strengthening the multilateral trading system.

"As we look ahead, I remain firmly committed to delivering results that matter — results that ultimately improve the lives of people around the world. By promoting trade as a driver of economic growth and resilience, the WTO will continue to provide a collaborative platform for Members to address shared global challenges," Okonjo-Iweala said.

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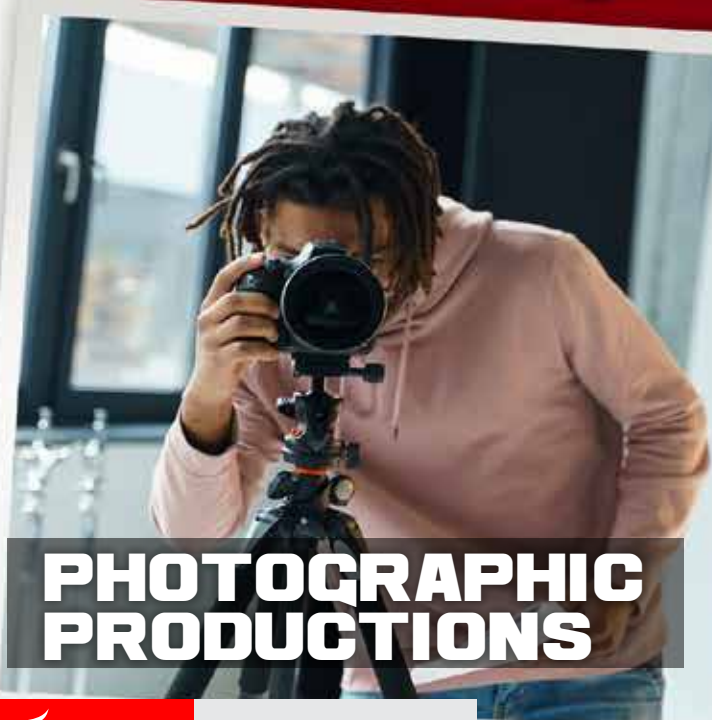


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Ex-chairperson of PDP in US takes over from Simon Ekpa

Chief of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Mr Joe Igbokwe has alleged that a former chairperson of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Atlanta, United States, Mrs Ngozi Orabueze has taken over the baton of leadership from the self-acclaimed Prime Minister of Biafra Government in Exile, Simon Ekpa who was arrested last week for terror-related activities by the Finnish authorities.

According to Igbokwe, Ngozi who is a practicing nurse in the United States and Chief of Staff to Simon Ekpa, is holding forth in the absence of the rabble rouser agitator.

Chief Igbokwe disclosed this in a post on his official Facebook page on Wednesday.

He said, "Biafran Militia group led by Simon Ekpa has appointed former Chairperson of the Peoples Democratic Party Atlanta chapter Mrs Ngozi Orabueze to hold forth in Mazi Ekpa's absence. Ngozi, a practising Nurse, is currently Chief of Staff in the Biafran Government in Exile."

Moreover, Ngozi Orabueze was seen in a viral video on Wednesday, threatening to kill anybody in the South-East region wearing police, army, immigration and Civil Defense



uniform.

Recall that NewsBand reported that the gang leader of the autopilot group (Ekpa) was taken into custody

alongside four others on terror-related activities in Finland.

Mr Ekpa was remanded in prison by the district court of Pääjärvi-Häme on sus-

picion of public incitement to commit a crime with terrorist intent.

Finland police in a statement said Ekpa was arrested "on suspicion of

public incitement to commit a crime with terrorist intent", while four others were taken into custody "for financing a terrorist crime".

"The detention demands are related to the preliminary investigation, in which a Finnish citizen of Nigerian background, born in the 1980s, is suspected of public incitement to commit a crime with terrorist intent.

"The police suspect that the man has promoted his efforts from Finland by means that have led to violence against civilians and authorities as well as other crimes in the region of South-Eastern Nigeria", the statement reads.

Also, the head of the investigation, Crime Commissioner Otto Hiltunen from the Central Crime Police said that "Ekpa has orchestrated this activity, among other things, on his social media channels".

"Four other persons are suspected of financing the aforementioned activity. All five suspects of the crime have been arrested during the beginning of the week.

"International cooperation has been carried out during the preliminary investigation," the statement added

Former Aviation Minister Chidoka Resigns From PDP, Gives Reason

Former Minister of Aviation Osita Chidoka has announced his resignation from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Chidoka made this revelation

during his appearance on Channels Television's Politics Today on Friday.

According to Chidoka, his decision to leave the PDP is driven by his desire to focus on his non-profit

organization, Athena Centre. He expressed his commitment to working with like-minded Nigerians to reform the country's political system and promote evidence-based

governance.

Chidoka stated, "Earlier today, I sent a letter to my ward in Anambra State resigning officially from the PDP. I am leaving the PDP, I am

leaving politics for some time, I am focusing on the Athena Centre."

He, at a time, served as the Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

No, U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump Has Not Ordered Nigerian Government to Release Biafra Separatist Leader Nnamdi Kanu

No, US president-elect Donald Trump has not ordered Nigerian government to release Biafra separatist leader Nnamdi Kanu

IN SHORT: A video circulating online shows US president-elect Donald Trump allegedly urging the Nigerian government to release Nnamdi Kanu. But Trump never made such a statement; the video is a deepfake.

A video circulating on social media shows US president-elect Donald Trump apparently urging the Nigerian government to release Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipub)

Biafra is a region in south-eastern Nigeria. Its secession in 1967 sparked a 30-month civil war. Ipub is a group seeking the restoration of Biafra.

In the video, Trump can be heard

saying:

Today, I am calling on the Nigerian government to immediately release Mr Nnamdi Kani who has been detained under circumstances that raised questions of fairness, human rights and basic justice. Nnamdi Kanu's detention has gone on far too long and it's time for the Nigerian government to respect the principles of freedom and the rule of law.

I have watched the situation closely and I have seen how it has stirred deep pain, anger and frustration among many Nigerians who feel like their rights and voices are being suppressed. Now, let me be clear, if Mr Nnamdi Kanu is not released by November 31st, 2024, my administration will begin the process of withdrawing medical, financial and humanitarian

aid that we provide to Nigeria.

The video has a split screen. The top part shows Trump speaking at what appears to be a rally. At the bottom are two photos: one of Nigerian president Bola Tinubu and the other of Kanu.

Trump emerged victorious in the 5 November 2024 US presidential elections. He is set to take office in January 2025.

Kanu's detention has been a subject of ongoing legal and political controversy in Nigeria, with his supporters seeking international backing for his release. He was arrested in 2021 on several charges, including terrorism and possession of firearms.

The same video of Trump has also been posted here and here. (Note: See more instances listed at the end of this report.)

Ipub and its supporters often use disinformation campaigns to promote narratives about the separatist movement. But did Trump order Kanu's release? We checked.

It's a deepfake

A closer look at the video showed that Trump's lip movement did not match the words he was supposedly saying. This is a sign of a manipulated video.

We took a screenshot of the video and ran it through a reverse image search. This led to the original video of Trump speaking to his supporters towards the end of vote counting during the US election.

We also searched for the video in question on Trump's verified X account and came up empty.

We didn't find any credible news re-

ports or public statements indicating that Trump discussed the Kanu issue or gave a speech directed at the Nigerian government.

In the circulating video, Trump said Kanu should be released by "November 31st." This date is not on the calendar, as November has only 30 days. This glaring error further discredits the video's claims.

This video is an example of a deepfake. In this case, Trump's voice was used to make it seem like he said something that he never did.

Such videos pose serious risks, as they can mislead the public and fuel misinformation.

The video claiming that Trump called for the release of Kanu is not authentic.

Appeal Court Frees Popular Lagos Doctor, Femi Olaleye Convicted Of Rape

A Nigerian doctor convicted of rape and sexual assault has been acquitted by the appeal court.

Femi Olaleye, a Lagos-based doctor, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by the high court on a two-count charge of defilement and sexual assault by penetration of his wife's 16-year-old niece.

However, the Court of Appeal on Friday discharged and acquitted him.

The appellant was freed after challenging his conviction and life imprisonment sentence.

ment sentence.

Gistmania reports that Mr Olaleye, the medical director of Optimal Cancer Care, was arraigned in 2022 by the Lagos State Government at the sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court, in Ikeja, Lagos.

After his conviction in August 2023, his lawyer, Kemi Pihinero, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), filed an appeal in November 2023, arguing that there was no direct evidence to confirm the alleged victim's age.



The appellant argued that there was no direct evidence to establish

the alleged victim's age, claiming the prosecution failed to provide docu-

mentation proving she was 16 years old at the time of the offence.



It Is Bad Enough That Kemi Badenoch, The Daughter of An Immigrant, Wants To Tighten Immigration Law

Kemi Badenoch's rise to prominence as the first Black woman to lead a major political party in the United Kingdom is undeniably historic. Her story symbolizes the triumph of multiculturalism and the opportunities migration offers. However, her recent pledges to implement stricter immigration policies expose a troubling contradiction: someone who owes her position to the benefits of migration now seeks to restrict those very opportunities for others.

This paradox encapsulates the heart of the debate on immigration in modern democracies. While the UK Conservative Party, under Badenoch's leadership, claims to address the strain of mass migration on public services, the rhetoric and proposed measures risk alienating immigrants, creating divisions, and undermining the principles of inclusion and opportunity that have long defined Britain.

In her speech at Westminster, Badenoch warned that the current pace of migration threatens to overwhelm public services and erode social cohesion. She announced plans to introduce a hard annual cap on legal immigration, tighten visa regulations, and review existing treaties to close loopholes. She argued that immigration must slow down to preserve housing, healthcare, and wages.

Her concern about the strain on public services is valid to an extent. The UK's healthcare system, housing sector, and other public services face mounting pressure. However, blaming immigration oversimplifies the root causes of these challenges. This is as issues, such as underfunding, mismanagement, and policy failures within successive governments have significantly been fingered to have contributed to these problems.

Moreover, Badenoch's insistence that immigrants must adopt British values and foster a cohesive national identity raises concerns about the potential for xenophobia and exclusion. Such rhetoric risks painting immigrants as a monolithic group resistant to integration, ignoring the diversity and contributions of the immigrant community.

Badenoch's own life story is a testament to the opportunities afforded by migration. Born to Nigerian parents, her family sought a better life in the United Kingdom, a life that allowed her to rise through the ranks of the Conservative Party to become a symbol of representation for minorities.

Her call for tighter immigration policies, therefore, feels like a betrayal to many who look up to her as a beacon of possibility. It is one thing to advocate for balanced reforms, but it is another to promote measures that could block the very pathways that enabled her success.

Critics have likened Badenoch's stance to pulling up the ladder after reaching the top, a metaphor for policies that limit opportunities for others once an individual has achieved success. This perception risks alienating her from the communities that have celebrated her achievements.

Immigration has historically been an engine of economic growth for the UK. Migrants fill critical labor shortages in industries such as healthcare, agriculture, and technology. They also contribute to public finances, often paying more in taxes than they receive in benefits.

Studies have shown that countries with open and inclusive immigration policies tend to experience higher rates of innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. The argument that migrants place an unsustainable burden on public services overlooks these benefits.

Badenoch's proposed annual cap on immigration could exacerbate labor shortages, particularly in sectors already struggling to recruit workers. The National Health Service (NHS), for example, relies heavily on foreign-born professionals. Restricting immigration could lead to longer wait times for patients and increased strain on an already overburdened system.

Badenoch's claim that "without a shared national identity, our country will suffer" is problematic. It simplifies a complex issue and risks fueling divisive narratives about immigrants failing to integrate. Integration is a two-way process that requires both migrants and host communities to engage meaningfully.

The emphasis on "British values" raises questions about whose values are being upheld and how they are defined. Such rhetoric often ignores the dynamic and evolving nature of national identity, which is enriched by diverse cultural influences.

As a leader with a unique personal history, Badenoch is well-placed to offer a nuanced perspective on immigration. She could have championed policies that address legitimate concerns about managing migration flows while celebrating the contributions of immigrants. Instead, her proposals reflect a reactionary approach that risks alienating immigrant communities and perpetuating stereotypes.

Badenoch's insistence that reforms are necessary to prevent abuses of the system and protect public services is valid in principle. However, policies aimed at addressing such concerns must be carefully crafted to avoid unintended consequences, such as deterring skilled migrants or fostering hostility toward newcomers.

Akwa Ibom Governor eulogizes Late Wife At Funeral



Akwa Ibom State Governor, Umo Eno, on Friday, paid tribute to his late wife and First Lady, Patience, during her funeral service held in Ikot Ekpene Udo, Nsit-Ubium Local Government Area of the state.

The governor described his late wife as his anchor and vowed never to forget her or refer to her in the past tense, promising to keep her memory alive in his heart.

"You were my anchor, the one who could tell me what was right and what was wrong. With your death, part of me is gone, but I will cherish the memories we shared forever," Eno said with emotion.

Reflecting on their 40-year journey together, Eno expressed gratitude for the blessings they enjoyed as a couple

and found solace in their children and grandchildren.

"Today, as we bid you farewell, the whole world is here, celebrating your memory. As I look at our children and grandchildren, I take consolation in the fact that the journey that began 40 years ago has been one of growth and immeasurable blessings. We will be fine," he said.

"I will never describe you in past tense. You will always be my 'Oluwakemi,' alive in my mind, fresh in my thoughts, and warm in my heart," he added, his voice filled with emotion.

In her remarks, the wife of Vice President Kashim Shettima, Nana, lauded the late First Lady's contributions to humanity

and urged the family to uphold her legacy.

Rev. Simeon Afolabi, of First Love Assembly in Port Harcourt, delivered a heartfelt homily titled "When the Death of Loved Ones Occurs."

He emphasised that the passing of a loved one strains the world because of the impact they made during their life.

"Anyone who makes a difference in life does not die alone," Afolabi said, drawing inspiration from 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16, and encouraging the family to emulate the virtues of their late mother.

Her death was reported on September 26, 2024.

The funeral service was

graced by a host of dignitaries, including former President Goodluck Jonathan, Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, and Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara.

Others include: Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, Imo State Governor Hope Uzodimma, Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, and former Akwa Ibom Governor, Mr Udom Emmanuel.

Also in attendance were the Minister of State for Petroleum (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, the Chief Judge of Akwa Ibom State, Justice Ekaette Obot, former Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Obong Umana Okon Umana, and several other dignitaries who came to pay their last respects.

"The Truth Is That Most Women Stay In Distance Relationship Because Of Money" Seyi Hunter



Nollywood actress, Seyi Hunter has revealed why most women agree to stay in distance relationships. In a video that was posted on the official Instagram page of Biola Bayo1, during an interview

with Biola Adebayo on the program Talk To B Extra, she made it known that the truth about distance relationships is that most women agree to stay in them because of the money they get out of them.

In her statement, she said, "The truth is that most women stay in distance relationships because of money. Not on a personal view, on behalf of other people, now that we have the japa syndrome, some-

times one has to go and the other lover would have to stay back in the country. Just keep in mind that once you decide to go separately, you have to make the relationship an open one.

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When You Drink Hot Water Every Day, This Is What Happens to Your Body

Have you ever given any thought to what would happen to your body if you continually subjected it to the effects of drinking hot water? When everything is taken into account, we are aware that water is important for the body to keep adequately hydrated and that it accounts for sixty percent of the human adult body (via USGS). Water makes up sixty percent of the human adult body. Who would have thought, though, that the temperature at which you consume it plays a role in the kinds of health benefits you gain from it?

However, drinking water that has been brought to a boil on a frequent basis offers a variety of additional health benefits, which your body may be prevented from taking advantage of if you drink cold water instead of water that has been brought to a boil. People have a propensity, when they think about drinking water, to picture themselves in a position in which they are sipping some water that is really cold while basking in the warmth of the late spring sun or relishing in the virus-like sensation of it after a particularly tough twisting class. This is because people have a tendency to picture themselves in scenarios in which they are partaking in activities that involve extreme temperatures. Drinking warm water first thing in the morning is recommended by medical professionals, as stated by Stella Metsovas, a professional nutritionist, who explains why this is the case. Medical Daily has been provided with this information. In point of fact, and to some degree one is taken back by this revelation, access to this kind of information has been available for a significant amount of time now. According to Reader's Digest, both Chinese and Indian physicians encourage drinking this steaming hot beverage first thing in the morning to get the most out of the day due to the many excellent benefits it has

on one's health. This is because traditional Chinese medicine and Indian medicine both believe that drinking this beverage in the morning helps one get the most out of the day.

Therefore, would you be so kind as to elaborate on what you mean by that? If you drink hot water on a regular basis, your body will experience these effects, which are something that may be expected.

There is some evidence that lowering your blood pressure can be accomplished by drinking hot water on a regular basis.

In this difficult environment, there is a clear approach for being able to stretch less, and it all starts with establishing a daily appreciation for water. This is the first step in the process. Dietitian Amanda Carlson, who is also a qualified dietitian, is of the opinion that individuals can benefit from keeping an adequate level of hydration in order to experience reduced levels of anxiety. If you don't give your body the liquids it needs, you're adding extra weight to it, and your body will react to this by acting erratically.

According to Healthline, consuming hot water reduces the activity of your focus sensory system, which is responsible for determining how your brain reacts when it is subjected to pressure. According to the American Psychological Association, not getting enough water can cause confusion in the central nervous system, which can trigger a vicious loop that never comes to an end. It is actually easier to become dehydrated when you are under pressure, as your pulse will be higher than normal, and you will be breathing more actively than usual, says Renee Melton, MS, RD, LD, who is the head of nutrition at Sensei. This is because your pulse will be higher when you are under strain. WebMD received this information from another source. Therefore, if you truly want to get rid of the problem the next time it comes up, you might want to consider the alternative of continuously drinking hot water.

South East: Black spots revealed where gunmen reign, security men focus on extortion on highways



Many communities across the five South East states have security issues, and as a result, people no longer travel to their villages for ceremonies, including burials and weddings. The situation became worse shortly after the arrest and detention of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu by the Department of State Service, DSS.

It started with the declaration of sit at home every Monday, during which IPOB members and the Republic of Biafra agitators force the entire people of the South East to remain in their homes. Those who disobeyed were either shot dead or maimed if they dared step out of their houses. Several police formations in the zone were set ablaze by the Biafra agitators, apparently to drive home their point that they wanted Nnamdi Kanu released without conditions.

As security operatives battled these agitators, the insurgents went underground and ended up in the thick forests in many communities from where they were wreaking havoc on the people. That was the beginning of the emergence of the unknown gunmen in the region.

In Anambra, for instance, the gunmen set up abodes in Amichi, Ukpok, Iseke, Azia, Orsumoghu, Lilu, Ubuluisuzor and other places which have become no go areas. There are also gunmen camps across Ose Akwa River in Ihiala, Anaku in Ayamelum, Ukwulu and Nawgu in Dunukofia and many other places. These forests have also doubled as detention camps for kidnapers and those who were unfortunate to find themselves in these camps have had terrible stories to tell.

Due to the activities of the gunmen, the 35 kilometers stretch of road from Amichi through Ukpok, Orsumoghu, Mbosi to Iseke had, for the last three years, become a no-go area for civilians and even secu-

urity operatives. Before the road became desolate, there used to be no fewer than six police checkpoints along the road, but the security men have all run away and relocated to safer areas where they extort motorists with reckless abandon.

In Abia State, the Umunneochi axis harbours one of the most dreaded camps. The surprising thing is that there is a military checkpoint close to the insurgents' den, and often times, kidnapers pass through the checkpoints with their victims without molestation.

In Imo, the criminals are also believed to operate from Okigwe/Ihube forest which shares border with Umunneochi and Uturu in Abia State.

Before the launch of Operation Flush, Lokpanta axis near the Regional Cattle market also used to be a serious hot bed, but calm has since returned to the region. However, the boundary between Abia and Enugu State near Better Life Market/ Awgu/Isiagu border line still witnesses occasional incidents despite multiple security checkpoints along the corridor.

Recently, criminals suspected to be bandits were robbing travelers in the evening hours just at the Awgu/Lokpanta boundary on the Enugu Port Harcourt expressway while security agents mounted roadblocks around Lekwesi junction.

Some kidnapers are suspected to be operating from Ngwa axis but their victims are said to be kept in peoples' houses. It is also known that kidnapers occasionally strike around Umuahia area and cross into Abia from Imo State, via Mbaise-Umuahia road.

Between Enugu and Onitsha through Awka, there were 16 checkpoints at the last count and seven of them were manned by soldiers. At these checkpoints manned by soldiers, civilians were being used to extort money from commercial drivers.

The question many people ask, why have security operatives not been able to dislodge the insurgents in these forests and blackspots? The immediate past Commissioner of Police in Anambra State, Mr. Aderemi Adeoye said the reason was because government would not want to jeopardize the safety of innocent people living in those communities.

Adeoye said: "You know this is like guerilla warfare and not a conventional war. The Federal government has exercised a lot of restraint in dealing with the problem, and security operatives have been urging the insurgents not to push their luck so far because patience has a limit. Up till now, we have not used air strikes. Why? Because we are concerned about the safety of the innocent people there. We don't want collateral damage. But if their existence there will make life meaningless to the innocent people, then government would have been pushed to the wall to go all out and take them out, in order to secure the people who have become canon-fodder in their hands.

"Security operatives are working to gradually reclaim all these areas that the insurgents have turned into their hideouts because they are natural forests, harsh topography, difficult terrains and others. The criminals take refuge in such places and launch attacks from there, but now it is very difficult for them to launch such attacks and come out alive. Attacks have been checked to a reasonable extent. I will give you an insight; they plant landmines around those camps and also use rocket propelled grenade launchers. These are war materials and we are not at war."

An indigene of Lilo, one of the black spots in Ihiala local government area, Mr. Cletus Nwakire, who said he has not been able to travel to his community for the past three

years because of the activities of the insurgents, wondered why it is difficult to drive the hoodlums from the forests.

"Sometimes I feel that the inability of security operatives to curb our area of the insurgency is deliberate. How can people who did not have military training be more powerful than the soldiers?"

"I believe that if the security operatives decide to flush out these people from the forests, they can do it within one week. As it stands, our people can't go home and all the communities along that axis have been deserted."

The Coalition of South East Youth Leaders, COSEYL, has advocated the deployment of helicopters and drones for aerial surveillance of the black spots to curb the disturbing insecurity in the South East region.

President General of COSEYL, Comrade Gooldluck Ibem said that security agencies should regularly conduct aerial surveillance of the various black spots in the South East, using intelligence they gather from such mission.

Before and shortly after the inception of the current administration, Umunneochi —Isuikwuato axis used to be a hot bed for criminals especially kidnapers and bandits who operated with impunity around the area.

But after the launch of a special security operation codenamed Operation Flush, by Gov. Alex Otti, insecurity in the entire state has drastically reduced although there are pockets of occasional incidents.

It is believed in the security circle that most of the kidnapping incidents in the state were perpetrated by cross border criminals who operate from outside the state.

Sometimes, the criminals are suspected to operate from forests in the neighbouring Imo State especially around Imo River corridor where soldiers had a shootout with the hoodlums recently.



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EFCC Arraigns Man for Land Racketeering in Maiduguri

The Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, arraigned one Bukar Umar Alhaji before Justice Muhammad Maina of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri on a two-count bordering on obtaining by false pretense and criminal misappropriation to the tune of N2,100,000 (Two Million One Hundred Thousand Naira only).

Count one of the charges reads: "That you Bukar Umar Alhaji, with National Identification Number (NIN) 9584243514, and Babagoni Umar (now at large), sometime in March, 2022, in Maiduguri Borno State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did with intent to defraud obtained the gross sum of N2,100,000.00 (Two million, One Hundred Thousand Naira) from Ibrahim Ismail under the guise that the said money is for the sale of two plots of land to him situated at Mafa Local Gov-

ernment Area, Borno State, the land which you knew to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a)&(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2005 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

Counsel to the prosecution, Faruk Muhammad prayed the court for a trial date and to remand the defendant in prison custody.

Justice Maina thereafter adjourned till December 4, 2023 for commencement of trial and remanded the defendant in Maiduguri Maximum Correctional facility.

His journey to the correctional facility started when he sold two plots of land not belonging to him and refused to pay back the money paid to him by his victim.



EFCC Arrests Suspected Internet Fraudster in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, arrested one suspected internet fraudster.

The suspect was arrested at No.25 Aliyu Modibbo Street, Guzape Hills, Abuja following credible intelligence on his alleged involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from him include a Range Rover Velar 2019 model, \$4100 (Four Thousand One Hundred United States Dollars), N2,000,000 (Two Million Naira) cash, One AP silver wrist watch, two mobile phones and one laptop.

He will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.



Alleged N80.2b Money Laundering: Court Fixes Yahaya Bello's Arraignment for December 13



A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has slated the arraignment of the former Kogi State governor, Yahaya Adoza Bello for December 13, 2024.

Justice Emeka Nwite on Friday, November 29, 2024

directed the court's Registrar to issue a hearing notice to Bello's legal team regarding his arraignment.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Bello on 19-count charge of mon-

ey laundering to the tune of N80.2 billion.

Addressing the court about the former governor's presence in court, prosecution counsel, Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, urged the court to proceed with the arraignment,

stating that the defendant's presence satisfied the legal requirement for the process.

"In view of his physical presence in court and relying on Sections 271-277 and Section 392 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), I respectfully apply that the charge be read to the defendant, his plea be taken, and my lordship adjourn for further proceedings," he said. He referenced two Court of Appeal rulings, dated August 20, 2024, which upheld a defendant's presence in court as satisfactory enough for his arraignment and further buttressed his position with the fact that Bello had failed to appear in court on several occasions, prompting an application for his trial in absentia.

Bello in his response, informed the court that he had not mobilized his legal team on the arraignment and pleaded for time to do so.

Justice Nwite, in a short ruling, adjourned to December 13, 2024 to enable the prosecution to serve the defendant's counsel with the necessary processes.

In addition, the court directed the registrar to issue a hearing notice to Bello's legal team and ordered that the former governor be remanded in the custody of the EFCC.

Gombe Court Jails Police, Immigration Officers for N1.6m Employment Fraud

Justice T.G. Ringing of the Federal High Court sitting in Gombe, Gombe State on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 convicted and sentenced two police officers: Yusuf AbdulKarim Bature and Musa Phillip and an immigration officer; Nasiru Mohammed to seven years imprisonment each for employment fraud to the tune of N1,640,000 (One Million Six Hundred and Forty Thousand Naira)

Bature and Phillip were arraigned on two count-charges of obtaining by false pretences and intent to defraud while Mohammed was arraigned on one-count charge of obtaining by false pretences by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Count one of the charges against Yusuf AbdulKarim Bature and Musa Phillip reads: "That you Yusuf Abdul karim, Bature and Musa Phillip while being public officers with the Nigerian Police Force sometime in 2022 in Gombe within



the Gombe Judicial division at the Federal High Court of Justice did with intent to defraud falsely obtained from one Asabe Hamed the total sum of Nine Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira for the purpose of securing a job, a claim you knew to be false'.

The charge against Nasiru

Mohammed reads: "that you Nasiru Mohammed sometime in 2022 in Gombe within the jurisdiction of this honourable court while being a staff of the Nigerian Immigration Service did falsely obtained the sum of Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand naira (N670,000) from Abdul Rahman Abubakar and

Akwalo Adamu under the false pretence of securing them a job with the Nigerian Immigration service which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act"

Upon arraignment the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges.

In view of their guilty pleas, prosecution counsel Tortema Joshua prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly but counsels to the defendants, Babangida Mohammed and K.K. Jomoh pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as the defendants were first-time offenders who are remorseful of their actions.

Justice Ringing thereafter convicted and sentenced Bature, Phillip and Mohammed to seven years imprisonment each or a fine of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) each.

EFCC Arraigns Yahaya Bello for Alleged N110.4billion Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday arraigned a former governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Adoza Bello before Justice Maryanne Anenih of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja.

He was arraigned alongside Umar Shuaibu Oricha and Abdulsalami Hudu, on a 16-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and money laundering to the tune of N110.4billion.

Count eleven of the charge reads: "That you Yahaya Adoza Bello, Umar Shuaibu Oricha And Abdulsalami Hudu sometime 2022, in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, whilst having dominion over the state's treasury, dishonestly used the total sum of Five Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Dirhams for the acquisition of a property located at Hotel Apartment Community: Burj Khalifa, lying, being and situate at Plot 160, Municipality NO 345-7562, Sky View Building No.401, Floor4, Dubai U.A.E."

Count sixteen reads: "That Yahaya Adoza Bello sometime between 2017 and 2018, in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, had under your control the total sum

of N677, 848,000 (Six Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Eight Thousand Naira) unlawfully obtained from BESPOQUE BUSINESS SOLUTION LIMITED".

They all pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Following their pleas, EFCC counsel, Kemi Pinheiro SAN, informed the court of the prosecution's readiness to commence trial. However, counsel for the first and second defendants, Joseph Daudu SAN, moved an application for bail for his clients. Pinheiro opposed the application arguing that it predated the arraignment of the defendants and was therefore premature, hasty and procedurally flawed.

Daudu had clarified that the bail application before the court was dated November 22, 2024, and urged the court to admit Bello to bail. "My Lord, the application is supported by a written address and exhibits, including Exhibit A, which demonstrates that the first defendant responded to the court's public summons. His appearance today signifies his commitment to stand trial." He cited Sections 378(2) and 371 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) in support of the bail application.

EFCC Arrests 15 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Makurdi



Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested fifteen suspected internet fraudsters.

The suspects were arrested at Abu King Shuluwe Street Akpehe, Makurdi metropolis based on actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include: two cars, five laptop computers, 17 mobile phones among others

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as their investigations are concluded.

Makurdi Court Jails 10 Internet Fraudsters

A Federal High Court sitting in Makurdi presided over by Justices M.S Abubakar and RJ Egbe has convicted and sentenced ten internet fraudster to various jail terms,

They were prosecuted on a one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false presence and possession of fraudulent documents by the Economic and financial crimes Commission, EFCC, Makurdi Zonal Directorate.

The convicts are: Abugu Clement Kelechi, Samuel Moses Ogbonna, Samuel Sylvester Ogbu, Scott King David, Esua

Ablaku Peter, Obinna Ejike, Austine Okwori, Clement David Onoja, Austine Nyagou Bur and Henry Adah Abah.

The charge against Abugu Clement Kelechi reads: That you Abugu Clement Kelechi "M" 21 yrs between April and August 2024 in Makurdi, Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently sent electronic messages by which you represented yourself to be one "Jennifer Albert" a female Spanish Doctor residing in Afghanistan on Facebook and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section

14(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition Prevention, etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under same Section of the Act.

Charge against Scott King David reads: That you, Scott King David sometime between 2023 and 2024 in Makurdi, Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate the identity of one Professor Bartacco Valeria, a Research Professor from the University of Michigan by fraudulently using his identity through the internet to create fake social media profiles with the intent to gain advantage for

yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, ETC) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (IV) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them. Consequently, the facts of the cases were reviewed and incriminating documents tendered in evidence before the court, following which the prosecuting counsel Ramiah Ikhanaede, Yusuf Musa, A.S Idiris and Almustqpha Gazali urged the court to sentence them accordingly.

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Ministry Workers Seek EFCC's Intervention against Illegal Mining in Port Harcourt

Workers in the Ministry of Solid Minerals under the aegis of Federal Mines Officers have sought the intervention of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in the fight against illegal mining activities.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Commission on Thursday, November 21, 2024, the President of its Port Harcourt Branch, Engr. Naku Romos, who led the delegation stated that the officials came to seek the collaboration of the Commission in their desire to see the curtailment of activities of illegal miners from the country's mining sector. They noted that activities of illegal miners are not only illegitimate but constitute economic crimes and destructive to the already heavily compromised Niger Delta ecosystem.

"We are from the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development. It has been our tradition, our culture whenever we have new heads to make it an obligation to go out and familiarise ourselves with the relevant government agencies, especially law enforcement agencies like the EFCC, Police, DSS and others," he said.

Romos, who assumed office in September, 2024 further recalled that the Solid Minerals Development Ministry was saddled with the responsibility of regulating and controlling the mining of solid minerals in the country and frowned that the federal government was losing much economic resources in the extractive industry due

to activities of illegal miners. He further noted that there was zero possibility of achieving results in the fight against illegal mining in the country without the ministry's collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

Responding, the Acting Director, Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate, Adebayo Adeniyi, disclosed that the EFCC was ready for any collaboration that was geared towards a better Nigerian society, adding that efforts were already in place in the area of illegal mining, being an area of priority importance to the Commission's Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede. He pointed out that Olukoyede has set up a Special Task Force across all EFCC directorates for the purpose of handling illegal mining cases and further disclosed that the Port Harcourt's Directorate has a couple of illegal mining cases it is currently investigating.

Adeniyi urged the Ministry to pursue preventive measures through enlightenment programmes for all miners as many of the unlicensed miners may be unaware that they are committing crimes as well as degrading the environment.

"First of all, enlightenment is key to make them know that this is what is required of them. If they don't move away from it, then you have to write to me. If you are sure and aware, bring up a petition, we will definitely take it up from there, as they are illegally exploiting our natural resources and destroying the environment. I can assure you that the EFCC will maintain aggressive posture against illegal mining in the Niger Delta region by ensuring that it is brought to a halt," he said.

Court Jails Internet Fraudster, One other for N9.4m in Maiduguri

Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri, on Monday, November 18, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Mpada Ishaku Dzarma to nine years imprisonment.

Dzarma was first arraigned on May 4th, 2024 by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a two-count charge bordering on money laundering and cybercrime to the tune of N 9,000,000.00 (Nine Million Naira).

Count one of the charge reads: "That you, Mpada Ishaku Dzarma between 2023 and 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of aggregate sum of N9,000,000.00 (nine million naira) only into your

Access Bank with Account No. 1233383458, Mpada Ishaku Dzarma being the naira equivalent value of the Cash App, Pampay, and Gift Cards denominated in United States of America Dollars which sum you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of an unlawful act to wit: falsely representing yourself to unsuspecting foreign nationals amongst who are; Nils Kaptur with social media account @ nilf_kpt, Grace Wamalwa, @ ejstorm53 e.t.c as a software engineer based in Hollywood, Texas and could unblock and activate blocked tiktok account and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under

Adamawa Courts Jail Twelve Internet Fraudsters



Justices Kayanson Samuel Lawanson, Hammed Isha, Benjamin Manji Lawal and Mohammed Ibrahim Tola of the Adamawa State High Court, Adamawa State have convicted and sentenced twelve internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are: Oladele Pius, Emmanuel Bulus, Elijah Elisha, Alamin Mohammed Bappa, Jamilu Usman, and Enoch Solomon.

Others are: Emmanuel Anthony, Enebeli Samuel Isreal, Dimas Hyellabulatin, Emmanuel Dike, Joshua Umoren and Dan Eden Sunday.

They were separately arraigned between November

6 and 7, 2024 on a one count charge of cheating and impersonation by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

The charge against Alamin Muhammad Bappa reads: "Alamin Muhammad Bappa sometimes in September, 2024 at Sangere area of Modibo Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud one Amity Shane and other unsuspecting foreign nationals, created some fake Gmail' and Facebook accounts using the name Jacob sermon to pose as a cybersecurity professional that helps people to recover their compromised or blocked Facebook accounts for a service fee of

\$20 each and thereby committed an offense of cheating by impersonation contrary to Section 314 of Penal Code Law of Adamawa State, 2018 and punishable under Section 315 of the same law."

The charge against Oladele Pius reads: "that you Oladele Pius sometimes in September, 2024 in Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, being a student of Modibo Adamawa University of Technology Yola, with intent to defraud, did cheat by impersonation, Having created and operating one Mr. Legit Hassan Abbadin a foreign national with Whatsapp account No. +1 (842) 921332016, through your Your iPhone 11

Model No. MWNC2CH/A for a virtual funds transactions" with a motive of gaining a financial advantage from other unsuspecting internet users and thereby committed an offense of cheating by impersonation contrary to Section 314 of Penal Code Law of Adamawa State, 2018 and punishable under Section 315 of the same law.

Upon arraignment, the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges, prompting prosecution counsel Saad .H Sa'ad and M.D Aliyu to pray the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly; however, counsels to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy.

Justice Lawanson thereafter convicted and sentenced Bulus, Elisha, Usman and Israel to ten years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each. However, Hyellabulati bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000

Justice Tola convicted and sentenced Dike, Umoren, Sunday and Pius to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N2,000,000 (Two Million Naira) each

Justice Lawal convicted and sentenced Bappa and Solomon to five years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 each.

Justice Isha convicted and sentenced Anthony to ten years imprisonment or a fine of N300,000 (Three hundred thousand Naira)

The Judges ruled that the mobile phones recovered during investigation be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

In addition, Justice Lawal ordered that the sum of \$20 recovered during investigation from Bappa and being proceeds of crime, be returned to the victim.

Section 18(3) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded not guilty, which set the stage for the commencement of trial.

Similarly, at the resumed hearing of the case, the defendant through his counsel H. M Dauda prayed the court to change his plea.

Thereafter, the charge was read to him and he pleaded "guilty" to all the count charges preferred against him by the EFCC.

Justice Dagat thereafter, convicted and sentenced Dzarma on count one to four years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) and on count two he was sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00.

The Judge further ordered

the forfeiture of iPhone 14 pro max, Android phone Redmi 4C model, used Toyota Corolla 2008, five pieces of Blink necklace and one blink pendant to the Federal Government of Nigeria that were recovered from him in the course of investigation.

The convict's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of Maiduguri's Zonal Directorate of the EFCC for internet-related offences. He was charged to court and convicted.

In another development, one Amuda Ayuba was arraigned on Monday, November 18, 2024, before Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, on a one-count charge for the offence of Money Laundering to the tune of N 401,006.98 (Four Hundred and One Thou-

sand, Six Naira, Ninety-eight kobo).

The lone count reads: "That you Amuda Ayuba sometime in 2021, in Maiduguri, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, whilst being a POS Operator did accept the transfer of a total sum of N 401,006.98 (Four Hundred and One Thousand, Six Naira, Ninety-eight kobo) into your first and second POS account No. 1040660023 and 1040906053, account name Amuda Ayuba domiciled with Zenith Bank Plc from a customer whose identity you fail to verify and undertake due diligence of the customer before carrying on transaction of electronic money transfer and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 4(1)&(2) and Section 19(1)(F) of the

Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 19(2)(b) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded "not guilty" to the charges preferred against him.

Counsel for the prosecution Faruk Muhammad prayed the court for a trial and date and to remand the defendant in prison custody.

Justice Dagat adjourned for the commencement of trial and remanded the defendant in prison custody.

The defendant's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of Maiduguri's Zonal Directorate of the EFCC for failing to verify and undertake due diligence before carrying on the transaction of electronic money transfer.

Olukoyede Charges Youths on Purposeful Living

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede has called youths across the country to embrace a life of purpose, passion, integrity and focus in order to stay away from economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

He made this call recently in Abuja at the Great Achievers Summit and Awards of Excellence 2024 organized by the Great Achievers Initiative for Youth and Community Development, GAIYD.

Olukoyede who spoke through the Head of Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the EFCC, ACEI1 Aisha Mohammed stressed that only by living a life of purpose can youth shun fraudulent engagements and strive for higher values. He pointed out that education played a vital role in providing foundational knowledge for young people, suggesting that institutions should incorporate leadership-oriented curricula that will encourage critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills.

He further tasked them to continue to dream big while remaining grounded in reality, also standing up for what

is right even in the face of adversity, so that together they can have a brighter future that the nation can be proud of. He pointed out that youths have shared responsibility of moving the nation forward.

"I charge us all to come together to shape the future leadership of our society. It is a collective responsibility for all of us. That is the only solution to make Nigeria great again" he said.

Continuing "As you embark on this leadership journey, remember, leadership is not about titles, but about impact, Influence is not about authority, but about character, the future is not about predicting, but about creating. So, I leave you with a challenge, where leadership is a force for good, and where our collective potential is unleashed"

Part of the highlights of the event was a panel discussion with school students discussing on "The problems faced by the boy child in the society". The thrust of the discussions was that critical attention should be paid to the boy child as the male gender has been neglected over time and no family can function well without a boy child.

Supreme Court's Judgment Makes EFCC Stronger- Olukoyede

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has disclosed that the November 15, 2024 Supreme Court's judgment that thrashed the suit of 19 state governors challenging the constitutionality of the establishment and functioning of the EFCC, has placed the Commission in a stronger pedestal to fight economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

Olukoyede stated this in Abuja on Thursday, November 21, 2024 when a delegation of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), led by its Regional Director for Africa and West Asia, Dr. Roba Sharamo paid him a courtesy visit.

According to him, "I want to let you know that we are more solid now than ever before. You are aware that 19 governors took us to court. They went to court and the judgment that was given makes us stronger than ever before. The Supreme Court Justices gave it to them, reminded them that the Supreme Court has spoken on this matter and given judgment. So why are you wasting your states' resources on it? Why are you wasting the time of this court by bringing this application to us again?"

"Number one, they said that the EFCC has power over federal agencies, state agencies and local government agencies. Number two, they said, where the EFCC is working, it has the

right to cover the field. It is what we call the doctrine of covering the field in Nigeria. It's a legal doctrine. It's a principle that says that where a federal agency has covered the field, no state or local government agency has the right to compete with it. In other words, wherever the EFCC is operating, state or local government agencies don't even have the power to meddle.

"So, I have told my men that the ball is in our court, now. You can investigate even a serving governor. So, go ahead, investigate their finances and their activities. The only thing you can't do is prosecute. You have to wait until they leave office when they don't have immunity anymore. They also warned the people who have been using the instrumentality of the state to shield themselves from justice to desist from it. The Supreme Court has spoken, and it has a big impact. We are going out to work without any further inhibition", he said.

The EFCC boss appreciated the partnership of IDEA with the Commission, stressing that the international development partner has been impactful, functional and reliable. "We appreciate your impact and the partnership has come to stay", he said. He identified some critical areas where the Commission needed more support, stressing that the volume of work of the EFCC and the new framework it is working on require stronger collaboration with IDEA.

Court Jails Four Internet Fraudsters in Calabar



Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court, Calabar has convicted and sentenced the quartet of Ito Eno Akpan, Abasifreke Uwem, Elisha Asuquo Nnah (a.k.a Jong Seck) and Ezinwa Emmanuel Ikenna to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Uyo Zonal Directorate on two-count charges bordering on cybercrime, money laundering and impersonation.

The charge against Akpan reads: "That you Ito Eno Akpan, sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honorable court did take possession of the sum of \$400 (Four Hundred Dollars) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition)

Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act"

That of Nnah reads: "That you, Elisha Asuquo Nnah (a.k.a Jong Seck) sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honourable court took possession of \$300 (Three Hundred US Dollars) knowing that the money formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022".

tion and Prohibition Act 2022".

They all pled "guilty" when the charges were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Kharmis Mahmud to review the facts of the cases, tendered the statements of the defendants, print out fictitious and misleading information from their communication devices, all of which were admitted in evidence and prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Ojukwu convicted and sentenced Akpan and Uwem to one year jail term on each of their two counts, which is to run concurrently. Furthermore, Akpan is to restitute the sum of \$400 USD to his victim and Uwem to restitute \$200 USD to his. Nnah and Ikenna were convicted and sentenced to two years jail term each on either of the two counts. In addition, Nnah is to restitute the sum of \$300 to his victim while Ikenna is to restitute the sum of \$800 to his. Furthermore, all their mobile devices are to be auctioned and the proceeds deposited into the federal government's Treasury Account, while all the restitutions from the convicts would be lodged in the federal government treasury if the victims were not located.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the EFCC for internet fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

EFCC Charges Religious Leaders on Emphasis on Material Wealth

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has called on religious leaders across the country to be discreet in their emphasis on material wealth in their messages, stressing that youths could be negatively swayed into criminality through such actions.

He stated this in Abuja on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at the Nigerian Youth Stakeholders' Security Summit organised by the Coalition of Nigerian Youths On Security and Safety Affairs, CONYSSA.

Speaking on the role of government, religious institutions, community and youth leaders in the fight against internet fraud, the EFCC boss who spoke through Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACEI1 Aisha Muhammed called on the stakeholders to come together to tame corruption and internet fraud.

"Government should continue to empower our youth

through adequate provisions of jobs, encouragement of entrepreneurship, scholarship for further studies, encouragement of innovation and scientific advances and opportunities for inclusive engagement in governance. Religious institutions have unique roles to play in this regard. Messages and sermons on virtues, values and higher issues of life should always be preached. Less emphasis should be placed on the celebration of material wealth. Religious leaders should walk their talks and make youth see God in their lives. Youth making waves in the right ways should always be celebrated to set their minds on useful pursuits", he said.

Continuing, the EFCC's boss stressed that, "community and youth leaders also have roles to play in building resistance of youth against internet fraud. Central in this regard is regular and focused mobilization of youth towards value-adding engagements. As closest links to youth across the country, community and

youth leaders should always direct the energy of our youth to development-focused enterprise. They should monitor them against criminality and expose those not yielding to useful instructions.

The EFCC boss also called on all the stakeholders who have a stake in the development of the Nigerian youth to play their roles accordingly adding that the youth cannot be allowed without guidance. "We cannot afford to leave leaders of tomorrow without guidance. The EFCC believes that there are alternatives to internet fraud. There are ample opportunities for youth to exercise their talents and creative energies than indulgence in criminal acts. This fact should be widely embraced by our youth and we all have a responsibility to make them accept it", he said.

In his welcome address, Director General, CONYSSA, Ambassador Ade Mario Emmanuel appreciated the efforts of the EFCC Chairman at redirecting the thinking of the Nigerian youth.

"The EFCC is trying its best. In fact, I must appreciate the EFCC Chairman. There is no programme the EFCC is doing in this country that CONYSSA is not at the forefront and we sincerely appreciate the Commission for the good work it is doing and for seeing it as a thing of necessity that young people must be involved in the fight against internet fraud in the country and he is intentional about it", he said.

Commenting on the theme of the Summit, "The Place of Nigerian Youth in Complementing National Security and Enhancing the Protection of Critical National Assets For Sustainable Peace and National Development, the Niger State Coordinator of CONYSSA, Ambassador Dalhatu Abubakar Iya says that it is a call to every young Nigerian to recognise his or her role in securing the future of Nigeria, "not just by patriotism and vigilance, but by protecting the very assets that form the backbone of our economic and developmental stability.



**NATIONAL SPORTS
COMMISSION**

PRESS STATEMENT

NAWIS Can Play an Integral Role in the Nigerian Sports Industry - DG Bukola Olopade

The Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Hon. Bukola Olopade, has stated that the Association of Nigeria Women in Sports (NAWIS) has an integral role to play in the Nigerian sports industry, especially as this new administration champions a fresh operating framework for the NSC.

The DG stated this during a courtesy visit by the NAWIS executive team, led by its President, Professor Mariam Suleiman, to his office, on Friday.

"I have always fought for NAWIS over the last 21 years because I believe the Association plays a significant role of mentorship in our Sports."

"I even strongly believe NAWIS deserves yearly National Awards and all those involved in girl child advocacy must recognise the role NAWIS plays in the larger society".

He further emphasized the importance of NAWIS in the overall growth of sports in Nigeria, promising to ensure that NAWIS becomes part of the new NSC framework.

"This is a body that is very essential for sports growth, therefore as D.G, alongside the Chairman, we will work day and night for NAWIS to be part of the new NSC amendment," he added.

In her remarks, the President of NAWIS, Professor Mariam Suleiman, commended the appointment of Hon. Bukola Olopade as Director General, describing it as a turning point for Nigerian sports. She pledged the Association's full support for the Commission's new vision.

"Nigerian sports is in the right hands with your leadership. We at NAWIS are ready to collaborate with the NSC to achieve its goals and foster sustainable sports development," Suleiman said.

Hon. Bukola concluded that the meeting reinforced the shared vision of fostering inclusivity and creating a robust foundation for sports development in Nigeria.

SIGNED:

Kola Daniel,
S.A, Media,
Office of the Director General, NSC.
November 29, 2024.

This Is A Big Breakthrough – Actress Funke Akindele Becomes One Of The Richest Actress in 2024

One of the highest-paid Nollywood actresses in 2024 is Funke Akindele. Funke Akindele is one of the top three celebrities in Nigeria in terms of wealth and influence.

The local "Ikorodu" girl has undoubtedly established herself in the industry thanks to her opulent automobiles, endorsement deals, and respectable lifestyle.

In this article, Mark Adebayo, a senior celebrity publicist at Maximatic Media, sheds more light on her assets including cars, luxury items, business interests, brand deals, and more.

Stick around for the real figures!

Who is Funke Akindele?

Born in Ikorodu, Lagos State on the 14th of August 1977, Olufunke Ayotunde Akindele is a multi-hyphenate and prominent figure in the entertainment industry.

The renowned actress, director, producer, and entrepreneur is known for her stellar performance and quality film-making skills.

After rising to fame in 1998 with the United Nations Population Fund-sponsored TV show – 'I Need To Know', the popular actress subsequently made her first breakthrough with the film 'Jennifer' in 2018.

This film has led to sequels such as 'Jennifer's Diary' and 'Aiyetoro Town'. Her outstanding acting skills have garnered

multiple accolades including 2019 Best Actress at the Africa Movie Academy Awards, Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards for Best Actress in a Comedy in 2016, 2017, 2020, and 2022, and many more.

The savvy businesswoman also founded Scene One Productions, a major film-producing empire for many successful movies. She also founded The Funke Akindele Network (FAAN), an all-comprehensive approach to filmmaking, production, and public relations. Through this, she has led several block-busters hits such as; Omo Ghetto: The Saga, Battle on Buka Street, and A Tribe Called Judah.

Currently, she holds the title for producing the Highest-Grossing Nollywood Film of All Time- A Tribe Called Judah, with over 1 Billion in earnings.

A few months ago, Funke Akindele was prompted by a fan comment who had referred to her as a 'billionaire', mainly because her movie had just earned the highest-grossing film in Nigeria at that moment.

In her response, she said; 'Thanks dear. I'm not a billionaire! My movie A Tribe Called Judah grossed over a billion naira. But I didn't take the billion home o!!! I be confirmed hustler.'

Okpebholo: Abolition of Parallel Traditional Council Joyous, Marvelous – Oba Ewuare II



His Royal Majesty, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo Oba Ewuare II has praised Governor Monday Okpebholo for the restoration of his full statutory rights, describing it as "devastating on our detractors."

The Oba affirmed also that the abolition of the controversial Local Government Traditional Councils in Edo South Senatorial District created by the immediate past government of Godwin Obaseki as "joyous to our friends, and marvelous in the eyes of the

Almighty God."

The Benin monarch stated these in a letter of appreciation to Governor Okpebholo, dated November 27, 2024.

The letter which was signed by some Palace Chief – Norense Ozigbo-Esere (Osuma of Benin), Edionwe Oliha (Oliha of Benin), Stanley Obamwonyi (Esere of Benin), Osaro Idah (Obazelu of Benin) and others, also praised the state government for the withdrawal of a revocation letter for the concession of Oba Akenzua II Cultural Centre in Benin and other issues of concern by the Governor Obaseki's

administration.

The Chief Press Secretary to the Oba, Osaigbovo Iguobaro, made the statement available to newsmen in Benin City.

The letter reads: "We deeply thank your Excellency for deeming it fit and necessary to restore the full Statutory Rights of the Oba of Benin, for respecting the rights and privileges of the Omo N'Oba as the only Traditional Ruler of Benin Kingdom in Edo South Senatorial District and custodian of the rich-cultural heritage.

"This action of Your Excel-

lency, which is coming barely two weeks into your administration, is very well applauded. It is devastating on our detractors. It's joyous to our friends, and marvelous in the eyes of the Almighty God.

"The Omo N'Oba prays for God Almighty to continue to strengthen and guide your Excellency as you continue to bring about a meaningful and robust transformation of Edo State."

Amongst other things, the Oba added that God brought Governor Okpebholo to sanitise Edo State.

General who assaulted me deleted video evidence, labelled me assassin – Abuja-based health worker

Where were you going the day the incident happened?

I was going to the pharmacy to get some medication.

What led to the altercation between you and the military officers?

In one sense, it was brutal and not called for because the whole incident didn't warrant the assault at all.

Can you describe what transpired?

This happened on November 6, 2024. I was driving straight ahead and close to a T-junction to my left. Now, the Army General was coming out from the T-junction, and I was already there. The way they drove out was such that they came so close to me, and I couldn't move away from the road. This was because people were selling things there, and some vehicles were behind me too. Their vehicle wasn't a convoy.

So, it wasn't a matter of saying I was trying to overtake a convoy. It was one official car, and they suddenly came out from the T-junction, joined up, and went straight ahead the way I was headed. They came in so fast, very close to me that I couldn't move away from the road because other people were standing by the road; they were either standing or selling. If you know Gwarimpa very well, you'll understand what I'm say-

ing. Therefore, if I had moved off the road, I would hit those people with my car. So, all I had to do was to maintain my lane, focus on where I was going, and just try to keep moving.

What happened after they moved close to you?

They felt like I was having a tussle with them over the right of way which was not the case. Of course, my car went ahead of them, only for them to park in front of my car. They blocked my way, came down, and started throwing punches at me and all that.

How many officers came down from their vehicle to assault you?

All three of them came down; the general, his orderly was there, and the driver.

In a social media clip, you were heard saying, 'How did I bash your car? Were you accused of overtaking them?'

No, I was saying, 'How did I bash your car? They were accusing me of hitting their car and I didn't hit their vehicle.'

You were seen bleeding on the head. Were you hit with anything?

Yes, I was. It was while they were throwing punches at me. I was trying to block the punches, and my fiancée was also trying to stop them from hitting me. Of course, she was telling them that I was not fine. At some point, I

saw that this thing was not going to end; that was when I told her to pick up her phone and start recording so that I could also have something to hold on to.

At some point, while we were struggling with them, my wristwatch came off my hand and one of those officers held on to it. The wristwatch was quite heavy because it is a chain wristwatch and that was what he used as the punches were coming in. It was one of them that used the wristwatch to hit my eye.

Can you recognise the person who hit you with the wristwatch? Was it the general?

I can't tell who because everything was happening very fast. The three of them were by my car window. So, I don't know who held the wristwatch, hit my eye and made me bleed. I cannot categorically say that it was the general or another person who did it. Everything happened very fast.

Were you taken to a hospital for the treatment of the injury?

Nothing like that happened. So, what happened after that scene?

Well, after they discovered that my fiancée was recording, they came and started hitting her to stop the recording. They wanted to collect the phone, and she flung it into a stranger's car. She saw a stranger's car passing, and out of fear that if

they collected the phone, they would break it because we all know how these people behave.

So, she just flung the phone into another person's car, and it was after they saw that the phone was not with us anymore that they entered their car and went after that car to retrieve the phone and delete the video.

Were they able to retrieve the phone from the stranger's car?

Of course, they retrieved it and went straight to the police station. The police came, arrested me, and took me to their station, even without attending to my injury. The blood was still dripping from my head when the police came.

After the phone was retrieved, did they delete the video recording?

Yes, they did. But how were you able to get the one that went viral on social media?

We recovered the video after they deleted it.

Some people were claiming on social media that one of the military officers was holding a knife. Is that true?

No. What they saw was my wristwatch. It was not a knife; none of them was holding a knife.

What happened after you got to the police station?

Well, of course, the narrative

at the station was that I tried to assassinate the Army general. I think that was what was reported at the station, and I was labelled a criminal at the police station. I was put behind the counter for long, and I was bleeding, and nobody attended to me. This incident happened around 1pm, and I left the station about 9pm. That was when I started looking for a pharmacist to treat myself.

Who bailed you after your detention at the police station?

Well, before I was bailed, I used my phone to call my fiancée's mum. My brother and a friend also came. So, they were the ones who were doing the discussions with the DPO and all that. The military officers left me at the police station.

Did you pay any amount as bail at the police station?

No, I didn't pay anything. They spoke with the DPO only, and I was released.

Can you share some of your experiences while in detention?

Right now, I can't say for sure, but I was behind the counter for quite some time until someone finally came and started attending to the case. I had written a statement as usual and all that. But it wasn't a good experience at all. Nobody wants to have any business with the police station especially when I was in a bad condition.

When you were taken to the police station, did the policemen on duty raise any concern about your bleeding head?

Nothing like that happened. The only time someone spoke to me was when they put me at the counter, and I put my head down and blood was dripping down from my head. The only thing the lady there told me was to raise my head and that I should not stain the floor with blood.

How has this incident affected your physical health and emotional well-being?

All I can say now is that the experience is traumatising and I'm trying to be strong. After the incident, I was able to recover the video, and I watched it once. Even when I'm surfing the internet and I come across the video, I go past it because I've not been able to watch it again. That incident leaves a memory in my head. It wasn't a good experience at all. It could have gone sideways and turned into something else, but we thank God. To be honest, it was a traumatising experience.

Was your fiancée injured too and how is she coping now?

She's also recovering well. She was hit and had a swollen face. Her finger was also fractured. She has also received treatment.

Oborewori Presents Staff of Office to Asagba of Asaba, Prof. Epiphany Azinge

BY PETER NWOKORO, ASABA

DELTA: Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori, on Thursday, officially presented the Staff of Office to the new Asagba of Asaba, His Royal Majesty (HRM), Professor Epiphany Azinge (SAN), during a grand ceremony at Ogwa-Uku Ahaba.

Speaking at the event, Governor Oborewori emphasized his administration's commitment to making Delta State a preferred destination for investors. He called on communities and traditional institutions to work together to ensure peace and security across the state.

"One of the goals of this administration is to make Delta State the preferred investors' destination. To achieve this, all hands must be on deck to ensure our communities and urban centres remain safe and secure for both domestic and foreign investors," he said.

The governor congratulated the Asagba on his ascension to the throne and highlighted the significance of Asaba as a growing cosmopolitan city.

He said, "Asaba has become the city of



choice for many who find it a safe place to raise their families. However, we must remain vigilant against any security threats that could destabilize the kingdom or the state capital," he stated.

Oborewori praised the new monarch as a dynamic leader and consensus builder who possesses the qualities needed to steer Asaba toward greater development and peaceful coexistence.

"I am confident that under his leadership, the kingdom of Asaba will attain new heights in community development, harmony, and enhanced relations with the government," the governor added.

He also urged traditional rulers across the state to collaborate with the Delta State Advisory and Peace Building Council to address emerging security challenges. "Traditional rulers are custodians of our customs and intermediaries between the government and the grassroots. Their role is critical in fostering peace and implementing government initiatives," he noted.

In his remarks, the Chairman of Oshimili South Local Government, Dr. Kelvin Ezenyili, congratulated the Asagba on his selection and urged him to continue being a father figure to all his subjects.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone for the Asaba Kingdom, with stakeholders pledging their support for the new monarch's reign.

Afegbua Challenges Obaseki: Offers N50 Million for a Walk on Edo Streets

The Edo State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has issued a bold challenge to former Governor Godwin Obaseki, daring him to walk freely through the streets of Benin City.

A chieftain of the APC and member of the Edo State Assets Verification Committee, Prince Kassim Afegbua, has even promised a reward of 50 million if Obaseki can receive a rousing welcome from residents during such a walk.

Afegbua made this statement during a press briefing at the Government House in Benin City, following the inauguration of the committee by Governor Monday Okpebholo. The briefing was aimed at addressing recent criticisms of the APC-led administration by the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Responding to the PDP's accusations, Afegbua dismissed claims that the new APC government had dismantled the e-governance platform implemented by the previous administration.

"The assertion that we shut down the e-governance platform is laughable and false," Afegbua said. "What they call e-governance was actually e-corruption. When we attempted to access information from the platform during the transition, we couldn't retrieve anything of substance. That speaks volumes about the inefficiency of the pre-

vious administration."

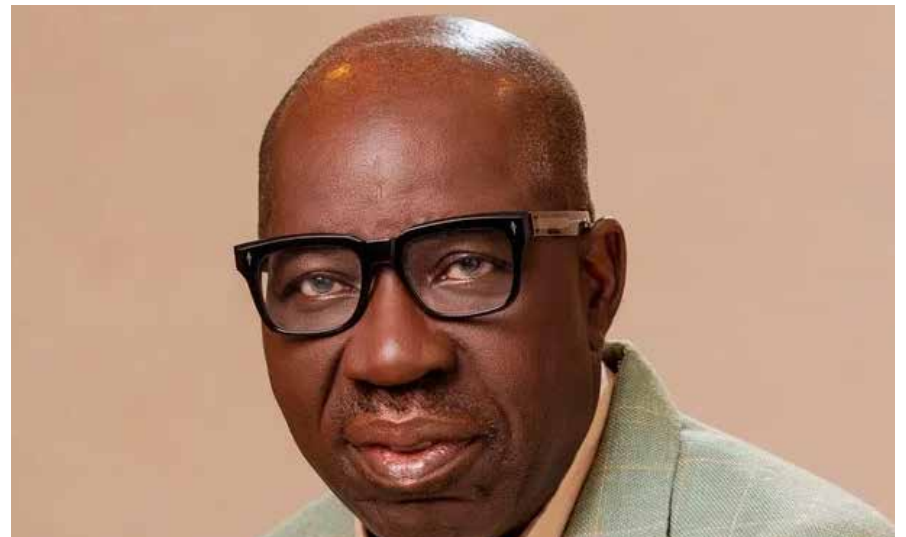
He also rejected allegations that APC thugs invaded the PDP secretariat, labeling the claims as baseless attempts to tarnish the new government's image.

"We are too focused on rebuilding Edo State from the underdevelopment left by the previous administration to bother with such distractions. The PDP was soundly defeated in the last election, and we are committed to delivering on our promises to Edo people," he added.

Afegbua defended the government's decision to establish the Assets Verification Committee, describing it as a standard global practice to assess the state of affairs at the start of a new administration. He emphasized that the exercise was in line with the APC's commitment to transparency and accountability under the Renewed Hope Agenda of the Federal Government.

"Every responsible government needs a status report when taking over. This isn't peculiar to Edo State—it's a global practice. The previous administration lacked clarity in its governance processes, and we are now addressing those gaps to ensure Edo's progress," he explained.

Turning his attention to Obaseki, Afegbua alleged that the former governor had hired individuals to spread falsehoods about the APC



government. He challenged Obaseki to return to Edo State for a street walk, claiming such an event would reveal the true sentiments of the people.

"If the opposition is serious, let them invite ex-Governor Godwin Obaseki for a street walk in Edo. We are ready to pay 50 million for this exercise and see how Edo people respond to

him," Afegbua declared.

Afegbua expressed confidence that the APC's initiatives, even in its early days of governance, have already gained the support of the people. He assured residents that the party remains committed to delivering on its promises and steering the state towards progress.

Former Nigeria's Head Of state Yakubu Gowon Gives Reason For Splitting Nigeria Into 12 States



Former Nigeria's Head of state and elder statesman, General Yakubu Gowon (retired), has explained why he championed the creation of 12 states in Nigeria while he was in office as head of state.

Gowon said that the rationale was aimed at dousing tension and removing the fear of northern domination by other component parts of the federation.

He stated this when a delegation of the Senator Ibrahim Shekarau-led League of Northern Democrats paid him a courtesy visit at the Yakubu Gowon Centre, in Abuja.

The elder statesman also urged Northern elites to build a consensus around issues that would better serve the greater interest of Nigeria as a whole.

"I firmly believe, as I have always said, that the responsibility of maintaining Nigeria's true democracy rests

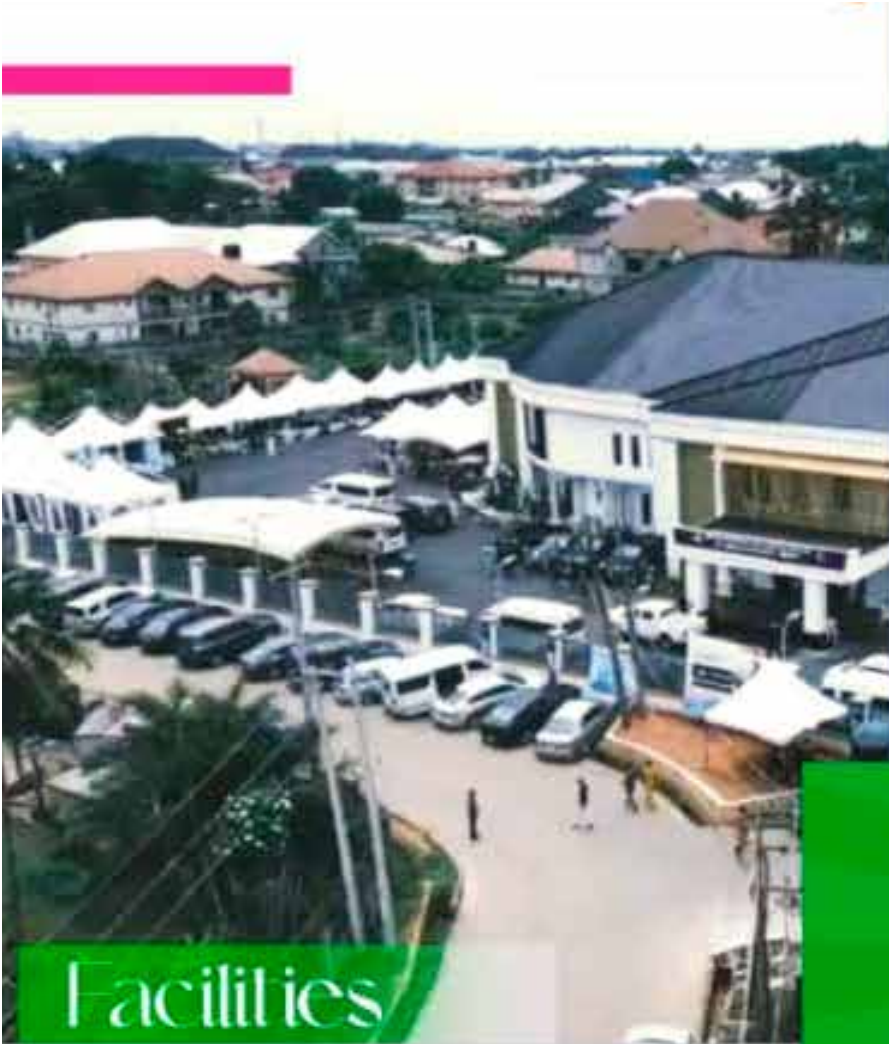
on the north, and Baba Tafawa Balewa embodied this ideal.

"Let me also say that I hope your visit is not just about returning to the old thinking where the north prioritises the north, the west prioritises the west, and the east prioritises the east—until, of course, the Mid-West emerged to think for itself.

"My position has always been that whatever the north does must serve the greater interest of Nigeria. From your speech, I understand that this is your intention—to ensure the north, in its current state, focuses on national unity.

"It was for this reason that I supported the creation of multiple states, to prevent any one region from becoming too powerful and threatening the country's unity," he said.

Gistmania reports that Gowon was the head of state between 1966 and 1975.



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Delta's GDP Hits N4.6 Trillion, Statistician General Advocates Data Integration

FROM PETER NWOORO,
ASABA

DELTA: Delta State Government has announced a significant economic milestone, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2021 and 2022 recorded at 4.6 trillion.

This was revealed by the Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr. Sonny Akporokiamo Ekedayen, during the bi-annual meeting of the National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) held in Asaba.

Ekedayen also unveiled several key statistical initiatives, including the Delta State Economic Atlas, poverty mapping, and the forthcoming 2024 Labour Force Survey.

"This Labour Force Survey aims to gather critical data on employment rates, unemployment levels, and labour market trends, providing a foundation for evidence-based decisions on job creation and economic development," Ekedayen explained.

In his remarks, the Statistician General of the Federation, Prince Adeyemi Adeniran, emphasized the federal government's commitment to producing GDP reports for all states while enhancing statistical capacity at the state level.

"To this end, I appeal for the cooperation and commitment of all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and state

statistical agencies. Your active participation and ownership of the process are crucial for successful implementation," Adeniran said.

Adeniran highlighted the importance of transitioning from single data sources to integrated data systems to address complex developmental challenges effectively.

"Single data sources are no longer sufficient. We must integrate databases and enhance our ability to merge multiple datasets. This approach will generate insights to inform policies, tackle developmental challenges, and exploit growth opportunities," he stated.

He also stressed the role of the NCCS as a platform for better coordination and knowledge sharing within Nigeria's statistical framework.

"This platform, as outlined in the Statistics Act 2007, provides a mechanism for improved coordination of statistical systems. It also serves as a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences. We must renew our commitment to achieving the objectives of this body to ensure our gatherings are impactful," Adeniran concluded.

The meeting, centered on data-driven decision-making, reinforced the crucial role of accurate and timely statistics in driving economic growth and addressing developmental challenges across Nigeria.

Peter Obi to Deliver Convocation Speech at American University, Yola

The leader of the Labour Party and the 2023 Presidential flag bearer, Peter Obi, is to deliver this year's Convocation lecture at the American University of Nigeria, AUN, Yola, Adamawa state, on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

The Saturday's keynote speech at the 16th Founder's Day/20th Convocation of the University by the Labour Party leader falls in line with his public speeches in notable educational institutions globally, including Harvard University, Yale University, Wharton University, Pennsylvania, USA, and Peace University all this year.

A statement from the University's annual Founder's Day honors the Founder of the University, who is also the former Nigeria Vice President, His Excellency Atiku Abubakar, GCON, Wazirin Adamawa, for his numerous contributions to society and especially his advancement of education and human development.

The 16th Founders Day lecture will be the highlight of activities marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of the American-style Development University where students are educated to direct

their learning and research outcomes towards addressing the socioeconomic challenges of the African Continent.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the numerous community service and outreach projects executed by students, alums, faculty, and staff have earned the Development University a spot among the top three Nigerian universities in Times Higher Education (THE's) 2024 global impact ranking.

Since its establishment in 2003, AUN has significantly expanded its academic programs and affiliations with foreign institutions. AUN presently hosts the American Window in the northeast region where students and members of the public can access relevant information about scholarship and research opportunities in the United States.

President of AUN, Professor DeWayne Preston Frazier, heartily welcomed Mr. Peter Obi as Keynote Speaker and conveyed to him the appreciation of the AUN Community for his acceptance of the invitation.

APC Chieftain Warns Legislators Against Endorsing, Passing Vote Of Confidence On Ganduje



Achieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nwanneke Okeke, has sounded a note of caution to lawmakers across the country against passing a vote of confidence on the embattled National Chairman of the party, Abdullahi Ganduje.

Ganduje who was a member of Support Groups Coordination (North Central) for the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), said the lawmakers he is cautioning on their behalf, include both former and serving lawmaker, whether in the state houses of Assembly, House of representatives or senate.

He stressed that such en-

dorsement would amount to betraying the North Central region which has been pushing to reclaim the chairmanship seat after the resignation of Abdullahi Adamu, who is from the North Central.

Speaking with newsmen on Wednesday in Jos the Plateau State capital, the APC Chieftain revealed that rumours making the rounds is that Ganduje is planning to organize both former and serving legislators across the country in order to get their support for the chairmanship seat to still remain in the North West where he is from, and that they should also endorse him for the position.

According to him, that position has been constitutionally

agreed by the party to be for the North Central which has contributed greatly towards the progress of the party, but that Ganduje is trying everything possible to twist that fact.

But the North Central region, he said, wouldn't concede that position to another region within the party structure.

The party chieftain disputed the credit given to Ganduje on the victory of the APC in the Edo and Ondo governorship election, saying that the people voted for the party because of their belief and trust in the party and not because of Ganduje who could not deliver his home state of Kano to the APC.

He called on President Bola Tinubu and leaders of the party

to immediately convene a National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in order to address the issue of the Chairmanship position accordingly so that it doesn't tear the party apart

Ganduje pointed out that convening the meeting to address that vital issue is key to the party's unity and success towards the 2027 election, because the North Central region is already feeling marginalized and relegated to the background.

He added that as a grassroots politician and mobilizer who served on the presidential campaign council of the APC, he understands the feelings of the people, and that the growing grumbling in several quarters and feeling of dissatisfaction among the people in the North Central should quickly be addressed before it escalates and affects the party's progress and fortune.

Meanwhile, he thanked President Bola Tinubu for revitalizing the refineries, of which that of Portharcourt has already commenced operations.

He urged the people and other critical stakeholders to keep supporting the economic policies of the Tinubu administration, stressing that is for the long term well-being of the nation, even though it is momentarily tough on the people.

Fubara: 'Rivers People Will Remember How My Gov't Made A Difference In Their Lives'

Governor Siminalayi Fubara has expressed optimism that Rivers State people, especially civil servants, will look back someday and realize how much difference his administration made in their lives.

Fubara stated this while reaffirming his government's dedication to meeting its responsibilities to the citizens, safeguarding the state against those who aim to undermine governance, and promoting peace and stability within the region.

Naijaonpoint reports that these statements were made by Governor Fubara on Thursday at the Banquet Hall of Government House in Port Harcourt during the inauguration of the Emblem Appeal Fund, in anticipation of the Armed Forces Remembrance Day scheduled for January 15, 2025.

Fubara, who noted that his government is characterized by its focus on people-centric policies and initiatives, underscored significant advancements, including the recruitment of 2,000 professionals in the healthcare sector and the authorization of 1,000 new positions for the Universal Basic Education (UBE) and Post-Primary Schools Boards.



He also noted that the previously intended 10,000 civil service appointments have been put on hold to prioritize more strategic hiring for specialized roles.

"We have employed over 2,000 medical doctors, and we have also approved 1,000 teaching positions for UBE and Post-Primary Schools. We are focusing on professional cadre employment for the state's growth," Fubara stated.

The governor also discussed the state's scholarship programs, highlighting that although the state government has not yet established its scholarship board, students at PAMO University of Medical Sciences and Wigwe University have already received scholarships.

"Rivers State Government has not yet started its schol-

arship program, but we have offered scholarships at PAMO and Wigwe Universities. When our internal scholarship board is activated, we will expand the opportunities for students," the Rivers State Governor noted.

Governor Fubara further emphasized the government's success in improving the welfare of civil servants in the state. He pointed to the increase in salaries, with civil servants now earning between N120,000 and N140,000, a significant improvement from the previous N70,000.

"The greatest joy for any government is to ensure the happiness of its people. Today, our civil servants are jubilating because their salaries have improved. They will remember this and recognize that this government made a difference

in their lives," he said.

On the Emblem Appeal Fund, Fubara reflected on the importance of honouring war veterans and their families, sharing a personal story about his late father, a military officer.

"This event is close to my heart because I am a dependent of a fallen hero. Every January, my mother would return from this event smiling, proud of the contribution my father made. We must support the survivors and families of our fallen heroes, as no amount of money can fully compensate for their sacrifice," the Governor said.

He urged all to contribute to the cause, recognizing the sacrifices made by the nation's military in protecting its sovereignty and unity.



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(AMANYANABO CUP 2024)

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IBANI UTD
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BRIGHT STARS FC
ADVENTURERS FC

B GROUP

BEAUTIFUL STRIKERS FC
YOUNG STRIKERS
BASE CITY FC
GENUINE FC

C GROUP

GODBLESS UNITED
UNIQUE FC
NEW SAINTS FC
FLASH FLAMINGOS

D GROUP

YOUNG TALENTS
OLOMA FC
DIVINE FC
BONNY STARLETS FC

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024

IBANI UTD VS BRIGHT STARS FC
TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024

BEAUTIFUL STRIKERS VS BASE CITY
TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024

ATLANTIC FC VS ADVENTURER FC
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024

GODBLESS UNITED VS NEW SAINTS
TIME: 1:00PM

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024

OLOMA FC VS BONNY STARLETS
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

YOUNG TALENT VS DIVINE FC
TIME: 1:00PM

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

UNIQUE FC VS FLASH FLAMINGOS
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2024

YOUNG STRIKERS VS GENUINE FC
TIME: 1:00PM

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Kebbi First Lady Advocates Community Involvement In Fight Against Drug Abuse

Kebbi State First Lady, Zainab Nasir Idris, has emphasized the crucial role of community participation in combating drug abuse, particularly among women and youth, who are the most affected in the state.

The First Lady made this call on Thursday while receiving the newly posted Kebbi State Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Rabi'u Abdullahi Sokoto, during a courtesy visit at her residence in Birnin Kebbi.

This is contained in a statement issued by her Chief Press Secretary Khadija Saidu.

Zainab added that with robust community engagement, Kebbi State could achieve significant progress in its fight against drug abuse.

She commended the NDLEA for its proactive efforts and reaffirmed her commitment to collaborating with the agency and other stakeholders.

This partnership, she noted, would expand awareness cam-

aigns, strengthen preventive measures, and enhance support systems for victims of drug abuse.

During the visit, the NDLEA Commandant praised the First Lady's leadership and her initiatives, including the reconstruction and upgrading of the female rehabilitation center. The facility provides care, counseling, and skills acquisition programs to support victims' reintegration into society.

Rabi'u described the centre as a beacon of hope and a testament to her dedication to addressing the social and health challenges posed by drug abuse.

He further announced that two official NDLEA vehicles had been repaired and reinstated for operations. While urging the public to desist from drug abuse, the Commandant pledged that the NDLEA would intensify efforts to leave no stone unturned in the fight against the menace in Kebbi State.

NDLEA to seize properties linked to drug trafficking

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has announced plans to confiscate properties, including houses and vehicles, where illicit drugs are intercepted as part of efforts to intensify the fight against drug trafficking in Nigeria.

Brigadier General Mohamed Buba Marwa (rtd), NDLEA Chairman/Chief Executive, disclosed this on Thursday in Abuja during the 10th National Youth Summit on Drugs and Substance Abuse, organised by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) and the African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention.

Enchanted by the Beautiful City near Cambodia Border - Ném TV

Marwa, represented by the agency's technical adviser, Otunba Lanre Impinmisho, highlighted NDLEA's three-pronged approach to tackling drug abuse: enforcement, treatment, and rehabilitation.

"In the past year, we seized over 3,980,916 kilograms of illicit drugs, dismantled syndicates, and arrested key drug traffickers. To send a strong message, the agency will confiscate houses and vehi-

cles used for drug trafficking," he said.

Tinubu pitches investments in food, security, solid minerals, others

Senate: APGA chieftain begins campaign to replace late Ifeanyi Ubah

Acknowledging addiction as a health issue, Marwa emphasised the NDLEA's commitment to treatment and rehabilitation.

He revealed that the agency has established around 30 rehabilitation centres nationwide, offering counselling, medical care, and reintegration programmes to help recovering drug users rejoin society and their families.

BPSR Director General, Mr Dasuki Arabi, called for nationwide collaboration to address the alarming rise in drug abuse, particularly among Nigerian youth. He described drug abuse as a severe threat to the nation's social fabric and economic progress.

Ambassador Chris Ibe, Founder and Executive Director of the African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention, emphasised the need for collective action to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

Continuous training key to successful fight against drug cartels – Marwa



The importance of training in tackling the scourge of drug trafficking has been emphasised by the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (rtd), at the closing ceremony of a two-week training for NDLEA officers on combating international drug trafficking, sponsored by the German government.

According to a statement signed by the Director, Media & Advocacy, NDLEA,

Femi Babafemi, the ceremony, which was held at the agency's national headquarters, Jahi, Abuja, on Friday, was attended by the top management of the

agency and a team of German instructors led by a representative of the German Embassy in Nigeria.

Speaking at the occasion, Marwa said: "To tackle the drug challenge, the number one priority, obviously, is the professionalism of the human resources, which you can only achieve through training. Unless personnel are properly equipped with training, they cannot do their job. That is the more reason we are emphasizing the training of our personnel."

The two-week training organised by the German Federal Criminal Police Office, otherwise known as Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)

covered core areas including principles of crime scene investigations and training in West Africa Police Investigation System (WAPIS).

The 23 participants, drawn from various departments of the Agency, were engaged in classroom work, presentations and practical exercises for the duration of the programme.

The representative of the German embassy, Ms. Uduak Abasi Akpabio said: "The federal foreign office funding of this programme is part of the German government's greater engagement in police reforms and security sector reform more generally. Our support reflects the German government's commitment to

fostering stability, especially as it pertains to addressing the menace of international drug trafficking."

She further appreciated the work of the NDLEA which she described as "a critical pillar in safeguarding Nigeria's stability, security and well-being of its citizens", adding that "By investing in the capacity of these officers, you have strengthened not only Nigeria's fight against drug trafficking but also the global framework for combating this menace."

While appreciating the German government's gesture, Marwa said: "We appreciate deeply the gesture of supporting the NDLEA with the right training for combating international drug trafficking. It's a collaborative effort now. Because the drug terrain is international."

He noted that the canine unit supplied and funded by the Germans has been very effective in critical cases such as the discovery of the Captagon shipment in Lagos Port in 2021.

The ceremony featured the presentation of certificates to the participants.

The BKA liaison officer in Nigeria, Dominik Muller presented a donation of kits and resources for substance test to the agency, while the NDLEA also presented plaques and mementos to the trainers in appreciation of their efforts.

Navy hand over arrested drug smugglers to NDLEA, NCS for further investigation

Three individuals arrested by the Nigerian Navy's Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ibaka in Akwa Ibom State have been handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) for further investigation and possible prosecution.

A statement issued on Thursday by Navy Captain Uche Aneke, Commanding Officer of FOB Ibaka said they were allegedly smuggling 62 cartons of various contraband drugs and 125 sacks of crystalline ammonia.

The Navy statement said the

arrests occurred on Monday, November 25, 2024, during a routine patrol by FOB Ibaka gunboats in the Bendero and Uta Uyata areas.

"The boat was laden with over 125 sacks of industrial chemicals (crystalline ammonia) and 62 cartons of various contraband drugs. These included 820 tubes of Pethidine (containing opium) and 24,800 bottles of Codeine syrup, smuggled from Cameroon into Nigeria," the statement revealed.

The suspects and seized items were handed over on Wednesday, November 27,

2024, to the NDLEA represented by Deputy Commander of Narcotics, Mr. Monday Jatau, to handle the drug-related substances and the NCS represented by Deputy Superintendent Mr. Abdulkadir Abubakar, for further investigation into the industrial chemicals.

Captain Aneke emphasized that the process adhered to the Harmonized Standard Operating Procedure on Arrest, Detention, and Prosecution of Vessels and Persons in Nigeria's Maritime Environment and directives from the Defence Headquarters.

Captain Aneke used the

occasion to warn against any form of illegal activities in Nigerian waters. He highlighted the Navy's determination to eradicate maritime crimes under the leadership of the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla.

"Criminal elements operating in FOB Ibaka's jurisdiction will be detected through advanced surveillance and intelligence systems. Such individuals will be apprehended and prosecuted. Nigeria's waters and coastal areas are not havens for illegal activities," Aneke declared.

NDLEA Arrests Businessman At Enugu Airport For Ingesting 90 Wraps Of Cocaine

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, have arrested a 50-year-old businessman, Osooha Christian Iheanacho, at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, AIA, Enugu, for ingesting 90 wraps of cocaine.

Osooha was intercepted on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at the arrival hall of the Enugu airport during the inbound screening of passengers arriving from Addis Aba-

ba, Ethiopia, on an Ethiopian airlines flight following months of intelligence and surveillance on him. He was subsequently placed on excretion observation during which he egested 90 pellets of cocaine weighing 2.019 kilograms in seven excretions.

Investigation reveals that the suspect who operates phone and accessories business in Lagos and Gabon, Central Africa, travelled by road from Gabon to

Douala, Cameroon from where he took a flight to Addis Ababa where he swallowed the pellets of cocaine while in transit and thereafter continued his journey to Enugu with Lagos as his final destination. He deliberately complicated his movement to distort traces of his travel history unknown to him that he has been on NDLEA watchlist for the past three months. In his statement, Osooha said he desperately needed the money

from the criminal drug trade to boost his declining phone and accessories business.

In another well-coordinated operation carried out by a Special Operations Unit of the Agency on Thursday 21st November, head of a cocaine distribution cartel, 42-year-old Ndive Maxwell Obinna was arrested along with five of his associates at Ago Palace Way in Okota, Isolo, Lagos. A total of 2.412 kilograms of cocaine were

recovered from them.

Other members of the drug trafficking organization arrested along Obinna include:

Okeke Gloria Ifeoma who is the syndicate's stash keeper; Ikechebelu Emmanuel Chibuzor; Okorie Onyedikachi; Okonkwo Nnabugo Prince; and Okafor Blessing Anita.

In a related development, another drug syndicate operated by a Chinese man, 58-year-old Tianzhen Yen

(alias Jackie) has been dismantled by NDLEA operatives following his arrest at his hotel in Ikeja area of Lagos. Officers of the Seme Special Area Command of the Agency had on Thursday 21st November intercepted a 40-year-old suspect, Yakubu Emmanuel Mark in a commercial bus going to Ghana at the Gbaji checkpoint along Badagry-Seme expressway based on credible intelligence.

International Friendly: Gusau, Sanusi, Falode to cheer Super Falcons against Les Bleues



The President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, as well as Chairman of the NFF Women's Football Committee, Ms Aisha Falode and the General Secretary, Dr Mohammed Sanusi will be in the stands to cheer the Super Falcons in Saturday's international friendly match against the Les Bleues in Angers.

The match comes up inside the 18,000-capacity Stade Raymond Kopa – home ground of Ligue 1 side Angers SCO, and which was opened in 1912 and renovated seven years ago.

Madugu and his charges are

set to have the official training session at the match venue on Friday evening, with the Coach robbed of a defender following injury to Turkey-based dependable centre-back Oluwatosin Demehin.

Both teams last clashed nearly five-and-half years ago, when the Super Falcons needed a result to progress to the Round of 16 at the FIFA Women's World Cup finals. Hosts France edged the tie by the odd goal, after Wendie Renard's twice-taken penalty kick with 11 minutes left on the clock. The defeat notwithstanding, the Super Falcons made the Round of 16 as results in another pool

weighed in their favour, while France finished top of their group with the maximum nine points from three matches.

On Saturday night, Madugu will have to decide which of England-based Rofiat Imuran and home-girl Sikiratu Isah will pair veteran Osinachi Ohale at the heart of the defence, with Michelle Alozie and returning Ashley Plumtre expected to man the wing-back positions. Madugu may also decide to use another home-girl, Shukurat Oladipo in her accustomed centre-back position.

Portugal-based Christy Ucheibe, England-based Toni

Payne and France-based Jennifer Echegini (who scored Nigeria's only goal at the Women's Olympic Football Tournament in France this summer) are available in the middle, alongside home-based professionals Adoo Yina and Josephine Mathias.

At the fore, with Captain Rasheedat Ajibade also not in Angers as a result of injury, much will be expected of the Spain-based duo of Gift Monday and Rinsola Babajide, with home-girl Mercy Omokwo, as well as Egypt-based Blessing Nkor and France-based Ifeoma Onumonu, also available.

Igali Salutes Navy Capt (Rtd) Omoniyi Caleb Olubolade at 70

The Ministry of Sports Development, Bayelsa State, ably led by honourable Daniel Igali has hailed Navy Capt (Rtd) Omoniyi Caleb Olubolade at 70, praising his contributions to Sports development in Bayelsa as a Military administrator.

Honourable Igali in a goodwill message on behalf of the staff of the ministry of Sports and the entire sports Fraternity in Bayelsa described the former Military Administrator as a star whose achievements remain significant to the growth and development of sports in the state.

The World and Olympic champion noted that

Olubolade, despite being retired from active service, continues to contribute to the advancement of sports in Bayelsa, stressing his advice and suggestions on the direction of sports development are invaluable.

Honourable Igali stated that Navy Capt (Rtd) Omoniyi Caleb Olubolade at 70 remains celebrated as an icon of Bayelsa Sports.

Honourable Daniel Igali on behalf of His Excellency, the Governor of Bayelsa state, Senator Douye Diri, his deputy Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo and the good people of the State prayed God Almighty to strengthen and supply him sound health as well as higher fulfillment of his heart desires.

Sports, A Veritable Tool To Solve Youths Restiveness; A clarion Call by NSC chairman Shehu Dikko

"The energy of the youths needs to be channeled towards doing more positive things and sports will do exactly that." This was the view of NSC Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko when he played host to Crown Prince of Benin Kingdom Prince Ezelekhae Ewuare on Thursday.

While espousing this point, Dikko observed that sports is not all about participation and medals.

His words, "Sports is a veritable tool to solve youths' restiveness. All these issues of cultism and violence will be tackled when the youths are provided avenues to burn their energy through sports. The security agencies had statistics to support the fact that when we played night games in the NPFL those days, crime rate reduced in the society."

To boost grassroots sports development, Dikko reiterated that school sports will be revived at all levels.

"We plan to have centers of excellence from the primary school up to the university levels, so when we discover a six-year-old who is good, we take him to a specific primary

school and later follow him up to specific secondary schools and universities. These schools will be supported with the necessary facilities and well-trained coaches," he added.

Earlier, Prince Ewuare had pointed out that he had established eight gyms across Edo in a bid to boost fitness and grassroots development of sports. While pointing out the importance of sports in curbing cultism in the state and beyond, he appealed for the Commission's support in actualizing his lofty goals for sports at the grassroots.

Dikko assured him of the Commission's support. In Dikko's opinion, the involvement of royalty in sports will help to take the vision and mission of the Commission down to the grassroots.

"We will set up a small team here (NSC) to upscale what you are doing. We have experts here who will give appropriate advice and guidance in the short, medium and long-term", he concluded.

Highpoint of the visit was the presentation of Benin bronze head to the NSC helmsman.

Edo FA Hosts Media Summit for Football Clubs in Edo State

The Edo State Football Association, through its media committee, successfully hosted a media summit for football clubs in Edo State on Friday, 29th November, at the Media Center of the Samuel Ogburn Stadium, Benin City.

The Media Summit tagged: "GAME ON – leveraging Media for football club growth" saw resource persons from the media sphere across the length and breadth of the country and internationally taking sessions to educate participants on the subject of Media.

Simon Huges, a British journalist and a senior writer with the Athletic, a top global media outfit, opened the floor via his lecture, which was delivered virtually.

Other speakers were Justina Aniefiok, a CAF and FIFA accredited Photojournalist; Adepoju Tobi Samuel, also a CAF and FIFA accredited Photojournalist who is the CEO of Oganla Media and a board member of NPFL club, Ikorodu City FC.

The last speaker of the day was Ayoola Adeleke, a CAF-accredited journalist, CEO of Platinum News, and a Sports presenter with Silverbird's com-



munications, Benin City office.

All the speakers took turns to educate participants on the need to key into the media part of their football clubs and the ways to do so without encountering challenges.

Major highlights of the event were a presentation of awards to some deserving individuals and football clubs for their contributions to the continuous growth of football in the state and their media/online presence.

Amongst the various awardees were Shavik FC and Fortress FC, whose awards were in recognition of their online

presence, thereby, Edo football in the media space.

At the end of the event, Mr Fred Newton Erhunwense, the FA Chairman, spoke to the Media in an interview, appreciating the speakers and charging the clubs to use the knowledge gained for their growth.

"First of all, I want to give God the glory for a successful event, and I want to say thank you to the resource persons who have come to enlighten us more about the media business. As the Chairman of the FA board, I've told my media team that we have to work more, and I'm giving to invest more in my

media team because, without media, we cannot progress in the game of football."

"I aim to see that all football clubs in the state continue to grow from strength to strength and not just the big team; we want all grassroots football clubs too to be up there in the media space. This program has gone into our calendar, so it will be a yearly event by the grace of God."

The event was put together by the media committee of the Edo Football Association headed by Mr Kennedy Ugbodaga, a CAF and UEFA-accredited Photojournalist.



Torino FC Names Pastor Samuel Oyibo as African Representative

BY PETER NWOKORO, WARRI

DELTA: Torino FC/FA has appointed Pastor Samuel R. Oyibo, Director of ACT Sports, as its official representative for African projects, marking a significant step in football development across the continent.

In an exclusive statement shared to journalists in warri and Asaba, Pastor Oyibo expressed his gratitude for the trust placed in him by Torino FC/FA and unveiled plans to expand the academy's reach across Africa.

"This is a significant milestone, and I thank God for this opportunity," he said.

"With Torino FC/FA's approval, we will extend our tent to other African countries and strengthen our mission of developing football talent."

New Opportunities for Nigerian Youth, Pastor Oyibo highlighted Torino FC/FA's approval of under-20 and under-18 football projects in Nigeria, aimed at identifying and nurturing exceptional players for the ACT Sports/Torino FC/FA Football Academy.

"As part of this initiative, we are preparing a team for trials and games in Italy, scheduled for early 2025. This opportunity will showcase Nigerian talent on the global stage," he added.

He called on stakehold-

ers, football enthusiasts, and well-wishers to rally behind the initiative, emphasizing the role of collective effort in achieving success.

A Visionary Leader in Football Development, Born in Abraka, Delta State, Pastor Oyibo's journey has been deeply rooted in a faith-driven mission to uplift communities. Alongside his wife, Pastor Mary G. Di Blasi, he co-founded the Samaria Gospel of Love Mission, which operates in Ghana, Nigeria, and Italy, focusing on charity initiatives and educational empowerment.

Over the past two decades, Pastor Oyibo has served as a representative of the Delta State Football Association in Asia, Europe, and the Americas, creating pathways for Nigerian youth to excel in sports.

The recent appointment by Torino FC/FA reflects his relentless efforts to inspire positive change. At a recent event in Kwale, Delta State, Pastor Oyibo reaffirmed his commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders and athletes.

ACT Sports and Torino FC/FA Partnership, The partnership between ACT Sports and Torino FC/FA signals a bright future for young African footballers. With expanded opportunities for training, trials, and international exposure, the initiative is set to redefine football development on the continent.

NSC DG, Hon. Olopade Commends Cricket Federation, as Nigeria Wins ICC Men's T20 Sub-Regional Tourney



Nigeria's men's cricket team has emerged victorious in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier C, defeating Botswana in a thrilling top-of-the-table clash on Thursday to seal their spot.

Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Hon. Bukola Olopade, was on hand to support the team at the event, as he hailed the cricket family.

Speaking after the victory, he praised the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) and its president, Uyi Akpata, for their transformative efforts in advancing the

sport in Nigeria.

"I'm extremely proud, not just of the victory recorded today, but also of what my senior brother, Uyi Akpata, and his team have achieved with the Nigerian Cricket Federation," Olopade said.

"When you look at this Oval and hear the story of how it became an ICC-standard facility, you marvel at the effort and passion they've put in. This aligns with President Tinubu's vision of bringing the private sector on board to drive sports development."

He also highlighted the rapid progress cricket has made in Nigeria, pointing

to the recent success of the Nigeria U-19 women's cricket team, which secured Africa's sole ticket to the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup, set to be held in Malaysia in 2025.

"Already, I've promised to be present to support the U-19 female team," he added.

Olopade stressed the importance of diversifying Nigeria's sports focus:

"We need to de-emphasize the pedagogy of one sport being bigger than others. Cricket is massive globally, and it is gratifying to see Nigeria making inroads in the sport. The NSC will support the federation,

just as we do with others. Beyond growing participation, we want to build a sustainable economy around the sports ecosystem."

Nigeria dominated the tournament with an unbeaten record, securing five wins out of five. Other participating teams included Sierra Leone, Eswatini, Côte d'Ivoire, and St. Helena.

Hon. Olopade concluded that the victory underscores the growing prominence of cricket in Nigeria, thanks to strategic investments and the dedication of stakeholders, positioning the country as a rising force in the global cricket scene.



BAO MOXIE Hails Governor Oyeibanji's Sports Development Initiative

We are overjoyed to congratulate the sports families and enthusiasts in Ekiti State on the arrival of a brand new coaster bus, courtesy of Governor Biodun Oyeibanji's administration.

This gesture demonstrates the governor's sensitivity and commitment to the state's sports development.

Without a doubt, it is widely acknowledged that sports have a significant impact on individuals and communities, particularly during difficult economic times.

We are pleased that the Governor is working tirelessly to ensure that Ekiti people are fit, despite global economic challenges.

Sports provide opportunities for socialization, skill development, and emotional well-being. It can also bring people of all cultures, ages,

and backgrounds together, creating a sense of community and belonging. As such Governor Oyeibanji's foresight in promoting sports development is admirable.

The Governor's commitment to empowering youth and promoting a healthy lifestyle is exemplified by the provision of a coaster bus for the sports family.

Governor Oyeibanji stated during the groundbreaking ceremony for the indoor sports complex in Ado-Ekiti that sports can be a powerful tool for combating poverty, unemployment, and crime in society. We could not possibly agree more.

We once again congratulate the sports family and fans of Ekiti State on this wonderful gift.

We also commend Governor Oyeibanji on his vision and dedication to sports development.

Lagos SWAN Visits Widow, Family of Late Dapo Sotuminu

The Lagos State chapter of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (Lagos SWAN) paid a condolence visit to the widow and family of late Dapo Sotuminu, who passed away on Wednesday, November 20.

The visit consisted of prominent figures in Nigerian sports journalism such as Tony Ubani, Group Sports Editor, Vanguard Newspapers; Duro Ikhazuagbe, Group Sports Editor, ThisDay Newspaper; Frank Ilaboya, CEO, Sportville and former Lagos SWAN Chairman;

Others are Christian Okpara, Sports Editor, Guardian Newspaper Nigeria; Patrick Omorodion, Assistant Sports Editor; Oni Afolabi, Acting Secretary, Lagos SWAN, Kazeem Shoyebo and Israel Ojoko.

Debo Oshundun, Chairman, Lagos SWAN, described the visit as a gesture of solidarity and recognition of Sotuminu's significant contributions to the association and the sports jour-



nalism community.

Represented by the association's Vice Chairman, Oluchi Tobechukwu, Oshundun said Sotuminu's death has left a huge hole because of his selflessness to sports journalism and the people around him.

"We are deeply sad about this incident. Dapo was a strong member of the Lagos SWAN family whose opinions were valued.

Although it is difficult to comprehend what has happened, we have to accept the inevitability of death which all humans will encounter"

Also sharing his thoughts,

Ubani, while reminiscing about the life and time of Sotuminu described him as a selfless human and an incredible colleague who was active till his final days.

"It is unbelievable that Dapo is not here with us again, but we will keep his thoughts fresh in our minds. We will always give thanks for the remarkable life he lived as we brace ourselves to carry on with life without him."

Ilaboya focused on the inevitability of death and the need to live a life that leaves a legacy that lifts humanity. "We will all die, but what will people say

about us when we are gone? Dapo has done his bit and we are left with his memories. It is important that while we are alive, we need to live a life dedicated to God and service of humanity."

Lagos SWAN reaffirmed its dedication to preserving Sotuminu's legacy, pledging active support to his family throughout the burial arrangements. The association affirmed that Sotuminu held a unique and influential position within its ranks, a role it intends to commemorate in the days ahead.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Sotuminu's widow, Oluwatosin Sotuminu expressed deep gratitude for the visit, describing it as a comforting act during her family's darkest hour. She noted that the association's support would provide much-needed solace as they navigate the mourning process.



International
Friendly: Gusau,
Sanusi, Falode
to cheer Super
Falcons against
Les Bleues



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